



Harlan Malcolm Twible

March 10, 1922 - April 8, 2018

Harlan Twible, 96, went home to the Lord on Sunday, April 8, 2018. His beloved wife, Alice, predeceased him. He is survived by his children Pamela, Susan, Barbara, and David. Harlan was born in Gilbertville, Mass. to Ruby and William Twible, one of four children. He graduated from the US Naval Academy in 1945 and soon thereafter married Alice Southworth of Ware, Mass., who was, from their first date, the love of his life. His first naval assignment was to the USS Indianapolis, a heavy cruiser that was assigned the secret mission of delivering the first atomic bomb to the island of Tinian. Four days after delivering the bomb, the Indianapolis was sunk by enemy action in the Phillipine Sea, sinking so fast that no distress call was sent from the ship. He, and his shipmates who survived the sinking spent 4 days and 5 nights in the water, with almost no fresh water or survival gear. During this time, and, despite injuries he suffered during the sinking, Harlan Twible constantly aided the 325 men in his group, maintaining order among them, ministering to their needs, and preventing half-crazed and injured men from leaving the safety of the group; actions for which the Navy later awarded him the Navy and Marine Corps Medal. He credited his survival to God's presence and care. He also served in the Korean War, serving 11 years in the Navy. After his time in the service, Harlan pursued a career as a business executive, specializing in turning around failing businesses, including Picker Corporation, and Siemens Medical of America. His employees recognized him as a fair and compassionate man in all his dealings with them. Harlan Twible thanked God

every day for the blessings in his life. His greatest earthly joy came from his beloved wife Alice, and his family, and he always placed their happiness and well-being above his own. Harlan found great enjoyment in woodworking, and made a great deal of the furniture in his, and his children's homes. A memorial service will be held Saturday, April 21 at 11 AM at Church of the Palms, 3224 Bee Ridge Rd., Sarasota, FL. Interment is Monday, April 23, at 1PM at Sarasota National Cemetery, 9810 State Route 72, Sarasota, FL.

Tribute Wall

PB

“ *When I graduated from the US Naval Academy in the early 2000's, my father contacted Mr. Twible and asked him to impart some words of wisdom and encourage to a new Naval Officer. I still have that letter and turn to it often for inspiration and to remember a great man whom I never met but who will be in my heart forever. Fairwinds and following seas, Harlan. And Beat Army! ~Pete B*

Pete B - May 06 at 04:52 PM

MB

“ *I had the honor of being Mr. Twible's nurse for several days in 2018. He opened my eyes to an event in history that I knew little about. I deeply respect the horrific experience he and others survived, and for his service to our country and democracy. Blessings to his family -who I know will dearly miss him. My dad was the same age, and died a year earlier. We are never ready and we always find a few more questions we wish we could have asked. Again - I am honored to having met Harlan Twible, and was able to serve him as he fought to regain health.*



Mary Bond - November 28, 2018 at 12:00 AM

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CB

“ *Mr Twible responded to a letter I wrote to him some time in the 90's, his letter to me is the most sentimental and cherished item I own. Having read about what he did for his shipmates on the USS Indianapolis, Ensign Twible was an incredible specimen of humanity. Heaven is truly blessed!*

Cynthia Burgner - May 13, 2018 at 12:00 AM

KD

“ *It was my honor to have met your parents when my grandson was doing a report on the U.S.S. Indianapolis . We were given the chance to interview both of these amazing people. Heaven is lucky to have them both, even with the great sadness here on earth. Blessings on your family. Karen Darnell originally from Michigan City, Ind.*

Karen Darnell - May 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Twible Family:

My name is Gary J. Becker, M.D. I had the honor and privilege of knowing both Harlan and Alice, and caring for Harlan over many years, including treating his abdominal aortic aneurysm with minimally invasive procedures.

I enjoyed so much getting to know both Harlan and Alice, and I would say that--as many who crossed their paths must say--we became good friends.

I know that the experience of the Indianapolis sinking was central in their lives, and ultimately, when called upon to testify on behalf of Capt. McVay, Harlan did the honorable thing and rose to defend McVay's honor and memory.

One thing you may not know about Harlan is that he helped my daughter, Samantha, early in her film career, by getting her a summer position with a small production company in Los Angeles. That was a key stepping stone for Samantha, who went on to spend 10 years at Dreamworks as assistant to Steven Spielberg.

You also probably do not know that Harlan starred in a short film that we made at the time of the 75th anniversary of the American Board of Radiology (2009), in order to help us tell the story of the importance of board certification.

I missed Alice as soon as I learned of her passing, and now I shall miss Harlan as well. He was a wonderful, kind man with a beautiful soul. May he rest in peace.

Gary J. Becker, M.D.

April 29, 2018 at 12:00 AM

DE

“ You will always live in our hearts and prayers.

Dewey Eason - April 18, 2018 at 12:00 AM

AN

“ It is with great sadness hearing of the loss of Mr. Twible. He was a true American hero saving many fellow sailors after the tragedy of the USS Indianapolis. If not for him many others would have been lost. The crew and of the Indianapolis is forever grateful. May you rest and in peace.

Andy Bitonti - Son of survivor Louis Bitonti

Andy - April 18, 2018 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ Harlan and his family have been such a support to me in my life and career and he was so special to everyone who was privileged to know and love him. I will miss your letters and emails of encouragement and thank you for everything you and your family have done for me and mine.

All my love to the whole Twible family,

Respectfully

Shannon Stout

LCDR MC USN

Shannon Stout - April 18, 2018 at 12:00 AM

LP

“ Susan and all the Twible family. Chuck and I are so sorry for your loss. Harlan was so special. Even though we had not seen him since we moved to NC 20 years ago, I thought of him often. He was such a pleasure to know. He always brought a smile to my face. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you at this difficult time
God's blessings
Lynn & Chuck

Lynn & Chuck Place - April 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ It is never easy to say goodbye, but knowing the wonderful, long, blessed life that Harlan had, makes it bittersweet. I know he's so happy to be reunited with Mrs Alice, and that makes me smile. I'll miss our telephone conversations, and will forever credit Harlan for being so instrumental in saving my father's life in the sinking of the USS Indianapolis. A most humble hero who I was so honored to call a friend. I'll miss you until we meet again, sweet friend. And I'll do my best to perpetuate the story and the legacy of the USS Indianapolis.

Maria Eck Bullard

Daughter of USS Indianapolis Survivor Harold Eck

Chairman, USS Indianapolis Second Watch Organization

Maria Eck Bullard - April 17, 2018 at 12:00 AM

GE

“ Our hearts go out to Harlan's family for their loss.

For almost 15 years I have had the personal pleasure of knowing Harlan Twible, a true member of the "Greatest Generation, and my and America's National hero.

Through a congressional contact and a former Naval Academy schoolmate of his, we met at my home in Largo, FL. This started a friendship with numerous meeting opportunities, some alternate home or restaurant visits. Always a highlight and pleasure to be with Alice and Harlan for myself and Beverly for our luncheons.

My missed visit to his home in March, and a stoppage of our internet conversation, brought me to the realization that, I soon found out, that he was called home to be with his maker and his wonderful Alice again.

Harlan, always a low key and unassuming man, continued his lifetime of love for his fellow man, his country, and praise for his God. That same God saved him so he would be able to save so many of his shipmates after the Cruiser Indialopolis sinking --with song and prayres.

*Beverly have been blessed knowing Harlan.
Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.*

George "Skip" Eggert - April 16, 2018 at 12:00 AM

PT

“ Our deepest condolences for Harlan's family & friends. He was a very special man. We loved his wonderful voice & laugh. I trust you are comforted that he is now in the presence of our Lord & Saviour as well as reunited with his beloved Alice. I know my departed Mom & Daddy were there to welcome him on his glorious "homecoming". With our love, gratitude & deepest respect

Pamela Templeton - April 13, 2018 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ My heart goes out to you for your deep loss. May you find comfort in prayer and in one another. Jeremiah 29:12,13.

Lc - April 13, 2018 at 12:00 AM