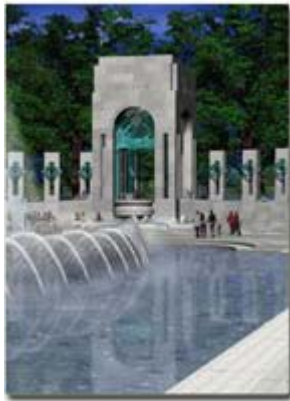




World War II Honoree



Robert Wilson Vincent

BRANCH OF
SERVICE

**U.S. Army Air
Forces**

HOMETOWN
Stillwater, OK

HONORED BY
Robert S. Cox



ACTIVITY DURING WWII

SERVED IN THE ARMY RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS AT OKLAHOMA A&M COLLEGE AT STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA. GRADUATED AND COMMISSIONED A SECOND LIEUTENANT IN THE INFANTRY IN 1941. ENTERED ACTIVE DUTY AND SERVED AT FORT HUACHUCA, AT TOMBSTONE, ARIZONA. WHILE STATIONED THERE, AWARDED THE SOLDIER'S MEDAL FOR HEROISM NOT INVOLVING CONFLICT WITH AN ARMED ENEMY. DURING WAR GAMES IN THE FIELD, HE DETERMINED THAT A LIVE MORTAR ROUND WAS GOING TO LAND SHORT AMONG HIS FELLOW SOLDIERS. HE RAN TO THEM WITH UTTER DISREGARD FOR HIS OWN SAFETY AND ALERTED THEM TO TAKE COVER IMMEDIATELY. ALTHOUGH THE ROUND EXPLODED IN CLOSE PROXIMITY, NO ONE WAS INJURED THANKS TO HIS SELFLESS ACT. SUBSEQUENTLY TRANSFERRED TO THE ARMY AIR FORCES. TRAINED AS A PILOT IN 1943 AND WAS EARMARKED DURING ADVANCED FLYING TRAINING TO FLY BOMBARDMENT AIRCRAFT. UNDERWENT B-24 'LIBERATOR' TRANSITION TRAINING AT MUROC ARMY AIR FIELD, CALIFORNIA. WHILE AT MUROC, TRAINED ON A DEVELOPMENTAL GUIDED WEAPON, THE AZON BOMB. ARRIVED IN THE EUROPEAN-AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN THEATER ON MAY 13, 1944. SERVED OVERSEAS WITH THE 753RD BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON AND FLEW 35 COMBAT AND 5 SUPPORT MISSIONS. ON AUGUST 13, 1944 HE ACHIEVED FIRST PILOT STATUS AND LATER BECAME AIRCRAFT COMMANDER ON HIS 13TH MISSION. HIS AIRCRAFT WAS NAMED 'A DOG'S LIFE.' RETURNED TO THE U.S. ON JANUARY 13, 1945. AWARDED THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS, SOLDIER'S MEDAL, PURPLE HEART, AIR MEDAL, AMERICAN CAMPAIGN MEDAL, EUROPEAN-AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN CAMPAIGN MEDAL AND WWII VICTORY MEDAL. CONTINUED IN SERVICE AFTER THE WAR AND RETIRED FROM THE AIR FORCE WITH THE RANK OF COLONEL.