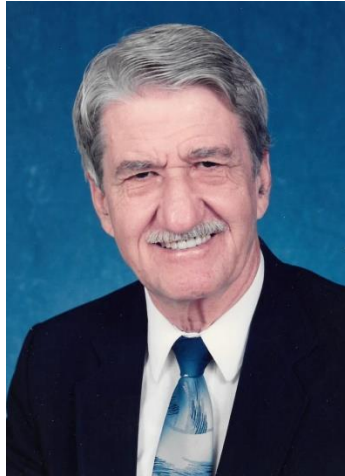


## **Kenneth R. Ganther, Sr.**



**A healthy extraordinary boy, with an ear piercing cry and squirming limbs.**

**A certificate of birth, inspection of the table of contents, and a foot print.**

Kenneth R. Ganther, Sr., 97, of San Antonio, Texas passed away on December 19, 2017 at his home. Kenneth was born on May 6, 1920 in Bates County, Missouri to William and Alice Ganther, the youngest of their three children and only son. They lived on the family farm until William died when Kenneth was a small child. The family moved to the nearby town of Butler, where his mother worked hard to provide for the children and keep the family together. Kenneth was baptized in the Baptist Church at Butler. When he was a young teenager he and his mother moved to Kansas City, Missouri, where he graduated from High School in 1938.

Not long after graduation Kenneth decided to enlist in the USA-Air Corps ,now USAAF as an entry level aircraft mechanic. He worked his way up to become Crew Chief in charge of the ground crew for a C-47 transport aircraft, achieving the rank of Staff Sargent. As Crew Chief, Kenneth also flew on all missions as the flight engineer. He served honorably for the duration of World War II, and had fond memories of his service. His most memorable event was dropping paratroops into Normandy on D-Day. He enjoyed his time in the military and was honorably discharged at war's end.

When he returned home he met and married Mickey. He decided to go into sales, and began by selling billboard advertising space. Kenneth and Mickey settled in Kansas City and Mickey bore two sons. They started a hearing aid dealership, and he managed the business and sold hearing aids for 18 years.

About the time the sons were grown, Kenneth's marriage to Mickey and the business both failed. Middle aged now, he started over by selling life and health insurance. After a few years, he met Dorothy in St. Louis, Missouri. Kenneth and Dorothy married and became a team, managing a number of large motels and other properties in Texas and California. After retiring from property management, Kenneth and Dorothy settled in San Antonio, where he worked for many years as a teacher-aide and GED math instructor for NISD.

Declining health forced him to give up his teaching position in May, 2013 at age 93. Although, Ken continued to tutor students at home until December, then a broken hip in January 2014 forced him into true retirement. He was very proud of the many students (including Dorothy) who had struggled with math, and were finally able to

pass their GED. He continued to do many things for himself until another fall resulted in broken ribs in April 2016 and in December he became confined to his bed or a lounge chair.

Kenneth loved golf, a sport he enjoyed throughout his life, and also enjoyed his yard, building projects around the house, and watching birds, along with sports and old movies on TV. He especially loved his pet dogs and cats. He remarked many times that he lived a full life. Kenneth enjoyed great friends, golfing buddies, and one special retired military friend in his later years, Mr. John Duca. Kenneth also was invited, as an honored guest, to speak numerous times to the graduating classes of Air Force students at Lackland AFB.

Kenneth was pre-deceased by his parents, middle sister Della Ganther, elder sister Lillian Thomason Biddle, and niece Pat Thomason. He is survived by his wife of nearly 38 years, Dorothy M. Ganther, of the home, and step-son Derek B. McDonald and wife Janet, also of the home. He is also survived by son Kenneth Ganther Jr. and wife Jean Dexter of Olathe, Kansas, son Steve Ganther and wife Kathy of Wellsville, Kansas, five grandchildren, and one step grandson, twelve great-grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Memorial service for Kenneth R Ganther, Sr. of San Antonio, will be scheduled on a Sunday afternoon (check **web Facebook page at Tezel Oaks Nazarene Church**) with a reception to be held after service at Tezel Oaks Nazarene Church for friends, family & co-workers.



Private Ken Ganther at Randolph Field in June 1941



Private Ganther and fellow mechanic work on a training aircraft at Randolph Field in June 1941



