



Glenn Franklin VanBlaricum

May 18, 1920 - March 13, 2015

Glenn Franklin VanBlaricum of Goleta, California, died of pneumonia at Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital on March 13, 2015. He was 94 years old.

Glenn was born on May 18, 1920, on a small farm in Decker Township south of Noble, Illinois, to Mary Jane (Mollie) Long VanBlaricum and James VanBlaricum. He was the youngest of their eight children.

Glenn graduated from Noble High School on May 25, 1938. In the fall of 1938 he started college at Eastern Illinois State Teachers College (now Eastern Illinois University) in Charleston, IL. He majored in physics with a minor in math and chemistry. However, after the first year he saw that he would not have enough money to finish college, so he borrowed fifty dollars to take teaching classes at Eastern in the summer and passed the Illinois Teachers Credential exam in August, 1939.

In the school year 1939-1940, he taught 1st and 2nd grade at Thomas School south of Clay City, IL, and in 1940-1941 he taught grades 1, 3, 5, and 7 at Gray School south of Noble, IL.

In July 1941, he volunteered for the U.S. Army Air Corps and trained as a fighter pilot, receiving his wings and commission as a 2nd lieutenant on July 3, 1942. While on leave, on July 16, 1942, he and Mary Ellen Shearer of Olney, IL, eloped to St. Charles, Missouri, where they were married. Lt. VanBlaricum flew a Bell P-39 Airacobra fighter plane in Tunisia during the North African campaign and served as a base operations officer in Florida later in the war. He earned an Air Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster. He was honorably discharged as a First Lieutenant in 1945 but stayed in the Air Force Reserve until 1956.

Glenn taught at Noble Grade School, Noble, IL, from 1945 to 1948 and at Newton Consolidated School, Newton, IL, from 1948 to 1951. He then received a Bachelor of Science in Education from Eastern in May of 1952. He later completed a Master of Science in Education in August of 1955, also from Eastern. He served as principal of elementary schools in Toledo, IL, from 1952 to 1954 and Momence, IL, from 1954 to 1961. He took a hiatus from teaching to work for the textbook publisher D.C. Heath and

Company. In 1967 he became superintendent and high school principal in Wyanet, IL, retiring in 1972.

The longest-lived of his generation of the VanBlaricum family, he was predeceased by his parents; his sisters Effie Mae VanBlaricum Schnell and Wanda Nadine VanBlaricum Patterson; his brothers William, Edgar Lowell, James Otho, Verle Everett, and Elbert Clendus VanBlaricum; and an infant son Thomas Lynn VanBlaricum.

Glenn is survived by his wife of 72 years, Mary Ellen (Shearer) VanBlaricum, of Goleta, CA, and his two sons and their families: Glenn F. VanBlaricum Jr. and his wife Claire Bernadette VanBlaricum and Michael L. VanBlaricum and his wife Pamela Calvetti VanBlaricum, all of Santa Barbara, CA. He was the proud grandfather of three grandchildren: James Robert VanBlaricum of Los Angeles, CA; Ann Calvetti VanBlaricum Harrer and her husband Nicholas James Harrer of Pasadena, CA; and Susan Michelle VanBlaricum of Cambridge, MA. His great-grandchildren are Ellen Calvetti Harrer and Calvin Van Harrer of Pasadena. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Glenn was a 32nd-degree Mason, a member of the Olney Masonic Lodge No. 140, and a member of the American Legion Post No. 30 of Olney, IL.

Interment will be in Olney, IL.

Comments



“ Mr. VanBlaricum was the principal and superintendent at Wyanet schools in Wyanet, Illinois when I attended there. I knew him from the time he came to the Wyanet schools until I graduated in 1973. Though a small man in stature, I recall a look he could give you that caused you to think twice about what you might be planning to do.

One year, all of the girls in the high school decided they had had enough with wearing skirts to school. We wanted to wear slacks! One day, after careful planning, all of the girls went into the restrooms after our second period classes and donned slacks. Over the intercom came a loud voice asking all the girls of the high school to meet Mr. VanBlaricum in the gym, now. We did. We found him pacing back and forth in front of us.

I'm not sure if he was really all that angry with us, as we had requested the right to wear slacks to school before. After all, it did take a lot of planning and preparation to pull this off. Maybe, just maybe, he was kind of pleased with our persistence. Anyway, after his pacing, we got a good chewing out. If I remember right, he was present, and in support of the girls when they later approached the school board with our request to wear slacks. What a wonderful memory of a very special man.

By the way, after looking at Michael's blog, I couldn't help but remember the above story. For the last picture of Mr. VanBlaricum standing by the ocean thinking struck a pose that I will never forget, for I saw it often, when you knew he was thinking about something. He struck that pose with his hand in his back pants pockets as he paced back and forth in front of us that day those radical girls from Wyanet High School wore slacks to their third period classes.

Please accept all my sympathy. He truly was a great man...

Teresa (Turner) Carlson

Teresa (Turner) Carlson - March 26, 2015 at 08:48 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



laura - March 24, 2015 at 12:00 PM