



## Remembering our brothers who have passed from this life

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### **GORDON, ROBERT A. '19**

Died November 1996, four days before his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. He attended Augusta while his father was Pastor of the Augusta Stone Church.

His son Robert B. Gordon wrote: "AMA never had a more enthusiastic alumnus. It would probably surprise those of you who are still living in the area just how important AMA was to my growing up. I heard tales of AMA from the time I was old enough to have any appreciation of them. As a child of World War II, tales of a military school education coordinated well with the world in which I spent my early years. Augusta Military Academy had a great influence on my life.

"Daddy attributed much of his success in life to the formative years, which he spent at the Academy. He always said that AMA taught him the importance of order and discipline in life, and it was there that he learned how to study. The life of a cadet always seemed to me to be a basic component of his early years."

Gordon got his baccalaureate degree from Davidson College and was in the first class of the graduate school at Virginia Polytechnic Institute at Blacksburg. He had several careers, and began his working life as a school teacher at Weyers Cave, VA. He later moved to Gastonia, NC, where he married a fellow teacher. The two of them spent the first summers of their marriage in graduate summer schools at the University of Virginia. Gordon always considered himself a "Virginian."

As the size of his family increased, he left teaching to manage a lumber company. He designed many public buildings still standing in Gastonia. Still later, he went into the insurance business. He saw an opportunity in group insurance at a time when he said he had to spend most of his time explaining what it was. He worked in the Group Department of Provident Life and Accident Insurance Company of Chattanooga from

the early 30's until he retired "officially" in 1966 as Division Manager. He went on to spend another ten years with the company after that retirement.

Gordon was a very active Presbyterian layman until he was in his 70's. In the First Presbyterian Church of Gastonia, he served as Chairman of the Board of Deacons, Clerk of the Session, Teacher of the Men's Bible Class, and co-leader of the church young people's group.

He was married to his first wife for 40 years until her death in 1966. A second wife of 27 years also predeceased him.

Gordon attended Augusta for two years: Private, Company B. He and his son attended the 1995 Alumni Reunion.