



## Wepler, Thomas

Served in the United States Air Force from 1942 to 1948 and 1949 to 1952.

Rank Captain

Tom Wepler served in the Army Air Force from 1942 to 1945. He was honorably discharged as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant, Navigator Bombardier and received the WWII Victory medal and American Campaign Medal.

In 1949 Tom enlisted in the United States Air Force. He was a jet fighter pilot and was stationed in Japan and Korea for 2 years. He flew 126 combat missions in an F-80 Shooting Star with the 51<sup>st</sup> Inceptor wing. Tom was honorably discharged from the USAF in 1952 after achieving the rank of Captain and being awarded the Korean Service Medal, Air medal with 2 Oak Leaf clusters and the Distinguished Flying Cross. Tom received the DFC for displaying outstanding skill and airmanship ability, and for showing high personal courage and devotion to duty. During one particular mission, after expending all of his ammunition, Tom continued to make additional passes over enemy territory to draw fire away from the rest of his squadron. Captain Thomas Wepler was a hero to his country and to his family who is missed very much.