

## **William Albert York**

William Albert York, 83, of Staples, TX, passed away in Austin, TX, on Monday, January 31, 2005. He was born on May 26, 1921, in Graham, TX, to Lawrence C. and Bertha (Nunlee) York.

He began his career in Fire Protection in April 1943 at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, TX. Through the years he attended 26 schools and universities for various training. He served as senior instructor at the Department of Fire Fighting and Crash Rescue Training at Lowry Air Force Base in Denver, CO from 1946 until the early 1950's. While there, he redesigned the crash fire fighting hood used at that time and was given an award by the Air Force for that accomplishment. He was an instructor there, again, in the late 1950's after he had served as Fire Chief at Gary Air Force Base, here in San Marcos, from 1954 to 1956. He set up the Fire Department at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO during the time the academy was being constructed in 1959. He was Fire Chief at Randolph Air Force Base from 1960 to 1964; then at Lackland Air Force Base from 1964 to 1968 and back again to Randolph in 1968 until his retirement in early 1974. He loved his work and retirement was not easy for him. When he was contacted later that year by Northrop Corporation to be Fire Chief at Vance Air Force Base in Enid, OK he was ready to get back to work and was there until mid 1975 and then back again in 1976 to 1977 when he again retired. The last and perhaps biggest challenge of his career came in 1978 when he was again employed by Northrop to establish a Fire Training School on Khatami Air Force Base in Isfahan, Iran. This completed, he came home to hang up his bunkers and look for easier things to do.

His parents, L.C. and Bertha (Nunlee) York; four brothers, Curtis Simpee York, O.V. York, Lunde Morgan and Hoyet Morgan; and his first wife, Lahoma (Gulley) York preceded him in death. He is survived by his wife, Bonnie York; daughter, Priscilla Speed; son, William A. York, Jr., two stepdaughters, Connie Supak and Sandy Chance; stepson, James Whitten; 13 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Family will receive friends at Pennington Funeral Home, from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M., Wednesday, February 2, 2005. Funeral Services will be conducted at 11:00 A.M., Thursday, February 3, 2005, at Pennington Memorial Chapel, with Rev. June Cantrell and Rev. Nell Linebarger officiating. Interment will follow at Staples Cemetery. Serving as pallbearers will be Mark Speed, G III Powers, William York, Bradford York, SSG Joshua York, Dustin York, Jimmy Supak, Jr. and Chris Chance.

For those desiring contributions in William's memory may be made to Cal Farley's Boys Ranch & Affiliates, P.O. Box 1890, Amarillo, TX 79174-0001 or to a charity of choice. Arrangements under the care and guidance of Pennington Funeral Home, 323 N. Comanche, San Marcos, TX 78666, 512-353-4311.