



# TO HONOR

**LAVERNE G. SAUNDERS**

**BRIGADIER GENERAL, U. S. AIR FORCE**

*laVerne "Blondie" Saunders graduated from West Point in 1928. He commanded the 26th Bomb Squadron at Hickam Field, Hawaii on December 7, 1941. He then progressively commanded the 11th Bomb Group, the 588th Bomb Wing, and the 20th Bomber Command in the Pacific Theater through 1944. He ditched a B-17 successfully after the pilot had been killed by enemy action and received the Navy Distinguished Service Cross for this action. He led the first B-29 raid on Tokyo from India. He was retired on March 1, 1947 and died on November 16, 1988.*

By David Colledge, Donald King, and George Kay