



## Gordon Miller French

April 9, 1927 - May 3, 2018

Gordon Miller French, who performed key roles in America's aviation industry, died on Thursday, May 3, 2018, in his home in Towanda, PA, following a period of declining health. He was 91 years of age. A retired executive with McDonnell-Douglas Aircraft Corporation (now part of Boeing), highlights of his 38-year career with the storied aviation company include service as facilities director with responsibility for more than 10 million square feet of under-cover manufacturing and office space at the Long Beach and Torrance plants. He was instrumental in the support of building the MD D-C 8 and MD 10 passenger planes, and the C-124, C130 and C-17 military aircraft, among others. He was also a board member and director of the McDonnell-Douglas West Federal Credit Union.

Born April 9, 1927, in Manchester, NH, his final assignment with McDonnell-Douglas was to help construct the corporation's last west coast headquarters building. Mr. French was a graduate of the University of New Mexico School of Industrial Arts & Engineering and of the Carnegie Mellon (now Tepper) facilities engineering master's degree program at the University of Pittsburgh.

Mr. French was a Navy veteran of World War II who served in the Pacific Theater. At numerous and various times in his life he was active with the Boy Scouts, the Power Boat Squadron and as a member of several churches and

the builder of one in the greater Long Beach area of California. He was a

past president of the University of New Mexico Alumni Association in San Diego, CA, and a founder of California's earliest industrial arts technical association.

He is survived by Marguerite Fox Picou, his wife and companion of 21 years, and three adult children: Susan Gail French Bram (Michael Bram) in Surprise, AZ; Alan French (Leticia) in Austin, TX; Carol Ann French Pettit (Dale Pettit) in Carlsbad, CA; four grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren; also by his nephews Michael Gilson of Lafayette, CA, and Stephen Gilson of Bangor, Maine, niece Nancy Gilson of San Diego, CA, and cousin Peter Marsh of Concord, NH, their spouses and children; and lifelong friends Barbara Butler, of Driggs, Idaho; Betsy Hatch, Argyle, Texas, Arlene and George Summerhill, Reno, Nevada, and Jane Collins, Berryton, Kansas. He was predeceased by Marilyn Frances Shearer French (1997), his first wife of 49 years and mother of his children, and by his sister, Janet, and their parents, Leslie M. French and Mary Bennet Miller French; also by lifelong friends Phillip Anderson, Scott Chip Bailey and Rhody Fuller, all of the greater Concord, NH, area.

A memorial service will be held in the First Presbyterian Church of Towanda on Wednesday, May 16, at 5:30 p.m. Mr. French will be interred in the Miramar National Cemetery, 5795 Nobel Dr, San Diego, CA, in June.

Memorial

contributions are suggested to the Disabled American Veterans <https://secure.dav.org/> and Feed the Children Hunger Campaign <https://donate.feedthechildren.org/>. Memories and condolences may be expressed by visiting [www.bowenfuneralhomes.com](http://www.bowenfuneralhomes.com).

# Previous Events

## Service

MAY 16. 5:30 PM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church  
5 Court Street  
Towanda, PA 18848

# Tribute Wall



“ *Gordon Miller French*

October 22, 2023 at 08:10 PM



“ *Gordon Miller French*

October 08, 2023 at 10:34 PM



“ *Gordon Miller French*

October 06, 2023 at 09:57 AM



“ *Gordon Miller French*

October 06, 2023 at 03:29 AM



“ *Gordon Miller French*

October 05, 2023 at 02:02 PM



“ *ROBIN SCHANBACHER sent a virtual gift in memory of Gordon Miller French*



**ROBIN SCHANBACHER** - May 16, 2018 at 09:03 AM



“ *Healing Tears - All White* was purchased for the family of Gordon Miller French.



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May 15, 2018 at 03:32 PM