

Raymond F. Gobernatz, 88, of Clarksville, Tenn. passed away Saturday Jan. 7, 2012, at the Gateway Medical Center in Clarksville, Tenn.

He was born on June 3, 1924, in Holdingford, Minn., to Joseph and Hildegard (Meier) Gobernatz. He was baptized on June 5, 1924, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Holdingford.

He attended Holdingford High School and played on the high school football team. After graduating from Holdingford High School in 1942, he enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps. He was a member of the Jolly Rogers 90th Bomb Group from 1942 to 1945. During this time he served in New Guinea and Goose Bay Labrador as a gunner in B24 Liberators. He took time off from his military career to attend Denver University, to study aircraft engine maintenance. He re-enlisted in the United States Air Force. There he served in the Korean Conflict and 4 tours in the Vietnam War. His duties included supervision of the munitions maintenance squadron (MMS). In 1976 he retired after 24 years of service from the USAF with the rank of Senior Master Sergeant. He retired to Atwater, Calif., where he resided for 32 years. In 2008 he moved to Clarksville, Tenn. Until his death, he still participated in the Jolly Rogers 90th Bomb Group reunions.

Raymond is survived by one son, Raymond (Susan) Gobernatz Jr. of Clarksville, Tenn.; and four daughters, Theresa Harris and Linda (Gary) Glenn both of Bluffton, Kathy (Rocky) Mahon of Clarksville, Tenn., and Michelle (Tom) Michael of Pennville; a sister Phyllis (Ervin) Welter of Moses Lake, Wash.; an aunt, Dorothy Meier of Holdingford Minn.; 15 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren and one great-great-granddaughter. He is predeceased by a brother Howard Gobernatz, and grandson Rocky L. Mahon.

Calling hours will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 11, and from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 12, at the Goodwin Memorial Chapel in Bluffton. Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, at the funeral home. Burial will be conducted by the US Air Force in the Westlawn Cemetery in Geneva.

Preferred memorials are to the St. Jude Children's Hospital.

As he always said, "Have a good day! If you can't have a good one, have a gooder one! If you can't have a gooder one, take the best of the two!"

**Contributed by Kenneth & Carolyn (no source listed)**