

FRED P. BILLINGS, born April 3, 1920 in Willies Barre, PA. Raised in Tunkhannock, PA. He graduated from Tunkhannock High School in 1938 and from Wyoming Seminary Prep School in 1940. He entered West Virginia University in the fall of 1940.



He enlisted in aviation cadets on June 6, 1942. He qualified for pilot training completed primary at Douglas, GA. He received basic at Gunter Field, Alabama. He graduated at twin engine advanced flying school, George Field, IL on Aug. 30, 1943.

He was immediately ordered to Boise, ID and assigned to 744th Squadron of the 456th Bomb Group. His crew proceeded to North Africa then Italy in January 1944. He flew about half of his missions as co-pilot. The other missions he flew either pickup crews or as an instructor pilot.

Returned to the states in September 1944 and was stationed at March Field, CA, until June 1946. While at March Field he obtained a secondary MOS as photo officer. He transferred to MacDill Field, FL from where he was discharged on Dec. 24, 1946 as captain.

Medals received included: Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with three clusters, Unit Citation with one cluster, and ETO Ribbon with five Battle Stars.

In January 1947, he returned to West Virginia University and graduated with a B.S. degree in petroleum geology in 1949. He worked with various oil companies in the Mid-west, West, and the Rockies until September 1961. He moved to Pittsburgh, PA with Petroleum Information Corporation. He retired in October 1985. He lives in Pittsburgh with his wife, Gayle. They have three daughters and five grandchildren.

SOURCE INFORMATION

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