

**GEORGE W. PARKER, SR.**  
**MHS FOUNDING FATHER**  
**17-May-1923 to 27-May-2009**

It is with great sorrow and sense of loss that news of the passing of our Founding Father, George W. Parker, SR is shared here.

A few weeks after being diagnosed with terminal pancreatic cancer, his family decided to give George a 'Celebration of Life' on his 86<sup>th</sup> birthday in May.

A steady stream of friends and family paraded through the party room at his senior residence, all there to say their hellos and good-byes. Hugs, handshakes and stories filled the afternoon as they all recalled George's accomplishments and savored the memories and the camaraderie.

George piloted a B-26 Marauder, his beloved "Missouri Mule" in WWII. He flew over Normandy to assist in the landing of D-Day 1944. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross and two Purple Hearts for that service.

After the war, he went on to serve as a military instructor to the Republic of China, Intelligence Officer for the Pentagon, Squadron Commander of F-89 all-weather fighters and as an AFROTC Instructor.

Missouri State Representative Kurt Shaefer and former State Representative Ed Robb stopped by to pay their respects along with other politicians both past and present. Lt Gov. Peter Kinder called Parker to thank him for his work with the Republican Party and for founding the Pachyderm Clubs.

The Pachyderm Club began in 1967 right after George became the first Republican to win a Boone County election since before the Civil War. He and some friends would meet Fridays for lunch and nicknamed their meetings "Noon at the Boone".

From there George developed the Pachyderm Clubs to get more people interested in government. His goal was to expose people to politics who had never been exposed before. Today there are 64 Pachyderm Clubs established in 16 states.

In 1988, George Parker, Sr. turned his love for the Martin B-26 Marauder into a society to preserve the legacy of the B-26 and the men and women connected to her.

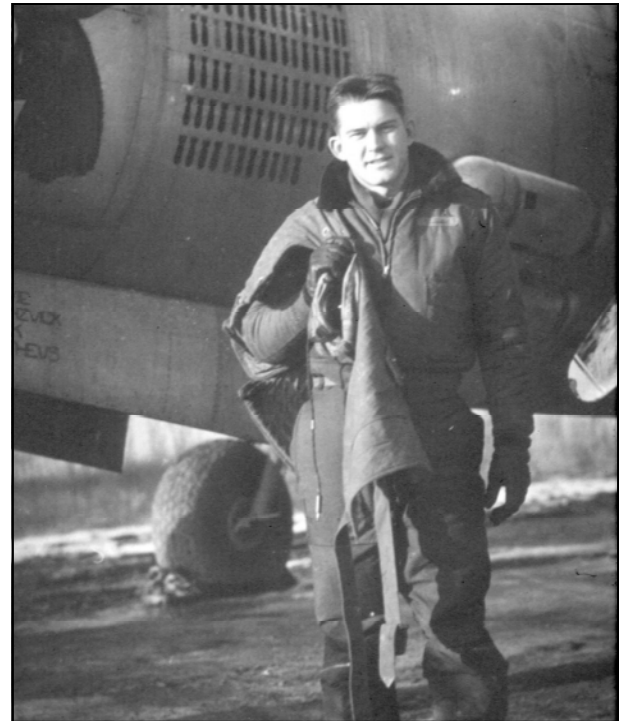
George began the hosting of Galas to bring the Marauder community closer in a fun setting and assisted in the acquisition of the B-26 Marauder currently being restored at the Pima Air & Space Museum.

George was a man of conviction, dedication and vision. His passion for the B-26 Marauder and for politics colored his life. MHS is grateful for his vision, leadership and guidance that sustained us through the years.

Thank-you.



*Second in from right:* George Parker, Sr. next to the plane they walked away from.



George with his beloved "Missouri Mule."