



## Robert Beckman

March 26, 2015

Robert P. Beckman, 94, passed peacefully Thursday, March 26, 2015 at the Mount Carmel Care Center. He is survived by his wife, Ellen (nee Von Hofen), brother, Kenneth of St Petersburg FL, a daughter, Ericka Beckman (Richard Baim) of Hillsdale, NY, sons, Alan (Jenny) and Keith (Gloria) of St. Louis, MO and two granddaughters. He was born in Somerville, MA, and raised in Northampton, MA. His parents were Catherine Page of Biddeford, Maine and Fred W. Beckman of New Bedford, NY. He attended Northampton High School and Massachusetts State College. Mr. Beckman was an avid aviation enthusiast. He studied aviation at Curtis Wright Aeronautical School in Glendale, CA, and soloed in a Boeing Stearman Bi-Plane in 1938. His interest in aviation led him to join the U.S. Army Air Corp in 1942. He served in Air Traffic Control in Italy during WWII. After the war, Mr. Beckman re-upped his service in what would become the U.S. Air Force. He served in the Korean conflict and later in occupied Japan. Mr. Beckman retired from the military in 1963 as a Senior Master Sergeant from Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. Mr. Beckman went into the private sector and worked for McDonnell Douglas in St. Louis where he and his wife settled and raised their three children. He retired in 1974. He was a voracious reader. His favorite subjects were WWI and WWII aviation, as well as early flight. He also enjoyed technical drawing, lapidary, classical music and opera, in particular the works of Beethoven and Puccini. Mr. Beckman and his wife, Ellen, returned to New England in 2008 to enjoy their twilight years together. Mr. Beckman will be missed by his children

and all who knew him, including the staff at Mount Carmel.