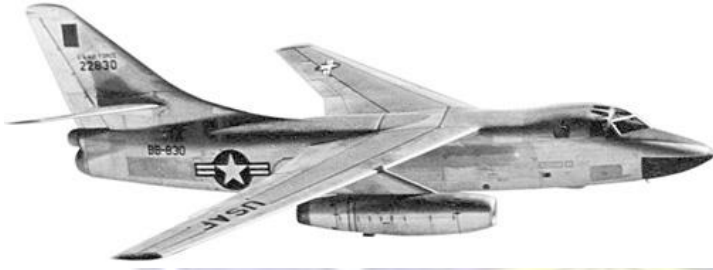


William Earl McDonald, T-48

3 February 1930 – 17 November 1967

(aged 37)



Mother's Shield of Pride Dulls Grief's Second Blow

History repeated a sorrowful message for Mrs. Bessie McDonald of 2545 Yale yesterday when she received a telegram saying her son, Maj. William Earl McDonald died in a plane crash near Takhli Air Base in Thailand. He was 37.

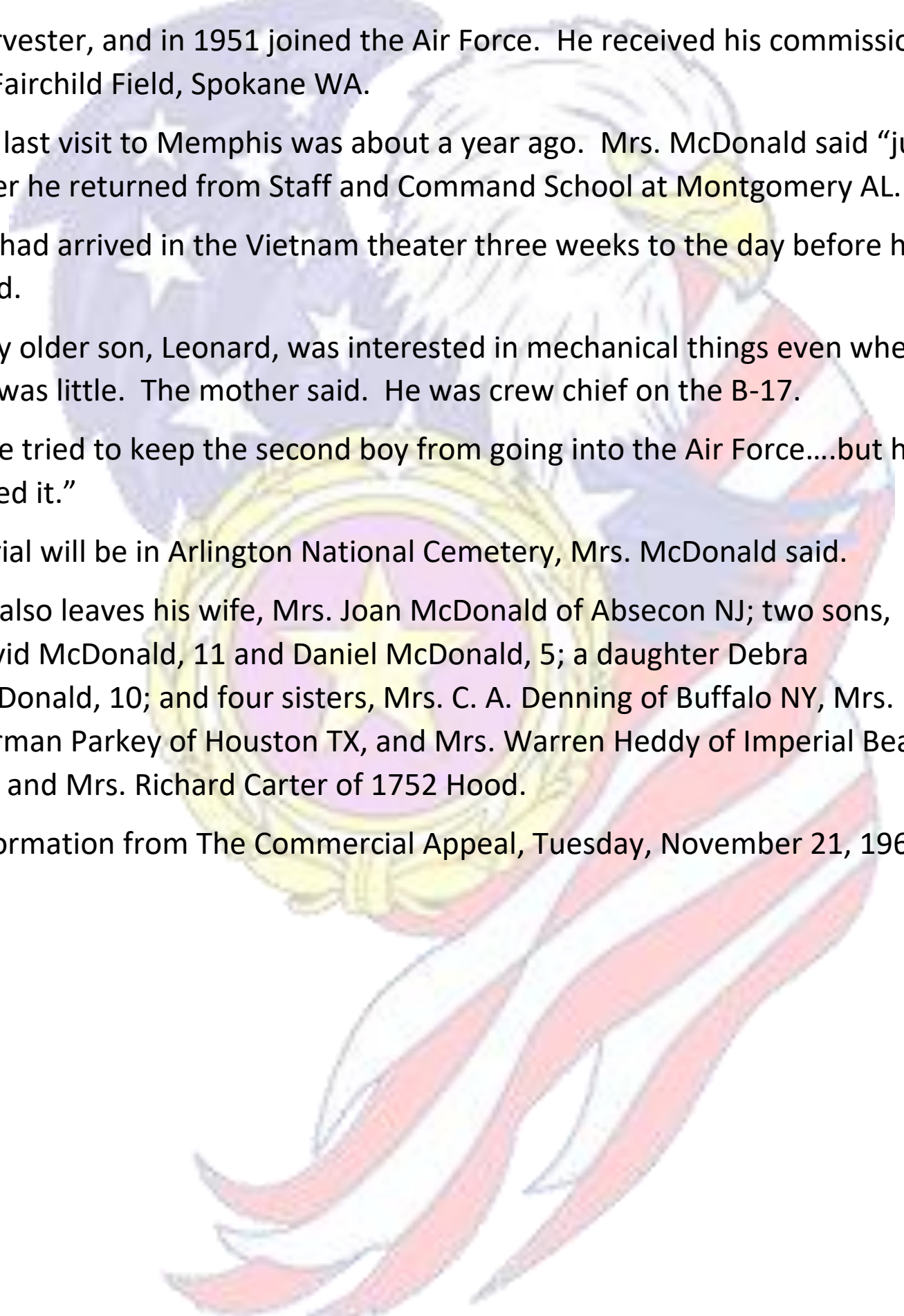
Another son, Staff Sgt. Leonard W. McDonald, died at 27 when his B17 bomber crashed and exploded in Germany during World War II.

The quiet dignity Mrs. McDonald said last night, "it's hard to give them up, but I'm proud of my boys."

Maj McDonald, born in Memphis and a 1948 graduate of Tech High School, died Friday of multiple injuries in the crash of the EB-66C (Bomber). He was the navigator.

The message to Mrs. McDonald said, "Shortly after the takeoff the aircraft lost an engine. It crashed and burned as it attempted to land."

"Both my boys carried The Commercial Appeal," Mrs. McDonald said. After his graduation, Major McDonald was employed by International



Harvester, and in 1951 joined the Air Force. He received his commission at Fairchild Field, Spokane WA.

His last visit to Memphis was about a year ago. Mrs. McDonald said “just after he returned from Staff and Command School at Montgomery AL.

He had arrived in the Vietnam theater three weeks to the day before he died.

“My older son, Leonard, was interested in mechanical things even when he was little. The mother said. He was crew chief on the B-17.

“We tried to keep the second boy from going into the Air Force....but he loved it.”

Burial will be in Arlington National Cemetery, Mrs. McDonald said.

He also leaves his wife, Mrs. Joan McDonald of Absecon NJ; two sons, David McDonald, 11 and Daniel McDonald, 5; a daughter Debra McDonald, 10; and four sisters, Mrs. C. A. Denning of Buffalo NY, Mrs. Herman Parkey of Houston TX, and Mrs. Warren Heddy of Imperial Beach CA, and Mrs. Richard Carter of 1752 Hood.

Information from The Commercial Appeal, Tuesday, November 21, 1967.

When the number two engine of EB-66C 54-0473 failed shortly after departure from Takhli RTAFB, Thailand, the pilot, Major Max Nichols, attempted to return to base. While the aircraft was on short final it settled rapidly into rough ground about 1,200 feet short of the runway, slid for a distance, caught fire, and exploded. Only two of the seven men aboard were able to escape the burning aircraft.

The five-crew killed were:

Captain Rey L. Duffin

Major Karl D. Hezel

1st Lt Theodore W. Johnson

Major William McDonald

Major Max Nichols

