

An American Hero Has Passed Away

Bobby Gene Cobb, long time Guthrie resident and businessman, died Wednesday, November 11, 2015 at Mercy Hospital in Oklahoma City. Born on August 29, 1923, he was 92. Services will be held Friday, November 27, 2015 at 2:00 PM at Trinity Episcopal Church, 310 East Noble Avenue, Guthrie. Funeral arrangements are by Smith-Gallo Funeral Home.

A WWII veteran, Bob served his country honorably and heroically from January 1942 to December 1945. After returning from the war, he married the love of his life, Louise Vaughan on January 8, 1946 in El Dorado, Arkansas.

Bob was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather and throughout his life, he lived a life of service to his church and community and for 17 years, Bob had a special ministry to bring communion to church members in two local Guthrie nursing homes and to those who were home-bound.

Over the years, Bob remained in contact with the men he served with in the 89th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron during WWII, missing only one reunion in all the years since they began. In 1970, Bob and Louise enjoyed the remarkable experience of traveling to Europe for the 25th anniversary of the ending of WWII, visiting all the places that Bob had seen during the war.

Bob's World War II awards include three Bronze Stars for bravery under enemy gun fire, Purple Heart from enemy artillery fire, Presidential Award for the Battle of the Bulge, Battlefield Citation Awards from the countries of Belgium, Luxembourg, and France, as well as Recognition Award from the Oklahoma State House of Representatives.

He is survived by his wife, Louise of the home; his sister May Livesay of New Mexico; sons, Gene and wife Brenda of Duncan and Craig and partner Diane Smith of Guthrie; grandchildren, Jett Cobb and Brooke and Justin McEntire and numerous nieces and nephews; as well as their wonderful family of friends in the 89th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron of the 9th Armored Division and their church family and friends.

Bob's family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be sent to Trinity Episcopal Church.

Heroes in Our Midst

Most of you know our long-time members, Bob and Louise Cobb. You know them as our good friends; you know their warm and smiling faces and many kindnesses; and, you know them from their years of service in our church and in our community. You may also know that Bob is a World War II veteran. You may have even heard a few tales about his war-time adventures, but chances are strong that you do not even know half the story.

In fact, Bob was a tank commander and played a key role in one of the momentous events of the European Theatre of Operations of WWII — the taking of the Ludendorff Bridge at Remagen, Germany. If you don't know the significance of that event, just Google "Ludendorff Bridge" and you will have over 76,000 results at your fingertips. It's amazing to know that one of our own played such an important role in this major turning point of the war.

Zane Bagley is the son of one of the men that Bob served with, Walter Bagley of Shunk, Pennsylvania. Years after his father's death, Zane found that he wanted to know more about his dad's service. So he did a great deal of research, located Bob and Louise Cobb, and spent hours talking with Bob and listening to hours of tapes that Bob had made about his memories of his service. Based on that research and those interviews with Bob, Zane wrote a wonderful short story about his dad and young Bobby Cobb. The story was printed in their home town newspaper and is definitely worth your time to read. Read the original story at the link first, then read the PDF addendum that Zane wrote as a follow-up to the original article. The link is below, and by all means, be sure to let Bob and Louise know that you read the story.