



Benjamin Paul Herman

MAR 29, 1914 - JAN 7, 2015



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Benjamin Paul Herman, 100, passed away, peacefully, on 7 January 2015 with his grandson by his side. He never recovered from the heartbreak of losing his wife of 77 years, Sara Howse Herman in February of 2014. Ben P. Herman was born 29 March 1914 in Nelson, Oklahoma to the late Benjamin Polk and Pearl (McDonald) Herman. The oldest of seven children, Ben was preceded in death by all of his siblings, except for his youngest brother, Valton Herman. Ben had a ready wit, an engaging demeanor, and an unending supply of stories. He never met a stranger – just friends he hadn't made yet. He had friends and family in every part of the country. He started his professional life as a teacher in a one-room schoolhouse in Oklahoma. Although he loved teaching, he leapt at the opportunity to work for the Federal Government, in charge of supporting savings and war bonds. A member of the greatest generation, Ben and all his eligible siblings served in World War II. He was a sharpshooter and an artillery spotter for the HQ Battery 672D FA BN. He received a Bronze Star, a World War II Victory ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, EAME theatre ribbon for service in Germany, and an Army of Occupation ribbon. He retired as the Deputy Director of the National Records and Archives office in Chicago. In 1971, Ben and his wife Sara moved from Chicago to Cape Coral. He and Sara enjoyed life as retirees in Florida. Ben was often found on the golf course, winning Senior's tournaments well into his 80s. He shared his passion for fishing with his wife, son, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and a vast array of family and friends. Avid travelers, Ben and Sara travelled to Canada and all 50 states. They were active in the First Baptist Church of Cape Coral. On Sunday mornings, Ben would sit down with the crossword puzzle and finish it, in pen, before going to Bible Study. His faith in God sustained him. Left to share his story and memory are his brother Valton Herman and his wife Nori; son Ben H. Herman and his wife Betty; grandchildren, Holly (Herman) and Russell Powell, Benjamin A. Herman, Robert Herman, Emily



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Rutkowski, and Paul and Jody (Lancia) Rutkowski; great-grandchildren, Chloe and Ryan Powell, Shea, Benjamin, Matthew and Emma Herman; and family across the country. There will be a visitation on Monday, 12 January 2015 from 10:00 to 11:00 am followed by Funeral services at 11:00 am at the First Baptist Church of Cape Coral, 417 Coronado Parkway, Cape Coral, Florida 33904. Entombment will be at Fort Myers Memorial Gardens Cemetery at a later date. The Fort Myers Memorial Gardens Funeral Home has been entrusted with Ben's care. Memories and condolences may be left online at www.fortmyersmemorial.com.



Tribute Wall

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Joe Herman, Jr. posted:

Remembering my Uncle Ben, 2015 I remember my early encounters with Uncle Ben at the Herman Place where he and his brothers grew up under the supervision of Papa Herman and Grandmother Herman. As grandkids, we were all told that the razor strap hanging in the kitchen was to apply to our behinds if we erred too much from doing the right thing. It got our attention! As far as I know it was never applied to any of us grandkids but we somehow thought it must have played a part in the upbringing of our parents, aunts and uncles and for me that included Uncle Ben. I had full confidence that they would always do the right thing. I don't know where we learned to say it, but we would say Uncle Ben shot a goose and killed a hen. We would laugh at that not really knowing why it was so funny. I remember Uncle Ben demonstrating his marksmanship with a 22 rifle in the road in front of the farm house by tossing 22 shell casings in the air and shooting a 22 rifle with open sights and hitting the shell casings. It was amazing. I never even tried that. I felt fortunate to hit my earth bound targets. Uncle Ben's real love of the outdoors was in fishing. Jan and I along with our two children at the time, Jody and Janell, were fortunate to meet with Uncle Ben and Aunt Sara at their cabin on the shore of Lake of the Woods on the Canadian side of the border of Canada and the US. We went on a family fishing trip with Uncle Ben and Aunt Sarah each day we were there. We caught fish and enjoyed Uncle Ben's and Aunt Sarah's famous shore lunches. We enjoyed good visits on the boat and shore and also in the cabin during the evenings. We were there for almost a week and it was one of our most memorable family vacations. When Uncle Ben would make some work related trips to the Washington, DC area when I was in high school and would visit with us in Arlington, VA, he would work in at least one fishing trip. I got to go on a couple of those with him and enjoyed doing so. It was fishing from shore on those trips and Uncle Ben knew how to fish and catch them regularly! Uncle Ben could spin some very interesting tales about his adventures along the old muddy Boggy creek. It always sounded like a very mysterious place with a lot of squirrel hunting to be done and fish to catch and water moccasins to avoid! I remember hearing some of Uncle Ben's war stories. He was a forward observer for the artillery and had as a target one of the bridges over the Rhine as I recall. He had fine tuned his target to be one of the towers on the bridge. He had one locating round fired and then with the confidence built up in his continuing days in combat made the adjustments and ordered "fire for effect". The tower was destroyed. Yep, that was one of the Herman stories! It was only in the last couple of years of Uncle Ben's life that I learned that Uncle Ben had landed at Omaha Beach on D-Day. I was amazingly proud to learn of that. I am blessed to be a part of Uncle Ben's and Aunt Sarah's extended family. Joe D. Herman, Jr.

October 27 at 6:15 AM



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RP

Ruby Herman Pantalone posted:

Ben is now with Sara and many of his cousins. I am the daughter of his cousin, Wiley (Mut) Herman. Dad died in Hood River Oregon on Feb 9, 2005. He and Ben always talked to each other on the 28th of March as Dad's birthday was the 28th and Ben's the 29th. They also visited in Oregon, Florida and Lake of the Woods. I will always remember a lot of the stories the cousins would talk about. I know that I will have a lot of family waiting for me when I get to greet them all in heaven. I have had a lot of joy learning about the Herman family as I have been doing family history for a good 30 years. Valton and Little Ben, I will always keep you and your family in my thoughts. Ruby Herman Pantalone

January 12 at 9:40 AM

MH

Mary Herman posted:

I am so sorry to hear of your loss. I am one of your distant cousins, the daughter of Hern and Frankie Herman, who live just down the road from "Uncle Ben's house". I have fond memories of good visits with Ben and Sara when they were in the Soper area. My mother passed last May at the age of 104. There is quite a reunion going on in Heaven just now.

January 10 at 12:13 PM

JC

Jeanie Catania posted:

I had the pleasure of meeting Ben for the first time last summer while visiting my parents (Bill & Shelby). He was so funny & we enjoyed our 2 visits!! Our thoughts are with his family !! He is now at peace with Jesus & Sara!!

January 10 at 5:36 AM

RS

Rebecca Strupeck posted:

God Bless the Herman Family. My thoughts and prayers are for you. Hugs to Ben and Betty.

January 10 at 5:28 AM

JP

Judith Powell posted:

My thoughts and prayers are with the Herman family. We know that Ben is no longer suffering and is with Sara in heaven. Judith Powell

January 9 at 5:28 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Benjamin by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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