



Remembering our brothers who have passed from this life

PLECKER, ROBERT ELDRIDGE '40

Robert Plecker, a major contributor to the Augusta Military Academy Museum, died on 27 October 2004 in Harrisonburg, VA. He passed away at Rockingham Memorial Hospital at age 83.

He and his wife, Frances, underwrote the costs for creating Colonel Hoover's Classroom in the museum. They gave \$3.7 million to create the Plecker Workforce Center on the campus of Blue Ridge Community College. They also made significant contributions to create the Robert and Frances Plecker Athletic Performance Center at James Madison University. The Pleckers also benefitted many other schools, universities and charitable organizations.

After Augusta, Plecker attended Bridgewater College, the University of Virginia and Shenandoah University. During World War II, Plecker was a platoon leader in the 502nd Parachute Infantry of the 101st Airborne Division and fought through the Battle of the Bulge. He was highly decorated, receiving three Bronze Stars and the French Croix de Guerre. He left the service with the rank of captain.

He owned the Harrisonburg Truck and Equipment Corporation, North and South Trucking Lines, Truck Thermo King, and Transport Repairs, Inc. In 1999, he was named Entrepreneur of the Year by the Rockingham-Harrisonburg Chamber of Commerce and was named the Virginia Small Business Veteran of the Year in 2002. He was also the Transportation Industry Southeast Dealer of the Year. Plecker was on the board of the Farmers and Merchants Bank in Harrisonburg for 25 years and former President of Weekday Religious Education. He was a member of the Massanutten Presbyterian Church.

At Augusta one year as a Day Boy from Weyers Cave: Plecker earned letters in basketball and baseball, where he was the team's starting catcher.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Virginia Frances; three daughters, Mary Sease of Harrisonburg; Peggy Twitty of Laurel, MD; and Patti Plecker of Virginia Beach; a brother, Wilfred, of Bridgewater; and five grandchildren.

(2005 Winter *Bayonet*)