



Ernest E. Franklin

DEC 11, 1920 - SEP 19, 2011



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Ernest Elmo Franklin, 90 passed away at Hope Hospice on September 19, 2011. He was born December 11, 1920 in Horsepasture, Henry County Virginia to the late George Waller and Janie Esther (Barker) Franklin. Ernest served in the 98th Mortar Battalion during WWII fighting on Leyte and Luzon in the Philippines. After the war he returned to Martinsville, Virginia where he worked for Lee Telephone Company. He attended Virginia Military Academy and was a founding member of the Henry County Lifesaving Crew. He moved his family to Fort Myers in 1956, taking a job with Inter-County Telephone (now CenturyLink). He was Punta Gorda District Service Manager when retired in 1983. He was a member of Noah Lodge #357 F&AM for 40 years, a 32nd degree in the Scottish Rite and a member of Araba Shrine Temple. Like his father, he was a talented woodworker and craftsman who liked to fix things. Ernest was preceded in death by his wife, Clara Lee (Fortney) one brother, Marvin Eugene Franklin and a grandson, Ernest. He is survived by his sister Corrine Itaska Burgess (Walter) and nephew Victor Burgess of Roanoke; his former wife Juanita Franklin (McMillian) and their four children, Ronnie G Franklin (Vicki), Phyllis A Wilkins (Joe); Linda S Sumerall (Steve), all of N Ft Myers, and Mike L Franklin (Celedonia) of Goldsboro, North Carolina. His surviving grandchildren are Reba Franklin; Pemala Franklin-Griffin (John); Timothy W Smith; Kimberly J Clemons (Philip); Rebecca Ellis all of N Ft Myers, Michael Smith (Susan) of Labelle; Nathan A Franklin of and Reginald Franklin of Wilmington North Carolina and ten great-grandchildren; Natasha, Megan, Kirsten, Shane, Joshua, Brittney, Sydney, Andie, Jordan and Cody. There will be a funeral service with the Masonic Lodge taking part as well, on Friday, September 23, 2011 at 1:00 PM at Fort Myers Memorial Gardens Funeral Home. Interment with Military Honors will follow in Fort Myers Memorial Gardens Cemetery.



Memories only last if you share them

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



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