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## Today's obituaries

### Lavern Tagge

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### Lavern Tagge

83, Major USAF retired

STOKESDALE, N.C. -- Lavern W. Tagge, Major USAF retired, 83, of Stokesdale, N.C., died Wednesday, Dec. 25, 2002, at Countryside Manor in Stokesdale, N.C.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Sunday at The Fellowship United Methodist Church of Hamlet, N.C. Burial will be in the Mary Love Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday at Harrington Funeral Home in Hamlet.

Mr. Tagge was born Oct. 28, 1919, at Shelton to William C. and Hilda (Seim) Tagge of Grand Island.

Survivors of the immediate family include a son and daughter-in-law, Lavern W. Tagge Jr. and Peggy O'Neal Tagge of Stokesdale, N.C., and a brother, Ronald R. Tagge.

Also surviving are two grandchildren, Dana Newton and Erin Tagge, and two nieces and nephews.

He graduated from Wood River High School. Mr. Tagge enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in December 1940 and attended Flight Officers School in Victorville, Calif. He served with the 82nd Airborne and the 101st as a glider pilot during the invasions of Sicily, Naples, Rome and Normandy. He was captured and confined in Germany as a POW for nine months. He was awarded the EAME Ribbon Distinguished Unit Badge. He continued his service and retired from the Air Force Reserves as a Major. He remained as active member of the Glider Pilots Association.

As a longtime resident of Hamlet, he was active in the community to help establish the Rockingham Civil Air Patrol, serving as past commander. He also served as past commander of the VFW Post 781, a member of the American Legion, Hamlet Masonic Lodge and past Worthy Patron of the Eastern Star. In 1984, he retired from the Seaboard Coastline Railroad. Mr. Tagge was a charter member of the Fellowship Methodist Church of Hamlet.

After his retirement, he moved to Oak Land, N.C., where he resided for about 13 years. There he served as an Airport Commissioner for Brunswick County.

He will be dearly missed by family and all that his life touched.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Diabetes Foundation or the charity of your choice.