



## Joseph E. Butler

December 15, 1917 - August 28, 2008

Joseph E. Butler, 90, native son of Irwinton, GA, passed away August 28, 2008 in Bethesda, Maryland. Son of the late Judge Joseph E. & Fleta Nesbit Butler, he attended Middle GA College & Georgia Tech. Joe entered the military at age 23, became a flight instructor in Pensacola, FL; was stationed in London; was an aircraft commander in the South Pacific and was part of the Special Devices Center, Long Island, NY. He invented the rotational camera technology for low altitude dive-bombing for the Navy. Joe was a Naval Aviator, flying off carriers in the Pacific in WWII. He was the Operation Officer for Strike Command and along with his friend, Colonel Frank Bacon of Irwinton, they were based on New Britain Island in the Solomons. Joe's many awards included the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism. He flew more dive-bombing missions than any other pilot in the South Pacific Theatre. Joe was instrumental in the development of the guidance system for the Polaris Missile Program. Through his company he founded, Airtronics, Inc., a Maryland based manufacturer of military electronic instruments and communication devices, he & his associate Wehner von Braun, German V-2 Rocket fame and later chief scientist with NASA, who helped put America on the moon. Widower of Anne Sacks Butler and preceded in death by his daughter, Linda Lee Sedgwick, Mr. Butler and his family are included in the Book, The Wilkinson County History, the Butler Family & Other Pioneer Family Decendents. Survivors include: Son: Joseph E. (JEB) Butler, III-Bethesda, MD Granddaughter: JoAnne Coles-Maryland Friend & Caretaker: Elizabeth

Robinson-Maryland Nieces: Jane W. Swift, Gail W. Kitchens & Sheryl C. Haney-Atlanta Nephew: Morris Claxton-Atlanta Graveside services for Mr. Joseph E. Butler will be conducted Saturday, Sept. 27, 2008 at 11 AM in the Irwinton Masonic Cemetery with Military Rites. Rev. Bob Murphy officiating. In Lieu of flowers, the family request contributions be made to the Old Union Church, Irwinton, GA. WILLIAMS-WHITE COLUMNS FUNERAL HOME IN GORDON, GEORGIA IS IN CHARGE OF ARRANGEMENTS.

# Tribute Wall

DB

“ *Your light is still with us!*

---

**Donna Bain Butler** - February 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ *Chris and I will always remember the years we spent in Washington and Uncle Joe's love and kindness toward us there. We mourn the loss of a beloved uncle and an outstanding member of the Greatest Generation. Jeb, please know that we would be with you on Saturday if we possibly could. Love, Christopher, Jane and Caroline Swift*

---

**Jane Wilcox Swift** - September 26, 2008 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ *Uncle Joe, it has been a joy and honor to be a part of your life. I am blessed to have spent my childhood and formative years in the orbit of such an exemplary human being. The more I reflect on those years in which we got to know each other--and I reflect often--the more awed I am by your character, your life, and the uniqueness of the contribution you imparted to my own process of upbringing and character formation. You are one of the great heroes in my life, and your simplicity, your mystery, your laughter, live on in my heart. Love, Ben*

---

**Ben Schiek of Bogota, Colombia** - September 24, 2008 at 12:00 AM

G3

“ *We love you and we are proud of you, Uncle Joe.*

---

**gail and brown of 1869 Fern Creek Lane NE Atlanta Ga 30329** - September 23, 2008 at 12:00 AM

D3

“ Dear Mr. Butler, We shall always remember you as the finest of gentlemen, for there are few people who are as genuinely gallant and kind as you. My sons so sincerely appreciated the stories you related regarding your experiences in your younger years when we visited you in Washington with Jeb and Donna. You were an inspiration and we recollect our visit with you fondly and with great admiration. We are grateful for having known you. You shall be missed but never forgotten. With love, Debra, Doug (Kirk), Ryan and Andrew

---

**Debra Bain Doug Falkenberg and Ryan and Andrew Fal of 18 Apple Place St. Albert AB T8N 3H1** - September 23, 2008 at 12:00 AM

.T

“ We have always loved you Joe and will always remember you! Love

---

**.Sheryl & Terry** - September 22, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Dear Mr.B, I hope you like the Irwinton site for military ceremony and family burial, and that it pleases you. Seems like you, a native-son of Irwinton, have become responsible for putting us all on the moon! We see the good in our own, do we not, even when we exaggerate to make our point. Just know that Jeb has done everything he can to honor your life, with love and respect for the man you are/were/and forever shall be, Amen. We love and miss you, and you will always be in our thoughts and hearts in the most fun-loving way. Bye for now, Your daughter-in-law, Donna xo

---

**Donna Bain Butler** - September 22, 2008 at 12:00 AM