

Charles Norman Baisden
March 30, 1920 – February 21, 2017

Charles Norman Baisden, 96, died on Tuesday evening, February 21, 2017 at Magnolia Manor under the care of Hospice Savannah. He was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania on March 30, 1920. At 18, he joined the Army Air Corp, but seeking new adventures, soon found himself on a ship going to China after joining the American Volunteer Group later to be forever known as the Flying Tigers. Chuck served as an armorer on the P-40 Tomahawk until the US Army Air Corp disbanded the volunteer group. In 1943, he rejoined the Army Air Corp. Prior to being called back into WWII, Chuck met the love of his life Willa Prell, and in just 3 short months, married her, packed her off to PA and rejoined comrades in arms flying as a gunner on the B 25. As was the case with so many veterans, Chuck was also called to serve in the Korean War, as a gunner on the B29. Transitioning into the regular US Air Force, he served as a boom operator on the KC-97 and retired in 1964 at which time he, Willa and family moved back to Savannah.

Chuck and Willa lived on Wilmington Island for 46 years. During that time, he worked at American Cryogenics, followed by practicing jewelry design and repair at Aladdin's Cave on River St. He loved to go "bugging" for artifacts with his metal detector and was equally fond of target shooting.