



Aubrey E. Griffith

July 23, 1924 - November 26, 2018

Aubrey Eugene Griffith, 94, died at his home November 26, 2018 surrounded by his family. The son of Charles Edwin and Roberta Griffith, he was born July 23, 1924 at home on Mosher St. in Baltimore, MD. A feisty one from the beginning, he entered this world. All who knew him will attest to this. You don't get to be 94 by sitting on your laurels. Not "Mr. Griff". From the age of 6yo, he was a "working man". He delivered groceries for a nickel, hauled ice up flights of stairs for ten cents (and maybe a penny tip), carried coal, and even polished caskets. "Mr. Griff" was a go-getter---for family, friends, and his country.

After finishing 11th grade at Baltimore City College High School, the US Army called him. No draft, just his choice. In 1942 Fort Bragg, NC became his new address. After basic training, the communications school at Fort Sill, OK to be a radio operator became home. Well, that skill got him into Infantry Paratrooper school in 1943. He was "fearless". Once assigned to the 503rd Infantry R.C.T., he was sent to Mindora Phillipines as a corporal in the Army. Things were moving fast. In 1945 he was involved with the recapture of Corregidor where he met Gen. Douglas Mcarthur. He then served with the 11th Airbourne Division R.C.T.

Dad returned home for 30 days then attended the Illinois College of Accounting for 3 ½ years. He joined the Maryland Casualty CO. 1949-1954. He was transferred to the Memphis branch in 1950 where he met and fell in love with his wife Mary Jane Richards Griffith. They were married almost 40 years. He worked various other accounting jobs before his final career with Belz Enterprises until his retirement in 1987 as their lead risk manager for various real estate properties.

His military career after WWII included the Air Force Reserves and Coast Guard Reserves where he retired as a Chief Yeomen Officer. If there's one thing Dad loved more than serving his country, it was GOD and his family. He leaves a daughter from a previous marriage to Barbara Hill from Mass., Deborah Griffith May of Sun City Center, FLA. (Tom Gosselin); a son who predeceased him, Jeffrey Hill Griffith of Mass; and another daughter who cared for him Kellie Griffith Cortese (Ted) of Memphis, TN. He also leaves grandchildren and a great granddaughter and nieces and nephews.

Retirement didn't slow Dad down. Just last year he took a "road trip" to NOLA WWII Museum in a friend's private jet; travelled cross country to Mt. Rushmore, and recently hopped a Greyhound bus to Mt. Juliet. While on this trip, his hosts treated him to yet another road trip to Jack Daniel Distillery. Dad is now Squire Aubrey E. Griffith.

Dad recently celebrated a fabulous 94th birthday surrounded by family and friends and lively guitar and banjo music. He taught himself to play the banjo at 80yo and sounded pretty darn good! His mind craved new knowledge of things. He kept reading and going to LaFayettes to hang out with the young people and dance. Golfing trips were always on the agenda. Dad was a geography and history buff. At 72 he was the oldest man to raft the Ocoee River. He travelled to Irelan twice.

This man embraced life. He was charitable and humble. "Mr. Griff" could sometimes be confused as "Mr. Gruff", but that was far from his heart. Dad will live on in the stories we tell, the recollections, and the kindness and love we share in our world.

Let's celebrate a good, long life. Let's laugh and be joyful. We've got another Guardian Angel.

Graveside services with military honors will be 1:00 pm Thursday, December 6th at West Tennessee Veterans Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, he requested a donation to a charity of the donor's choice.

Cemetery

West Tennessee Veterans Cemetery

4000 Forest Hill Irene Rd
Memphis, TN, 38125

Events

DEC 6 **Graveside Service** 01:00PM

West Tennessee Veterans Cemetery
4000 Forest Hill Irene Rd, Memphis, TN, US,
38125

Comments



“ Linda Campbell lit a candle in memory of Aubrey E. Griffith



linda campbell - December 12, 2018 at 10:57 AM



“ AUBREY GRIFFITH WAS ONE OF MY MOTHER'S THREE BROTHERS. UNCLE AUBREY WAS LARGER THAN LIFE TO ME. HE ALWAYS SAID WHAT HE MEANT AND MEANT WHAT HE SAID. HR WAS OFTEN GRUFF BUT NEVER HURTFUL. IN TODAY'S WORLD WITH ITS FIXATION WITH SOCIAL MEDIA, HE WAS UNIQUE; HE STILL LIKED TO USE THE TELEPHONE TO KEEP IN TOUCH. HE CALLED ME REGULARLY TO SEE HOW MY LIFE WAS GOING, AND USUALLY CONCLUDED WITH "I'VE GOT TO GO. I HAVE SOMETHING ON THE STOVE" HE WAS A VETERAN, AND I WAS IMMENSELY PROUD OF HIM. I WILL MISS HIM.

HIS NIECE, JOYCE HAYNES

JOYCE HAYNES - December 06, 2018 at 01:08 AM



“Aubrey Griffith was my Uncle Aubrey. He was my mother's brother, the fourth of six children.

I don't remember seeing too much of my uncle while my younger sister, Joyce, and I were growing up. He was away at war when I was born in 1943, and moved to Memphis in 1950 when I was seven years old. But I do remember that we called him “Uncle Carbrey” and “Uncle Carburetor.” And one day, while he was visiting, he told me that I didn't need to make my bed because I was just going to get back into it that night and mess it up again. Of course, that idea didn't work too well with my mother!

During his years in Memphis, he and his wife, Mary Jane, and their daughter, Kellie, would occasionally come back to his hometown of Baltimore, Maryland, for a visit. I would usually see them at the home of my Aunt Marian, his other sister. And, there were the occasional phone calls, of course. And he would never fail to ask, “How is your sister?” But, unfortunately, I never felt as close to him as I would have liked.

One of my fondest memories was in 2006 when Uncle Aubrey visited my sister's home in West Virginia. He was in the area for a golf tournament and stayed with her for a few days. She invited me to stay as well. In 2004, my husband, Art, had passed away, so I had been a widow for two years. Uncle Aubrey wanted to know “my criteria” for a new man. I told him a new man couldn't be over 70, should like to dance, travel and bowl, and should enjoy going to the movies. Well, I did meet a new man named Thurston in 2007 on a bus trip to Branson, Missouri. And the only criteria he met was a love of traveling. I called my uncle to tell him, and he immediately wanted to do a background check! I told him not to bother because he truly was a wonderful man.

Another delightful memory was when I was in Memphis on a group tour in 2008. The group was having dinner on Beale Street and I had arranged for Uncle Aubrey to meet me there when the dinner was over. So, when the rest of the group had to return to our hotel, the two of us danced our way from club to club! And what a wonderful dancer he was! I didn't get back until midnight.

In 2010, Uncle Aubrey had the first opportunity to meet Thurston. We had been in Branson, again, and stopped in Memphis for a few days on the way home. We stayed with Kellie and Ted. Well, Uncle Aubrey and Thurston are two people that can talk on any subject and they really took to one another.

For the next eight years, we saw Uncle Aubrey quite a few times. Thurston and I travel on the American Queen steamboat quite often, and whenever we embarked or disembarked in Memphis we would arrange to get together. On August 27, 2018, we had the opportunity to invite Uncle Aubrey, Kellie and Ted to come aboard the boat for the afternoon. My uncle was at that time using a cane, but that wasn't going to deter him. Kellie brought a portable wheelchair along so it would be easier for him to get around the boat. Ted was unable to be with us due to a doctor's appointment. We all enjoyed lunch at a lavish buffet in the beautiful dining room, a piano concert in the Captain's Bar, and ice cream on the Front Porch, an outdoor seating area on the bow. And one of the passengers was playing a banjo, so Kellie wheeled her dad right

over to him. He really enjoyed that. It was such a memorable day. They both just loved the boat!

When I talked with Uncle Aubrey a couple of weeks later, he said he would love to do it again. Sadly, that is not to be. Thurston and I will be in Memphis again next week and it will be hard not to have him there. But I will always remember all the times we were recently able to share. I really feel that I was able to make up for some of those lost years. I will always remember how he embraced my relationship with Thurston and how happy he was for us. And I will always remember his love for me and my sister. Remembering my Uncle Aubrey will be very easy, for who could ever forget.

NANCY FUNK

Nancy Funk - December 05, 2018 at 04:47 PM



“ I first met Griff many years ago through a common group of friends who all loved golf. If you knew Griff, you also know how much he loved to play golf.

I last had the opportunity to speak with him a couple months ago, and we had a great time sharing wonderful memories of our golf outings and friends.

He and I also shared a common bond that all persons with military background have, and we often spoke of what it meant to both of us. He was a true gentleman and a patriot.

Bob Shaw

Robert Shaw - December 05, 2018 at 11:49 AM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Robert Shaw - December 05, 2018 at 10:59 AM



“ My husband, Glenn met this wonderful man at the Celtic Crossing 2007. He came home and couldn't stop talking about this awesome man he met and had a beer with! When I was introduced to Grif, I immediately, fell in love with him. I loved his honest, spirit and feistiness!
When Glenn and I decided to get married, we asked him to give me away. He said, "Yes."
Thank you for all the love, friendship and great times, we had with you!
We love you so much! We will miss you so much! It was an honor to have met this wonderful man! May God embrace you and keep you until we meet again.
Glenn & Stephanie Higgs

Glenn & Stephanie Higgs - December 03, 2018 at 02:41 PM



“ I first met Griff & Mary Jane in 1970 at Holy Cross Lutheran where I got to watch Kellie grow up. Griff was honest to a fault & had the best sense of humor. I'm sending love & prayers to you Kellie.

Patti Willard - December 02, 2018 at 02:26 PM



“ Griff squeezed every ounce out of this life. He did indeed love his country, his God and his family and friends.

Go rest high on that mountain, son, your work on earth is done.
Go to heaven a-shoutin' love for the Father and the Son.

Greg & Debra B.

Gregory & Debra Butler - November 29, 2018 at 11:14 AM



“ Thank you for your service WW11.



A U.S . Citizen - November 29, 2018 at 01:52 AM



“ My wife and I met Grif @ the Celtic Crossing in Cooper Young back in 2007. We will miss this great man! Grif gave my wife away at our wedding. That's how much we thought of this good man. God Bless and our deepest sympathies to his family. You will be missed!

Higgs family - December 03, 2018 at 10:56 AM



“ I have known Aubrey since 1972, We played golf a few times and he gave me some pretty good pointers, He was a bit feisty but he was a true friend, We will miss u but we will remember all the fond memories we had over the years, Prayers to his family, RIP my friend, Jan Herrick

Jan Herrick - November 28, 2018 at 10:59 PM



“ Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Aubrey E. Griffith.



November 28, 2018 at 09:30 PM