

Nathan Green Gordon

September 9, 2008

Nathan Green Gordon, age 92, of Morrilton, was born September 4, 1916 in Morrilton, Arkansas. He passed away September 8, 2008. His parents were Edward Gordon, Sr. and Ada Ruth (Bearden) Gordon. He is preceded in death by his wife, Virginia (McGill) Gordon, who died August 5, 1999, one brother, Edward Gordon, Jr., who died in 1987, a sister, Ruth (Gordon) Gephart, who died in 1985, and a sister, Sara (Gordon) Bentley, who died in 2004. He is survived by a number of nieces and nephews.

Nathan Gordon graduated high school from Columbia Military Academy. He attended Arkansas Tech for two years before transferring to the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. While attending the University of Arkansas, he was active in athletics lettering in both track and football. He had the distinction of playing on the Arkansas Razorback first All Southwest Conference team. Nathan and his brother, Ed, were one year apart in age and graduated the same year from the University of Arkansas Law School. While they were law students, their father, Edward Gordon, Sr., died and they resumed his practice of law as partners after their graduations in 1939 only to have their careers interrupted shortly thereafter by World War II. Both brothers volunteered for the Navy and Nathan was sent to naval air school and subsequently to the South Pacific to fly search and rescue. He was a pilot of a Navy Catalina patrol plane known as a PBY or "flying boat." His skills and valor as a Navy pilot earned him two Distinguished Flying Crosses and six Air Medals. He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his "extraordinary heroism

above and beyond the call of duty" in the Bismark Sea on February 15, 1944. During that mission, Nathan Gordon and his crew made four separate landings in rough seas under close range enemy fire to rescue fifteen downed airmen. He became one of only six Naval aviators to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Upon returning to his native state, Nathan Gordon was urged by many to run for politics, which he did; becoming the youngest elected Lieutenant Governor in the history of the State of Arkansas. He served in that position for 20 years from 1946 until 1966. He also served on the Arkansas Worker's Compensation Commission.

Nathan Gordon was a life long member of the First United Methodist Church of Morrilton, where his maternal grandfather had served as pastor. In the past, Nathan served as a lay minister, taught Sunday school class, and served for many years on the Board of Trustees for the church.

Nathan Gordon always enjoyed athletics, both on and off the field. He enjoyed playing golf. He was an avid Razorback fan. Until recent years, he seldom failed to attend all in-state Razorback football games. In his younger years, Nathan coached the Morrilton American Legion Baseball team. He was one of the founders of the South Conway County School Foundation and served on its Board for many years. He was a 32nd degree mason.

Nathan Gordon loved the practice of law and fellowship with other attorneys. He was active in the Arkansas Bar Association. He was a founder and the first president of the Arkansas Trial Lawyer's Association. He was one of the organizers of the Morrilton Security Bank which eventually became a part of Regions Bank.

His hobbies included golf, quail hunting, duck hunting, and crappie fishing. The service will be at First United Methodist Church in Morrilton at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, September 13th. In lieu of flowers the family requests memorials to First United Methodist Church in Morrilton, South Conway County School Foundation, University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton Foundation, or Petit Jean Youth Foundation.

Tribute Wall



“ *Nathan Green Gordon*

January 30, 2023 at 02:08 AM



“ *I am so sorry for your loss. I wish i could have met him. It sounds as if he was a wonderful person.HE was a cousin to my mother. My PRAYERS are with his family. MARion.*

June 30, 2018 at 12:12 AM



“ *Nathan & Ed Gordon will always be legendary. They were everything young people aspire to be. Great leaders, fathers, husbands, coaches, Sunday school teachers, mentors, encouragers....*

We are eternally grateful to have known these great men. Our thoughts & prayers go out to Allan, Phyllis, & family.

November 05, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ I grew up hearing so many entertaining stories about Nathan from my mother, Mary Dale (Martin) Crothers, who was one of many of Nathan's cousins in a wonderfully large and diverse family. A few years ago my brother and I finally got the opportunity to meet Nathan for the first time when we took our mother to Morrilton to visit Nathan, his sister Sara and Sara's husband. That day Nathan was such a likable gentleman and a great conversationalist -just like all the stories we grew up hearing from our mother. We enjoyed our visit thoroughly. He really had a bigger-than-life persona. I'm sure he will be missed.

September 18, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ My uncle, Thomas Freeman, was the waist gunner/radio operator on Capt Capoli's B25 that was shot down on Feb 15, 1944. He was part of the last crew Lt. Nathan Gordon rescued on that day in Kavieng harbor. My uncle, in turn, rescued my sister and myself at a critical time in our young lives.

Thank you, Lt. Nathan Gordon

September 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Nathan was my Mother's cousin. My Mother was Mary Dale Martin Crothers. Her mother was Mittie Mae Gordon Martin. When we moved back here to the south I of course met Nathan, Edward and Sara. However, the way I really knew these cousins of my Mother was through her stories. She was a good story teller, and the stories of her growing up came to life for me. She was very proud of Nathan's heroism in WWII and that was a story I knew well. He was a great man.

September 12, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Grandson of Gladys Gordon-Roberts.

September 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ To the family of Nathan Gordon,

You have my personal condolences for your loss. He was a fine man and likable. He wa kind to me.

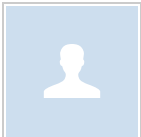
We here at AETN's WWII project, In Their Words also mourn his loss. His story will continue to inspire many people. He will live on on our website.

God bless you all.

Sincerely,

David Elmore

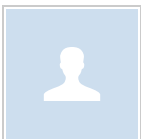
September 11, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ Dick and I send our love and prayers to the family. Nathan was a wonderful man and I had the utmost respect for him, as did my father.

Our thoughts are with you.

September 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ I am so sorry for your loss. It is the community's loss, too. My prayers are with you.

September 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM



“ *I personally did not know Nathan well, but I do know that he was a man who was well-respected and admired by all you knew him. Our loss is Heaven's gain, and he is the newest angel there now.*

September 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM