



Edgar L. Bonham

March 14, 1925 - August 9, 2017

Edgar L. Bonham, 92, Bradenton, FL, passed away peacefully on August 9, 2017 in Anderson, IN. He was born March 14, 1925 in Paxton, the son of Martin and Nettie (Terrell) Bonham.

As a combat World War II veteran, he served with the 1st Marine Division, United States Marine Corps in battles for Okinawa and Peleliu. Returning from service, he wed his high-school sweetheart, Agnes (McKinley) Bonham, to whom he was married 64 years until her death in 2010. As a loving and devoted husband, he cared for her until that day. Mr. Bonham dedicated 30 years to Guide Corp. in Anderson until retiring to Bradenton, FL in 1983.

He is survived by his four girls, Judy Helms, Georgia, Linda (Don) Neal, Anderson; Kathy (Bill) Kirkpatrick, Florida; Connie (Tony) Gwaltney, Anderson; seven grandchildren, Angie (Toby) Biles, Kelly (Rosa) Helms, Brent (Melinda) Neal, Christie Neal, Michael Smitherman, Ryan Gwaltney, Chris (Ashley) Gwaltney, nine great grandchildren, siblings, Martin Ray Bonham, Fla., June Snurpus, Ariz., Gay Martino, Penn., several nieces and nephews. He will be remembered by his family for his joyful, teasing humor and for being a truly remarkable man.

He is also preceded in death by his parents, wife, two brothers, a sister and son-in-law, Gary Helms.

A graveside service will be held on Tuesday, August 15, 2017, at 1:30 pm, at Sarasota National Cemetery, 9810 State Rd. 72, Sarasota, FL 34241.

Arrangements by Toale Brothers Funeral Home.

Tribute Wall

“ Dear Judy, Linda, Kathy, and Connie,

On behalf of my mom, wife and son, please accept our deepest sympathies on the loss of your dad. He became a part of my daily prayers in a special way after visiting Uncle Pug and learning that he went into hospice care. You remain in my prayers so that you will find consolation and perspective.

Part of the way that I am able to gain perspective as people around me age and pass on is to tap into the gratitude for their having shared their lives with me. And one of the more meaningful ways that that sharing took place for your dad was in the many wonderful memories that he and your mom created for me. As a child, coming to Anderson to spend a few days in your home was always a much-anticipated event. Among the many gestures of warmth and hospitality that were extended, it was your dad's willingness to spend time with me as a way to get to know me that left a lasting impression. I can vividly recall his sitting in the middle of your living room floor and playing crazy eights with us. To this day, anytime I play that game, I hear your dad's deep and teasing voice, "dig, dig, dig."

My fond memories of him and your mom, however, didn't just occur decades ago when I was very young. Instead, I am thankful that my wife had the opportunity to meet them when we visited their Bradenton home. By the time my son came along, your mom had died, but my son had the chance to spend time with your dad during our Florida vacations. It was in those instances where my son got a glimpse of your dad's teasing and humor that I had to sort out when I was his age.

Perhaps what I cherish the most about spending time with your dad as an adult was way he recounted stories about his early life. Since he and my mom were only 16 months apart in age, these stories helped me get invaluable insight about my mom's roots and my own heritage. Not only did your dad talk about the past, but he also did

something meaningful to ensure my connections to my background. When our grandma died, your mom and dad, as well as my mom and I, were among the first to arrive in Terre Haute. One evening, the four of us were looking through grandma's odds and ends and came across her name tag from Woolworth's. I asked your dad if I could have it and he kindly said yes. To this day I have this memento in full view in my home, and it serves as a powerful reminder of my mom's family and the positive impact it has had on me.

Thanks for allowing me to share these fond and, for me, important reminiscences.

May your dad rest in peace.

Fondly,

Danny

Dan Martino - August 22, 2017 at 12:00 AM