



## Col Eugene J. Ignatow

Colonel Eugene J. Ignatow (CA Ret) passed away on October 14, 2001, at age 80. Gene's military career spanned 4 decades, starting with Army basic training in La Junta, Colorado in January 1941. During the war he saw combat in Germany with the 78<sup>th</sup> Division. He was discharged as a Master Sergeant in October 1945. He joined the 159<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment of the California Army National Guard as a Warrant Officer in 1949 and served in that capacity until 1950, when he was commissioned a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant. In June 1951, he joined the California Air National Guard, starting with the 144<sup>th</sup> Air Base Group, then the 129<sup>th</sup> Air Resupply and Communications Group, and then back to the 144<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing in Fresno. He remained in the 144<sup>th</sup> until he transferred to the Air Force Reserve in 1972 where he served as an IMA until his retirement in July 1978. Gene was the founder and president of Gene's Office Supply, Inc. located in Hayward. His younger son, Steven, is now running the business. Gene's older son, Bill, is a Colonel at the Office of the Adjutant General, serving as the Director of International Affairs. Gene leaves his wife of 54 years, Merian. A private military service was held at the San Joaquin National Cemetery.