



William Robert Darden, Sr.

June 6, 1920 - February 21, 2005

William "Bill" Robert Darden, Sr. 84, went home to be with the Lord on Monday, February 21, 2005. He was preceded in death by his parents Asa Thomas Darden and Vandelia Asby Darden; two brothers; and two sisters. Bill was born in and resided in Plymouth, NC, where he attended Plymouth High School. He enlisted in the United States Navy during World War II. He was a Naval Commando. Bill was awarded "Order of the Purple Heart" on November 8, 1942 for wounds he received in action in assault on Oran, Algeria. He was the first Naval Sailor to receive the Purple Heart.

After Bill's medical discharge he returned home to his childhood sweetheart and bride Melba Gurkin. They were blessed with two wonderful children William Darden, Jr. and Betty Darden Hendrix. Bill was a self employed electrical contractor.

Bill was a man of few words with a strong presence. He was a gentle, quiet man and his words were words of wisdom, discernment, love and encouragement. Bill's love for Jesus could fill a room when he was present. Bill and Melba served the Lord Jesus Christ with all of their hearts allowing the Lord to use them as, He willed. They served with and under such ministries as Judson Cornwall, Kenneth Copeland, Charles and Francis Hunter and James Roberson. Bill and Melba became members of Victory Christian Fellowship in 1989 and remained faithful members.

He leaves behind his beloved bride of 64 years, Melba Gurkin Darden, a son, William Darden, Jr. and wife Linda of Chesapeake, VA, a daughter, Betty

Darden Hendrix and husband Jim of Plymouth, NC, a sister, Helen Williford of Plymouth, NC a grandson, William Darden, III of Chesapeake, VA, a granddaughter Stephanie Pride of Chesapeake, VA and three great grandchildren, Megan, Chris, and Laynee of Chesapeake, VA.

A funeral service will be held at 3:00 P.M. Friday, February 25, 2005 in Victory Christian Church in Plymouth, NC, with burial in Hillside Cemetery.

Lovingly submitted by The Family

Tribute Wall



“ I am truly blessed to have had this wonderful man as my father-in-law. He was father to me. He was always there if I needed him or as far as that goes if anyone needed him. He was a kind man who loved Jesus and always took the time to witness to others. I will miss him dearly but I know one day I will see him again. I love you poppy!##imported-begin##Linda Darden##imported-end##

February 27, 2005 at 12:00 AM



“ I am very blessed to have known Granddaddy and to have he and Grandmommy as well as the rest of the Darden family influence my life the way that each of you have. I am so grateful for the love and guidance that I will carry with me for the rest of my life. Thank you Granddaddy!

With all my love,
Susan##imported-begin##Susan Freeland##imported-end##

February 25, 2005 at 12:00 AM