

**Col. Gene Russell Wilks, 92, of Bella Vista, Arkansas died Monday, December 7, 2009 at Northwest Medical Center of Benton County in Bentonville, Arkansas. He was born September 3, 1917 in Monett, Missouri to Britte Oscar Wilks and Fern Amelia Seals Wilks.**

**He was career Military Officer in the U.S. Army Infantry serving during World War II in 9 campaigns. Following his retirement they made their home in Bella Vista. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Bella Vista.**

**He was survived by his wife of 49 years, Jerry Wilks of Bella Vista, Arkansas; son, Gene R. Wilks, Jr. of Walla Walla, Washington; three daughters, Dianne Finklea of Texarkana, Texas, Susie Campbell of Phoenix, Arizona and Donna Ethridge of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; grandchildren, David Finklea, Aimee Campbell, Wyatt and Jessalee Wilks, Mark & Mike Fogarty; and great-grandchildren, Nina Fogarty, MacKenzie and Dawson Finklea.**

**A Funeral Service will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 10, 2009 at the Bella Vista Funeral Home Chapel, 2258 Forest Hills Blvd., Bella Vista, Arkansas with Reverend Sara Bainbridge officiating. Burial will be in the Bella Vista Cemetery. Military Honors will be by the Bella Vista Veteran's Honor Guard.**