

## **Obituary of Frank Mallory Gammon Sr.**

Frank Mallory Gammon, Sr. died April 3, 2002. He was 88. His life was distinguished by 29 years of service in the U.S. Army and Merchant Marines. Much of his life was spent at sea and he traveled the entire world. During WWII he served in the Pacific and was the skipper of a PT boat assigned to air-sea rescue. He served in Korea and participated in the famous Inchon landing as skipper of an invasion landing craft. After his retirement from active duty he continued his maritime career by obtaining distinction as a licensed master of oceans, qualified to captain any vessel of any size in any waterway in the world. In 1961 he went to work for NASA where he worked as Captain of its training and recovery ship, the "Retriever." There he helped train astronauts during the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo space programs. He received a commendation for his role in the successful return of the ill-fated Apollo 13 crew. He retired from NASA after 10 years of distinguished service and remains the only ship Captain in the history of the space program. Following that retirement he continued his long career by serving as the Captain of Texas A&M University's oceanographic research ship. He was a Member of the Masonic Lodge for 65 years. He served as past master of the Zapata Lodge, No. 1402, past DDGM of District 41, Grand Lodge of Texas, and was a member of both the Scottish Rite and the Shriners. He is survived by Jewell C. Gammon, his wife of 57 years; his children: Frank M. Gammon, Jr. and wife Janet, Sandra M. Barni, and William B. Gammon and wife Beckie; and 6 Grandchildren. A memorial service will be at 10:30, April 9, at Grace United Methodist Church, 18218 Hwy. 6, Manvel, TX followed by a military ceremony at Veterans Memorial Cemetery, 10410 Veterans Memorial Drive, Houston at 2 p.m. Published in Houston Chronicle on April 7, 2002.