

Colonel Gardner W. Engel

Retired Colonel Gardner W. Engel of Viera, Florida, died at 20:30 hrs on February 4, 2007, on his 87th birthday. Colonel Engel was known to members of Martlesham Heath Aviation Society as "Jim Engel".

He was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1920 and served for 30 years as an officer in the United States Air Force. As a fighter pilot, he participated in the Invasion of Normandy on D-Day and was a member of the 356th Fighter Group.

Survivors include his wife, Diane Engel of Viera; step-daughter Jacquelyn Graves of Florida; sons, Richard Engel of Newport Beach, Calif., and Dr. T.G. Engel, a professor at Martin Methodist College, of Pulaski; and two grandchildren, Maya Engel and Tommy Engel, also of Pulaski.