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He joined the United States Marine Corps in June 1937, and became a flight instructor before the war. During World War II, he became a dive-bomber and fighter pilot, and saw action at Bismarck Archipelago, Guadalcanal, north through the Salomons to Mundo, Bougainville, Green, Emirau and Palau. He retired from the Marines as a colonel in January 1961 after 23 years of service.

Following the war, Mr. Beard became chief test pilot for Helio Aircraft, Mid States Manufacturing, Pittsburg. He retired in 1972 and moved to Beaver Lake, Rogers, Ark, for 20 years. He moved to John Knox Village in 1992.

He held membership in the First Christian Church of Pittsburg, Rogers, Ark., and Lee's Summit, Phi Sigma Phi and Alpha Gamma Tau fraternities, and American Legion Post No. 0189, Lee's Summit.

On Dec. 31, 1937, he married Frances Wallbank. She survives in Lee's Summit.

Additional survivors include two sons, Charles "Larry" Beard of Las Cruces, N.M., and James "Pat" Beard of Springfield, Mo.; a daughter, Nancy Rose Stevens of Springfield, Mo.; a sister, Bessie Blackwell of Pittsburg; six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by two sisters, Evelyn O'Toole and Dorothy Weeks.

Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at the Garden of Memories Cemetery with Dan Muter, minister of Countryside Christian Church, officiating. Burial will follow. The procession will leave at 1:30 p.m. Thursday for the cemetery. Friends may call from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. today at the Brenner Mortuary Chapel. Arrangements are under the direction of the Brenner Mortuary, 114 E. Fourth.
Lee's Summit, Mo. —

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