



Martin Wallace Jr.

June 15, 1920 - December 13, 2012

Martin Gary Wallace Jr., age 92, passed away on December 13, 2012 at Greer Memorial Hospital. He was born in the Shiloh Community in Dials Township, and moved to Laurens, South Carolina at a young age. He was a graduate of Laurens High School and received his BS degree in Textile Management from Clemson University. He also attended the Philadelphia Textile Institute where he was a member of the Alpha Chapter of Phi Psi Fraternity.

He is predeceased by his wife of 61 years, Sara Frances Wallace of Greer, S.C. He is survived by three daughters: Lynne Mitchell (Dana) of Greenville, S.C.; Marcia Deatcher of Greenville, S. C.; Libby Wallace (Mike Keeshen) of Greenville, S. C.; and son: Martin Gary Wallace, III (Beth) of Greenville, S.C. He is also survived by eight beloved grandchildren: Joseph Scott Deatcher (Jamie) of Hickory N.C.; Sara Lauren Orders (Jay) of Greenville, S.C.; Sara Wallace-Keeshen of Washington, D.C.; Amelia Wallace of Greenville, S.C.; Beth Galliani (Michael) of Evanston, Ill.; Ellen Mitchell of Columbia, S.C.; Rita Mitchell of London, England,

Dana Mitchell, IV of Charleston, S.C., and four great-grandchildren.

Mr. Wallace was a member of the Laurens County Historical Society, the Museum Association, the Sons of Confederate Veterans and The National Trust for Historic Preservation.

A long-time member of Memorial United Methodist Church, he served on the Administrative Board, was a charter member of the Methodist Men's Club,

served as Sunday School Superintendent and as a teacher of the Ballenger-Duncan Men's class. He also served on the board of the Greenville County Planning Commission and the Greer Auditorium.

He spent thirty-five years in various managerial positions with Milliken and Co., and J.P. Stevens & Co., Inc. He also served as an instructor in the Engineering division of Tri-County Technical College for 15 years and was a textile consultant with the Ralph E. Loper Company, the Office of Professional Development at Clemson University, Riegel Company and Cannon and Jackson Mills.

During World War II Mr. Wallace held the rank of Captain with the Eighth Air Force stationed in England. He participated in the Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Battle of the Bulge, and Rhineland campaigns during the allied invasion of Europe. He flew 30 lead B-17 combat missions attacking strategic targets and providing bombing support.

For extraordinary service in support of General George Patton's third army, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with Four Oak Leaf Clusters.

Mr. Wallace was a member of the B.B. Parks Greenville County Chapter of the Reserve Officers and a life member of the Reserve Officers Association of the United States.

He was a member of the Eighth Air Force Historical Society, the Mighty Eighth Heritage Museum in Savannah and a founding member of the America Air Museum At Buford Air Field near Cambridge, England. He was also a member of the 305th Bomb Group Memorial Association whose members meet each year in a different city.

The 305th was memorialized in the city of Chelveston, England with a plaque placed in the bell tower wall of a 700-year-old parish church in honor of the sacrifices of the men of the 305th. Over 780 men died, and 900 served as prisoners of war. Additionally, a small bronze replica of a B-17 has been placed on the honor court in the sculpture garden of the US Air Force Academy commemorating 480 combat missions flown by the group.

Funeral services will be held Monday, December 17, 2012, at 11:00 am at Memorial United Methodist Church in Greer, S.C. conducted by Rev. Joseph Curtis and Rev. John Rush. The family will be receiving friends prior to the service from 9:45 – 10:45 in the social hall adjacent to the church. Burial services will follow at Westview Memorial Park, 5740 Highway 76 W. Laurens, South Carolina.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Ballenger-Duncan Men's Sunday School Class, or Memorial United Methodist Church, 201 North Main Street, Greer, SC or a charity of choice.

Online condolences may be made at www.thewoodmortuary.com

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 17. 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM (ET)

Memorial United Methodist Church
201 N. Main St.
Greer, SC

Service

DEC 17. 11:00 AM (ET)

Memorial United Methodist Church
201 N. Main St.
Greer, SC

Tribute Wall



“ We Smiths are so sorry about the loss of such a fine neighbor and friend. Martin Gary was a wonderful guy, and so modest that we didn't even know we had a hero in our midst. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. The family of Don and Millie Smith.##imported-begin##Denise Smith Cline##imported-end##

December 22, 2012 at 09:44 AM



“ Martin Gary lived a wonderful life and will be sorely missed.##imported-begin##Joanne Bolt##imported-end##

December 18, 2012 at 12:53 PM



“ Although I never met him, I'm a distant Bolt cousin. His service in war and peace is a shining star, leaving a heritage that is rarely matched. May he always be remembered and loved for his work in so many areas, and may his family find comfort in this remembrance.##imported-begin##Janis Comstock-Jones##imported-end##

December 18, 2012 at 12:47 PM



“ So sorry to hear the news of your loss. Mr. Wallace will be greatly missed as our neighbor. Always was a pleasure seeing him out walking or bringing Happy out. All of you are in our thoughts and prayers. May God be with you all.##imported-begin##Paul Wade, Julie, Faye & Dawn (Greer, SC) ##imported-end##

December 17, 2012 at 07:48 PM



“ Libby, it has been a long time. so sorry to hear of the passing of your dad. my prayers, go out to you and your family, again, my thoughts and prayers are with you all. Deborah Campbell###imported-begin##Deborah Campbell###imported-end##

December 16, 2012 at 05:06 AM



“ Libby,
Our deepest heartfelt sympathy goes out to you and your family for the loss of your Dad. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time.

All our love to you, Sara and Mike. We love and miss you all!###imported-begin##John, Deb, Walt and Ashley Keeshen###imported-end##

December 15, 2012 at 12:59 PM