

## BEV STEADMAN

Last week our hearts were blessed that we knew a true Rotarian, Bev Steadman. Last weeks' meeting was dedicated to Bev. If you didn't see the obituary in the Houston Chronicle or you were not able to attend the services last Monday below is his obituary.

COL. BEVERLY E. STEADMAN died Saturday, May 2, 2003 in Houston. He was born the youngest son of a physician on October 2, 1915 in Junction City, Kansas. His first exposure to the military was working summer jobs at a nearby Army Post. He graduated from Kansas State in 1938 with a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering and four years of ROTC. He was commissioned as a Second Lt. in the U.S. Army on May 28, 1938. His first assignment was as a gunnery officer at Fort Crockett's Coastal Artillery in Galveston, TX. A year later, he entered Right School at Randolph Army Air Base in San Antonio, TX. After flight school he was re-commissioned June 24, 1940 as a second Lt. in the U.S. Army Air Corps. His first assignment was as a Flight Instructor at Randolph Air Base in San Antonio. In 1941, he was named Flight Commander and transferred to Perrin AFB in Sherman, TX. There he met and married Betty Ellis and started a family. In 1942, by now promoted to the rank of Major, he was named Squadron Commander. In 1943, he was named Deputy Group Commander of the 466 Bomber Group of the 8th Air Force, flying B-24 s. On January 23, 1944, Major Steadman's bomber group arrived at Attlebridge Air Station in Northern England. Their first combat mission was to bomb Berlin, the only group given this tough assignment as their initial combat experience. On D-Day, the 466 the crews were bombing Nazi coastal installations. In August of 1944, he was assigned to the RAF War College. After completion of the course, he became one of the few Americans invited to continue as an instructor at the RAF War College. At the end of the War in Europe, Lt. Colonel Steadman was sent to Berlin under the Armed Forces Directorate, assigned as a Staff Officer to General Clay, Berlin Commander. As the cold war tensions grew between the Allies and Russia, Berlin became a focal point eventually leading to the Berlin Air Lift, which supplied the city when Russians blocked land access. This massive enterprise was coordinated through General Clay's command. After Berlin, Lt. Colonel Steadman completed six months at the Air Force Command Staff School in Alabama and was then stationed at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio. He received promotion to Full Colonel during this time. In 1955, Col. Steadman was sent to The Pentagon, assigned to the Secretary of Defense as the Secretary's Liaison to NATO activities. During his military career, Col. Steadman received several service awards and medals; some of which include the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal (with an Oak Leaf Cluster), the American Defense Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal (with four Bronze Service Stars), the World War II Victory Medal, and the Longevity Service Award (with four Oak Leaf Clusters). In 1959, Col. Steadman retired from the, Air Force and joined Lockheed Missiles and Space Company in Sunnyvale, CA, assisting with the Polaris Missile Project. In 1962 Lockheed sent him to TX to establish their corporate presence with a young agency, being established south of Houston, called NASA. For the next twenty-five years, he provided corporate leadership in coordinating the numerous Lockheed Companies' endeavors with our National Space Program. He retired from Lockheed in 1987.