



Cecil L. Byrd

August 23, 1922 - August 27, 2019

Major Cecil L. Byrd USAF, 97, of Sault Ste. Marie, died August 27, 2019, in War Memorial Hospital following a brief illness.

Cecil was born August 23, 1922 in Polo, Illinois. He joined the Army Air Corps in 1941 and flew 77 combat missions during World War II. Upon his discharge he served as an Illinois State Trooper for seven years. Cecil later returned to active duty with United States Air Force and was assigned to Kincheloe Air Force Base in 1958. In 1963-64 he served as a military advisor in Vietnam. During his years of service, he received the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal and other military honors. Cecil retired from active duty in August 1967 and he and his family lived for several years on the shores of Lake Huron outside of Detour Village. Cecil and his wife later moved to the Petoskey and Harbor Springs area. In 2016 they moved to McKinley Manor in Sault Ste. Marie.

Cecil is survived by his wife LaVerne C. (Becker) Byrd of Sault Ste. Marie. They were married in 1950 and were blessed with nearly 70 years together. He is also survived by son Jeffrey T. (Janet) Byrd of Amissville, VA; daughter Jeri-Ann (John) Sherry of Sault Ste. Marie; grandsons Jared T. Byrd of Lansing, MI; James E. Sherry of Dallas, TX; John P. Sherry of Toronto, ONT; and granddaughter Brianna (Daniel) Markowitz of Haymarket, VA.

Cecil will be laid to rest in a private military ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C. at a later date.

The Byrd and Sherry families wish to thank Dr. Thilak Chander, other attending physicians and staff of War Memorial Hospital and the staff of McKinley Manor for their kindness and care. Online condolences may be left at www.clarkbaileynewhouse.com.

Cecil L. Byrd was a pilot. We wish him "Blue Skies".

Tribute Wall



“ Cecil L. Byrd

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ Cecil L. Byrd

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ Cecil L. Byrd

September 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ So very sorry for your loss. Thinking of you and family during this difficult time. Sincerely, Cheryl Bender Kutzley

Cheryl Bender Kutzley - September 04, 2019 at 12:00 AM



“ Lavern, Jerri-Ann and Jeff, So sorry to hear of Cecil's passing. Good memories of him and working with Laverne at DeTour schools and having Jeri and Jeff as students. Rest In Peace Major Byrd, you were one of America's best. Dave Miller DeTour Village

David Miller - August 31, 2019 at 12:00 AM