



## Remembering our brothers who have passed from this life

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### **PARKINS, EDWARD WILLIAM '35**

Edward William "Will" Parkins, 92, of Bridgewater Retirement Community, died 23 December 2008.

He was born 2 September 1916 in Fort Defiance, Va. Both his father and grandfather were farmers. Will was home schooled until the third grade when he entered Mount Sidney School, graduating in 1934. He completed a postgraduate year at Augusta in 1935 and enrolled at Virginia Tech to study Industrial Engineering, but his education was interrupted by World War II.

On his 25th birthday, Will was inducted into the US Army and sent to basic training with the Corps of Engineers at Fort Belvoir, VA. He was in a map reproduction course at the Enlisted Men's School when Captain John A. Caldwell, a former ROTC sergeant at AMA, found him and encouraged him to apply for OCS. Three months into his schooling, Pearl Harbor was bombed.

Will graduated from Officer Candidate School the following year and served from 1942 to 1945 with Topographical Battalions in Algeria, making maps for ground forces as well as charts for air force and naval use. In August 1945, he was sailing

for the Philippines as courier of top secret maps for the invasion of Japan when he heard an announcement over the ship's intercom that the war had ended. The maps under his care had suddenly become meaningless!

He left the active military but joined the Army Reserves and retired as a lieutenant colonel in 1976. He was business manager for Augusta Military Academy for more than 30 years. He was also active with the local Ruritan Club, the Augusta County Historical Society, the Augusta Stone Church, and the Reserve Officers Association.

On 28 June 1947, he married Anne Lou Dodd, who preceded him in death on 1 February 1996. Surviving are one son, E. William "Bill" Parkins Jr., of Bridgewater; three nieces, Polly B. Case of Massanutten, Anne C. Green of Springfield, Va., and Sally F. Fulton of Weyers Cave; and one nephew, John S. Case of Richmond. His twin sister, Katie P. Fulton, died 30 January 2006.

A memorial service was held in the Lantz Chapel at Bridgewater Retirement Community.

(2009 Winter *Bayonet*)