

**Leroy Fletcher Prouty** <sup>Post</sup>  
**Air Force Colonel** 6/8/01

Leroy Fletcher Prouty Jr., 84, a retired Air Force colonel who also worked for Washington area corporations, died of multiple organ failure June 5 at Inova Alexandria Hospital. He lived in Alexandria.

Col. Prouty, who was born in Springfield, Mass., sang as a young man with professional big bands in New England. He was a graduate of the University of Massachusetts.

He served with the Army Air Forces during World War II as a transport pilot in North Africa and Saudi Arabia.

After the war, he was assigned to Yale University, where he established an ROTC program, and to the Air Defense Command in Colorado Springs in 1950.

He was a squadron commander stationed in Japan during the Korean War. Prior to his retirement in 1963, he worked at the Pentagon. His honors included the Legion of Merit.

After he left the military, Col. Prouty was vice president for general operations of General Aircraft Corp., vice president and Pentagon branch manager of First National Bank of Arlington and vice president of marketing at Madison National Bank.

Prior to his second retirement in the 1970s, he helped establish the government marketing division at Amtrak and was a speechwriter for the corporation's president.

Col. Prouty held a patent for a disposable razor with a continuous, rotating blade and wrote two books, "The Secret Team" and "JFK: The CIA, Vietnam, and the Plot to Assassinate John F. Kennedy."

He was a consultant to Oliver Stone on the movie "JFK."

His other interests included painting.

Survivors include his wife of 59 years, Elizabeth Prouty of Alexandria; three children, David Prouty of Laurel, Jane Prouty of Santa Fe, N.M., and Lauren Prouty of Albemarle, Va.

The Pentagon assignment is not indicated although it was well and publicly known. He was with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, with most of his work being providing the CIA with backup it needed, particularly in aviation. He has spoken of it, written about it, and yet the Post either plays along with this impropriety by the military or accepts it. And it was 30 years in the past, too.

Some of his flying also was political. He told me of flying Chiang Ki Shek to conferences where his presence would not be well known. I think he said the first major summit.