

Gordon Grettenberger Southworth, son of Walter H. (1900-1993) and Esther P. (Grettenberger) (1898-1987) Southworth, was born 23 November 1924, Michigan. His father, Walter, was treasurer for 10 years with the Okemos Consolidated High School Board. Gordon graduated from Okemos High School in 1942. Gordon joined the US Army 14 May 1943, Kalamazoo County, Michigan.

Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan) Sunday 1 October 1944

SOUTHWORTH - Among the recent graduates of a course in aerial navigation at San Marcos army airfield, Tex., who received their silver wings and commission of second lieutenant, was Gordon G. Southworth, 19-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter H. Southworth, R. 2.

Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan) Tuesday 18 August 1945

Lieut. Gordon Southworth is home on a 30-day furlough before being reassigned to duty. He has been in the European area since last winter as a plane navigator.

Editor's note: I got a chance to fly in a B-17 in 2009. I flew as the plane's navigator. As such, I got the same "bird's eye" view that Lt. Southworth got from the plastic bubble nose of the plane. The engine noise was deafening, but nobody was shooting at us! Here is the plane and the seat and the bombing guide that 19-year-old 2nd Lieut. Southworth served in as the B-17 navigator.

B-17, Muskegon Airport, 2009. Dave Winters '65 looking on.





Rod Ellis flying as Navigator in a B-17. Southworth had to endure the deafening noise, freezing temperatures and lack of oxygen all while navigating the plane, guiding to and releasing the bombs...and firing at enemy aircraft.



Gordon married **Betty Lou Kiger** 14 June 1946 in Okemos, Ingham County, Michigan. **Betty Lou, born 7 November 1925, was a 1944 graduate of Okemos High School.**

After honorable military discharge Gordon furthered his education at Michigan State College (now Michigan State University) where he graduated in May 1949.

Betty Lou was reported to have died 29 December 2006. Gordon died in Texas 1 December 2017 at the age of 93.

Quinlan Funeral Home, Quinlan, Hunt County, Texas

SOUTHWORTH:

Gordon was born on November 23, 1924 and passed away on Friday, December 1, 2017. Gordon was a resident of Texas at the time of passing.