

THE CLOVIS

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Cobb named veterans' parade grand marshal

By Paula Lloyd

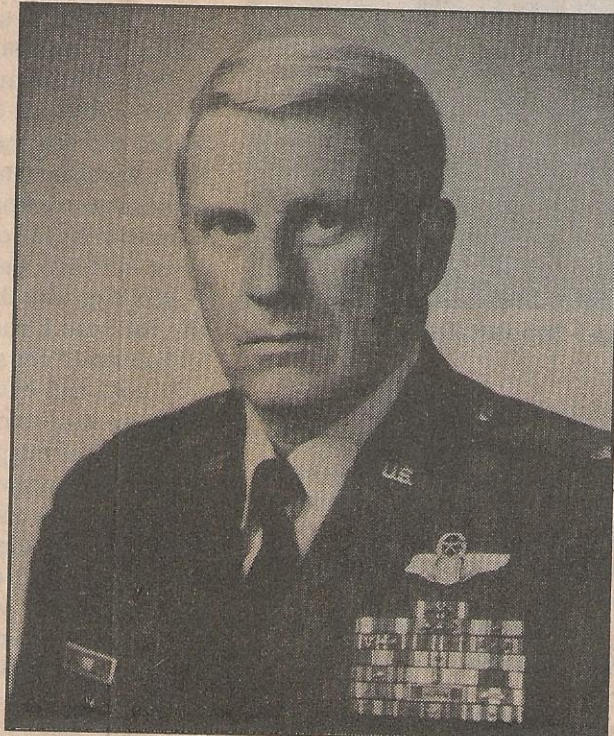
Independent News Editor

Col. Lawrence D. Cobb will be following in some famous footsteps when he serves as grand marshal of the Clovis Veteran's Day Parade Nov. 11.

They also are footsteps he is well acquainted with. The parade grand marshal last year was Tink Kastner, who was Cobb's principal at Clovis High School.

"He was a pilot and a real gentleman," Cobb recalls of Kastner. "He was really an example."

Cobb, 54, retired as the Deputy Commander for Support of the 144th Fighter Interceptor Wing, Fresno Air National Guard. He said he was surprised to be selected as this year's grand marshal. "It must have been done at the last minute and they must have run out of survivors," he laughed.



Special to The Clovis Independent

See Cobb, Page 7A Col. Lawrence D. Cobb will lead Clovis parade.

Cobb

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The Veteran's Day Parade will march through Old Town Clovis beginning at 10 a.m. Nov. 11, from the Clovis Rodeo Grounds. The parade route moves north on Clovis Avenue to Third Street, west to Pollasky Avenue and south to Seventh Street, back to Clovis Avenue.

Cobb graduated from then Clovis Union High School in 1957 and went on to earn a degree in animal husbandry at Fresno State College. He still manages the family cattle ranch north of Fresno. It has been in the family for more than 100 years.

While in college, Cobb also earned a commission in the Air Force ROTC upon graduation in 1962.

He started his Air Force career at Williams Air Force Base in Arizona. Cobb graduated as a combat ready pilot in 1964 and went to his first assignment with the 49th Tactical

Fighter Wing at Spangdahlem, Germany.

He was reassigned to an Air Force base in Thailand in 1966 from where he flew combat missions over North Vietnam. Cobb's combat decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters and the Air Medal with 11 Oak Leaf Clusters.

Cobb resigned as a regular Air Force officer in 1967, but remained as a reserve officer. In 1968 Cobb joined the 144th at the Fresno Air Guard.

In 1985, Cobb was selected as project officer for the Air Defense Initiative and was a member of the Fresno 1980 William Tell competition team that won the F-106 category and the overall Air Force Interceptor Championships.

Cobb was promoted to colonel in 1989.

Cobb is a command pilot with over

4,700 hours of fighter aircraft experience. Career honors awarded Cobb also include the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Cobb remains busy in retirement. He and his wife, the former Carole Miller, also a Clovis High graduate, live on the Cobb family ranch. Their youngest son, Dan, works with his father.

The Cobb's oldest son, David, is a paramedic and serves with command post control in the Fresno Air Guard.

Cobb also is a commercial pilot for Delta Airlines, flying the Airbus 310 out of New York City on transatlantic flights to Europe.