



Merlin Ray Houston

June 4, 1917 - May 24, 2011

Merlin Ray Houston, 93, of Newnan and formerly of Texas, died Tuesday, May 24, 2011. He was born the youngest of 9 children of the late John & Ruth Hooper Houston in rural Ben Franklin, TX on June 4, 1917.

In November 1942, Mr. Houston enlisted in the United States Navy. Because of his construction skills and experience in the family blacksmith shop, he was assigned to the newly formed U.S. Naval Construction Force, also known as the Seabees. He spent the majority of his enlistment in the South Pacific Theater, building landing strips and facilities on islands captured by the U.S. Marines. Often, enemy stragglers remained and dodging bullets on the job was not uncommon. As he worked, he observed many air battles occurring overhead and his landing strips were a welcome sight for many war-battered fighter aircraft that could not make it back to their aircraft carriers. Following his military service, Mr. Houston obtained a Bachelors Degree and a Masters in Business Administration at Southern Methodist University. He retired as Vice-President of Personnel from the General Telephone and Electronics Corporation (GTE). Mr. Houston had been retired for many years, pursuing his many interests.

Mr. Houston's visitation is Friday, the 27th of May between 9:30 and 10:30 am at McKoon Funeral Home. The funeral service will follow at 10:30 am in the chapel of McKoon Funeral Home, 38 Jackson St, Newnan, GA with Dr. Harry Barrow officiating. Interment with military honors is Friday at 2:00 pm at Georgia National Cemetery in Canton. In lieu of flowers, memorial

contributions can be made to the charity of one's choice.

Condolences can be expressed online at www.mckoon.com

Survivors include, daughters, Linda (Glen) Carter of The Villages, FL, Cathy (Brian) Horsley of Newnan & Woodbridge, VA, and Terry Jo Beale; grandchildren, Michael Pleasant of Charlotte, NC, Dan Pleasant of Oakland, CA, Callie Zeiler Cole, Alyssa Lynne Zeiler; and great-grandchildren, Natalee Cole, Olivia Zeiler.

McKoon Funeral Home, Newnan (770) 253-4580

Cemetery Details

Georgia National Cemetery

1080 Scott Hudgens Drive
Canton, GA 30114

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 27. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home
38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263
(770) 253-4580
care@mckoon.com

Service

MAY 27. 10:30 AM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home Chapel
38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263
(770) 253-4580
care@mckoon.com
<http://www.mckoon.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Merlin Ray Houston*



McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory - May 24, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SA

“ *Please accept my deepest sympathy during the lost of your love one. Merlin was a exceptional man.*

Sheral Askew - May 27, 2011 at 02:39 PM

MW

“ *We are both saddened by the loss of my grandfather, and by the fact that the miles kept us from being there in person. However, we were and are there in spirit. Thank you for broadcasting the service; it is wonderful that modern technology allows us a way to share and be a part of this day even from far away.*

Michael Pleasant & Tara Watts - May 27, 2011 at 10:58 AM

ES

“ *Was so shocked about you're Dad, Linda you're memories of him are so great, living to the age that he did, and seemed quite happy the last few years. Please remember the good times, will see you when you get back.*

Ed and Dot Sanchez - May 26, 2011 at 11:59 AM

CP

“ Recalling many fond stories of the "Fighting Seabee" shared with me by Brian and Cathy over the years, all I can say is what a great American! Fair winds and following seas, Shipmate. In honor and remembrance, please accept our deepest sympathy in your time of loss.

Clyde and Robin Porter - May 26, 2011 at 11:16 AM

DP

“ Dearest Family, We are so sorry about Grandfather's death and wish we could be with you at his funeral. We are thinking of you, and are sending you all much love in this difficult time. Dan & Michele Pleasant

Dan & Michele Pleasant - May 25, 2011 at 09:19 PM

SJ

“ Please accept our heartfelt condolences on the passing of your Father and Grandfather. Merlin was, by all accounts, a truly exceptional man.

Steve and Pam Jacobsmeyer - May 25, 2011 at 02:48 PM

RM

“ Our thoughts are with you and all of your family. Your father was a fine man and we know you were so proud of him and all he accomplished in his life.

Rick & Rita Melville - May 25, 2011 at 01:43 PM