



TO HONOR

DONALD JAMES MATHEW BLAKESLEE

COLONEL, U.S. AIR FORCE

Don Blakeslee, often called the greatest fighter leader of World War II, joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1940, was commissioned as a Pilot Officer and began his combat career in 1941. He joined Number 133 Squadron of RAF Fighter Command, one of the famed American Eagle Squadrons, in May 1942 becoming the commander in July. In October 1942 he transferred to the U.S. Army Air Forces and continued flying combat until September 1944. Most of that time he was as commander of the 336th Fighter Squadron and then the Fourth Fighter Group of the Eighth Air Force. Under his command the Fourth destroyed more enemy aircraft than any other fighter unit in Europe. He logged over 1200 combat hours and destroyed 15.5 German aircraft. Blakeslee remained in the Air Force after World War II and retired in 1965 after a distinguished career during which he commanded several flying units.

He was a fighter pilot's fighter pilot.

By: Wilson V. Edwards