



Our **Bob Friend** was an American Hero, and an expert bridge player/ tournament competitor. For many years he served on The Bridge World's MSC (Master Solvers Club) expert panel. He was and always will be a member of The American Bridge Association, Western Section, Los Angeles Bridge Unit. Bob passed away...June 21 in Long Beach, surrounded by family. He was 99.

On July 6 and 7, the Palm Springs Air Museum will be the site for a public viewing and memorial service for the former

Tuskegee Airman and retired United States Air Force Lt. Col. Robert “Bob” Friend.

Viewing will be from noon to 5 p.m. July 6 and the memorial service is scheduled for 11 a.m. July 7. A private grave site burial will follow. The Air Museum is at 745 N. Gene Autry Trail, Palm Springs.

On July 8th Monday there will be a service for our FRIEND given by the family at Pacific View Memorial Park. The address is 3500 Pacific View Drive, Corona Del Mar, California 92625

Friend, who would rise to the rank of lieutenant colonel, flew North American P-51 Mustang and Republic P-47 Thunderbolt fighters in Europe with the Tuskegee Airmen’s 322nd Fighter Group.

Friend and the other members of the Tuskegee Airmen were recipients of the Congressional Gold Medal—after the war he studied astrophysics and business, and continued as a military operations officer during the Korean War and the Vietnam War. From 1958 to 1963 he led the secret government investigation of UFOs known as project Blue Book— He participated in three rocket programs and later would assume executive posts at companies in the aerospace industry.

Bob was “a master bridge player as we all know but he was also an active supporter of the program "Ride 2 Recovery which helps benefit mental and physical rehabilitation programs for wounded Veterans.”

