Lt. Richard E. Benson

May 1, 1925 - September 19, 2008

Graveside services for Ret. Lt. Col. Richard Earl Benson, 83, of Tyler will be held on Monday, September 22, 2008 at 11:00 AM at Tyler Memorial Park under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home. Mr. Benson passed away on September 19, 2008 at Hospice of East Texas in Tyler.

He was born on May 1, 1925 in Foley, Alabama to the late Samuel and Ruby Benson. After graduating from Foley High School, he went on to earn a DVM Degree from Auburn University and a Master's Degree in radiation from the University of Texas. Mr. Benson served our country in the United States Air Force, retiring after 26 years as a Lieutenant Colonel. While in the Air Force, he served in Germany and Spain and was attached to NASA as a radiation scientist. As one of his assignments, he recovered the first monkey shot into space. Mr. Benson also worked for the Department of Energy in Oakridge, Tennessee for 13 years. In addition to his parents, Mr. Benson is survived by a son, Ronald G. Benson. He is survived by a loving family including his wife of 37 years, Wanda L. Benson of Noonday; three daughters, Virginia Mary Brown and husband Thomas of Canyon Lake, Lynda Ann Furtick and husband Frank of Nashville, Tennessee, and Gina L. Craig and husband Marshall of Tyler; four sons, Robert Howard Benson of Florida, James W. Red and wife Ellen of Decatur, Alabama, Richard Earl Red and wife Sylvia of Bullard, and Michael W. Boyd of Des Moines, Iowa; a sister, Patricia Creighton and husband Walter of Semmes, Alabama; and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Memorials in

honor of Ret. Lt. Col. Richard Earl Benson may be made to the Humane Society, P.O. Box 6151, Tyler, Texas 75711.