



Ullman Jackson Fortenberry

May 3, 1922 - September 16, 2010

Ullman Jackson Fortenberry, 88, Haleyville passed away on Sept. 16, 2010 after an extended illness. He was preceded in death by parents, Flonnie Carter Fortenberry and Jeff Tyler Fortenberry; brothers, Horace Fortenberry, HC Fortenberry and sister Theresa Fortenberry. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Billie Fortenberry, and their two daughters, Donna McCreary (Marc), Carol Phillips (Duke) of Florence, AL. His grandchildren, Ashli Smith, Ami Ross, Alison Gengelbach, Katie Schomberg, Leah McCreary, Andrew Phillips; and nine great grandchildren. Mr. Fortenberry was an outstanding athlete, received a football scholarship to Springhill Hill College in Mobile, AL. in 1940 and enlisted in the Army Air Corp in 1942 as a Private. He was assigned to the Army Air Corps Aircraft Mechanical School in Gulfport, MS. Afterward, he applied for pilot training and was assigned to the Western Flying Training Command. In February 1944, he was awarded Pilot's Wings and 2nd Lt. Bars at Advanced Flying School in Fort Sumner, New Mexico. After B-17 transition at Roswell, New Mexico and crew training at Gulfport, MS., he was assigned to the 15th Air Force as First Pilot on a B-17 and Flight Commander in the 463rd Bomb Group, 774th Squadron. He was stationed in Foggia, Italy from December 1944 to October 1945. He completed 37 high altitude bombing combat missions over Germany. In April of 1945, the United States responded to his extraordinary service by stating, "Because of the leadership throughout many combat missions against highly important and strategic enemy installations, Lt. Fortenberry has demonstrated the highest order of

professional skill, heroism, leadership and devotion to duty. Although regularly and frequently opposed by large numbers of enemy fighters, together with intense, accurate and heavy anti-aircraft fire during which their aircraft were at times seriously damaged, he fought through the targets and aided in the destruction of these vital objectives. Despite severe and adverse weather conditions, rugged terrain and many other major obstacles and hazards, his group gallantly engaged, fought and defeated the enemy without regard for their own personal safety and against great odds. Their extraordinary achievements throughout these many missions against the enemy have been of inestimable value to successful combat operations and have reflected great credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States of America." For his extraordinary achievement, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. At the end of the war, he was assigned to the "Green Project" transporting homebound troops from Naples to Casablanca, other decorations include: Air Medal with Cluster, Presidential Unit Citation, Russia Commemorative Medal, European Theatre of Operations Medal with 4 Battle Stars, Good Conduct Medal, Army of Occupation Medal, World War II Medal and American Campaign Medal. He was the last remaining WWII airman in Haleyville, AL. Mr. Fortenberry retired from Illinois Central Railroad as an Engineer after 43 years. He was an Amateur Radio Operator under the call sign of W4GKO since 1958. He served as a deacon at the First Baptist Church in Haleyville. He was inducted into the Winston County Sports Hall of Fame in 1999 and was named Haleyville Alumnus of the Year in 2000. He was a lifetime member of the VFW with over 62 years of membership in the American Legion Post No. 33 in Haleyville. He met daily with a "Coffee Group" for 17 years, collected trains and miniature planes and used Amateur Radio to patch calls for missionaries and servicemen throughout the world. He will be remembered as a loving husband, adoring father and grandfather and a loyal friend. He was brave, sweet, funny talented, sincere, honest, kind, brilliantly intelligent, true American hero. The family wished to express their heartfelt thanks to the Northwest Alabama Cancer Center and the nurses at Helen

Keller Hospital.

Previous Events

Service

SEP **20**. 12:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church Haleyville
1103 21st. Street
Haleyville, AL

Tribute Wall



“ *Pinkard Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Ullman Jackson Fortenberry*



Pinkard Funeral Home - September 16, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *To the wonderful family of Ullman, it is with sadden heart that I write this note having just learned in the passing of my friend W4GKO.*

My prayers are will each of you and may the Lord continue to bless each of you and comfort your hearts through the years until the great day when you all will be reunited.

Even though it has been several years since seeing and talking with Ullam I never forgot him and all the wonderful times we shared together on the ham radio and the visits at our homes.

Rest in peace my brother.##imported-begin##John M. Lunsford / WD4SAG##imported-end##

November 01, 2010 at 06:23 PM



“ My father, Gene Cheatham, respected Ullman more than any other railroader. I came to feel the same way about Ullman. He was a great athlete, a skilled pilot, and the best engineer on the IC.

He was a heck of a nice guy. I'm sorry he had to die.##imported-begin##Russ Cheatham##imported-end##

September 23, 2010 at 07:44 PM



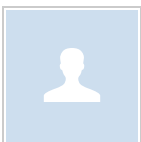
“ One great man !! You will be missed on the 3.965 Alabama Emergency Traffic Net each night at 6:30.##imported-begin##Thomas Grubbs N4QYN##imported-end##

September 22, 2010 at 04:14 PM



“ Lt. Fortenberry was a true american hero and a member of "The Greatest Generation. It would have been my honor to have met him.##imported-begin##Michael Causey##imported-end##

September 22, 2010 at 09:47 AM



“ I know my Daddy is happy to see Mr. Fortenberry when he got to heaven. I'm praying for you Mrs. Billie everyday and I know that God's grace is sufficient. Love and so many prayers Angela##imported-begin##Angela Posey-Arnold##imported-end##

September 20, 2010 at 12:27 PM



“ MrsBillie and children,we are so sorry for your loss.Ullman was a fine christian man He will be greatly missed.Our thoughts and prayers are with you.##imported-begin##Wayne Tidwell##imported-end##

September 19, 2010 at 08:25 PM



“ I grieve with you in your loss. May God help you through this difficult time in your lives. I dread the day when you will be sending me the same message. With love and prayers, Paula Hyde##imported-begin##Paula Hyde##imported-end##

September 19, 2010 at 04:27 PM



“ Carol & Donna,

Sorry for your loss. I'm sorry I never met your Dad, but just want you to know how thankful we are for your true American hero Dad and his service for our country!##imported-begin##Mary Ann Krieger##imported-end##

September 19, 2010 at 11:19 AM



“ I know Mr Fortenberry from CVS and City Pharmacy. He was a very nice man full of energy and we will miss him!##imported-begin##Stacey Mcnutt##imported-end##

September 18, 2010 at 05:57 PM



“ Dear Billie, Donna, and Carol, I was so saddened to hear of the passing of your precious husband and special dad. Ullman was a wonderful man who will be missed by so many people. Please know that all of you are in my thoughts and prayers.##imported-begin##Linda Knight Martin##imported-end##

September 18, 2010 at 08:35 AM



“ Mrs. Billie,

We are sorry to hear about Ullman's passing. He was a dear friend and will be missed by all that knew him. We are praying for you and family during these days. May the peace of God that passes all understanding comfort and minister to you.##imported-begin##Ron & Renee Horton##imported-end##

September 17, 2010 at 11:04 PM



“ I am sorry for your loss - Praying that GOD will comfort you and give you peace.

Love - Carol Rose Shipman##imported-begin##Carol Shipman##imported-end##

September 17, 2010 at 09:08 PM



“ Mrs. Billie,

My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.
With Heartfelt Sympathy,

Sandy##imported-begin##Sandy Prescott##imported-end##

September 17, 2010 at 03:58 PM



“ We are sadden with the crossing over of Bro Ullman and the sorrow you are going thru but in this time you are finding the super natural presence of Jesus that caries you thru the valley of death. We will miss Ullman but know this, he's in the presence of the heavenly hosts, Jesus!!!! and awaits each of us to join him.##imported-begin##Floyd and Betty Tyra##imported-end##

September 17, 2010 at 01:48 PM



“ Ullman will truly be missed. Our Prayers to your family.##imported-begin##George & Faye Cox##imported-end##

September 17, 2010 at 08:07 AM