

Obituary: Washington Post June 7,1995

WILLIAM J. McGINTY Air Force Colonel

William J. McGinty, 76, a retired Air Force colonel and public relations representative with Boeing Co., died of a heart attack May 31 at his home in Alexandria. He had lived in the Washington area off and on since 1954.

Col. McGinty, who served largely in public information assignments, retired in 1967 as assistant director of personnel with the Tactical Air Command at Langley Air Force Base. He began his military service as a fighter pilot in the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1941, flying Hurricanes and Spitfires in England. He transferred to the U.S. Army Air Forces the next year and served in Europe.

As an information officer later in his career, he was credited by the Air Force with providing ideas for books about aviation to hundreds of authors. He served in Tokyo during the Korean War and later was assigned to Libya and to operations involving air crews downed in hostile territory. He also taught at the Air University at Maxwell Air Force Base.

During the Vietnam War, Col. McGinty was director of public affairs for the Seventh Air Force in Vietnam. He worked at Boeing from 1967 until he retired again in 1985.

His decorations included two awards of the Legion of Merit, two Distinguished Flying Crosses, a Bronze Star, a Purple Heart and four Air Medals.

Col. McGinty was born in Trenton, Ontario, while his parents were traveling, and was raised in Scranton, Pa.

He was a volunteer with Gideon International and a member of Calvary Chapel in Alexandria.

Survivors include his wife, Jackie McGinty of Alexandria; four children, Dr. Douglas T. McGinty of Montgomery, Ala., Kim Morgan and Tina Buckingham, both of Alexandria, and Lynn Wight of Bayse, Va.; and 11 grandchildren.