

Final Flights

Former Chaplain Col Dr Charles Richard (DICK) Mitchell passed away on Thursday, 13 October at the age of 90. Chaplain Mitchell is survived by his wife Claudette and his four daughters.



Here is the funeral information:

Memorial Service, Saturday, 29 October 2016 @ 1:30 pm @ Westminster Presbyterian Church, 720 N. Sultana Ave, Ontario, CA 91764 (this is the former Church where he Pastored).

Committal Ceremony, Wednesday, 2 November, @ 2:15 pm @ Riverside National Cemetery (RNC supported by the Blue Eagles Honor Guard).

The point of contact for his funeral if you wish to send flower is his daughter Traci 909-581-5551 or if you wish to call Mrs. Claudette Mitchell she can be reached at 909-608-1002.

DICK MITCHELL

(Biography from Oct 2010 tribute to Alumni Old Timers)

I entered my military service in September 1944 via the draft and my request for early enlistment. I trained as an Infantryman at Camp Roberts with Advance Infantry Training at Fort Ord. I left the United States in January 1945 from San Francisco Bay to Finchaven, New Guinea then to Hollandia, New Guinea. I landed in an LST in Leyte, Philippine Islands, then to Luzon Island [Manila]. I was assigned to the 11th Airborne Division, Battangus Province at Old Rosario, then to Lipa Airstrip. There I became qualified as a Paratrooper and ran combat patrols for the Division Headquarters Company, Defense Platoon.

In early August 1945 we were airlifted to Okinawa in preparation for the invasion of Japan. While official combat in Okinawa was over, I was involved with additional combat patrols. With the official surrender of the Japanese we were shipped to Atsugi, Japan. [Interesting side note.] We were shipped from Naha to Atsugi in United Airlines four engine domestic transports. They had been commandeered from United Airlines to move as many troops into Japan as soon as possible. I landed in the second United Airliner to begin the occupation of Japan. I returned stateside in October 1946.

I stayed inactive militarily while going to school until 1955. In 1956 I became Chaplain USAF/CAP with the Hillsboro, OR CAP Squadron until 1958. I then became Chaplain to the 142nd Fighter Interceptor Group, Oregon ANG at Portland until 1961. In 1970 I was appointed Chaplain for the 163rd Fighter Interceptor Group, California Air National Guard, Ontario, CA. I moved to the 146th at Van Nuys as Wing Chaplain in 1976. In 1979 I was given additional duties as Assistant State Guard Chaplain [Air] and in 1980 became a member of the National Air Guard Chaplains Advisor Group [CAG], Washington, DC. I retired from the USAF in July 1986 but continued to serve as Chaplain with the California Military Academy [Army].

