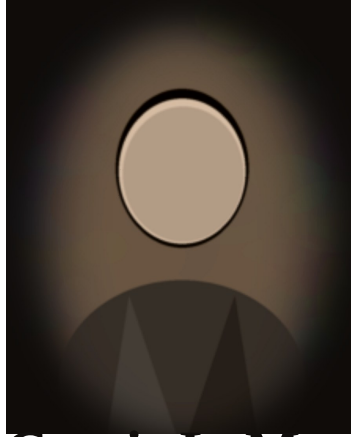




Curtis LeMay

November 15, 1906 - October 1, 1990

Riverside, California

Curtis Emerson LeMay - American Air Force general who shaped strategic bombing in World War II and built the Cold War bomber force America relied on - died near Riverside, California, on October 1, 1990. He was eighty-three. Born November 15, 1906, in Columbus, Ohio, he rose through the Army Air Forces, directed hard campaigns in Europe and the Pacific, and later led Strategic Air Command with a demand for readiness that left little room for soft excuses.

As Air Force Chief of Staff he argued for strength in an uneasy nuclear age. In 1968 he ran for vice president on George Wallace's ticket, a choice that still divides historians. He spent later years in Southern California and died of heart complications at March Air Force Base hospital.

Ohio gave him bluntness; wartime command gave him steel. He believed deterrence required homework no civilian speech could replace.

He died near Riverside on October 1, 1990. Somewhere a readiness checklist is still being signed before dawn.

LeMay's gift was unyielding preparation - treating peace as something you practice under pressure. Notice Nearby keeps the death date so October 1 remembers the Ohio-born general who made American air power a standing order.

Services

Died at March Air Force Base near Riverside, California, October 1, 1990. U.S. Air Force general; Strategic Air

Command; Air Force Chief of Staff.

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