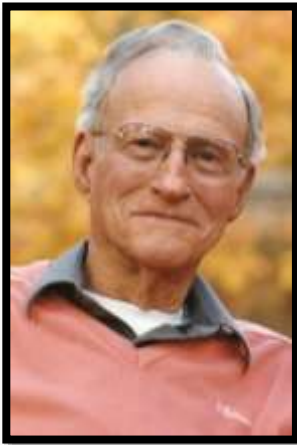


Post Everlasting 2003 Teddy Dene Best



Teddy Dene Best, 80, of Stillwater, died Thursday, June 5, 2003 at Stillwater Medical Center. Services will be Monday at 10:30 a.m. at the First Christian Church. Dr. William S. English will officiate. Interment will follow at Fairlawn Cemetery. Ted was born June 27, 1922 in Hulen to Fred and Preppa Ella (Farr) Best. He married Jane (Herde) Best on July 13, 1952 in Billings.

Best's family moved to Walters in 1934, where he entered high school. His education was interrupted by his entrance into the Civilian Conservation Corps. He returned to Walters High School and graduated in May 1942. He then entered the U.S. Navy with his twin brother, Troy, in July 1942, where they served together for six weeks and San Diego Naval Training Station.

Best's service took him to various islands in the South-West Pacific aboard LST 353, which was also engaged in the Guadalcanal Campaign.

His ship was sunk in May 1944 in West Loch, Pearl Harbor. Upon his discharge in 1946 he entered Oklahoma A&M College and graduated in 1951 with a masters degree in Vocational Distributive Education (now Marketing Education). He taught at Broken Arrow High School from 1951 to 1956.

He served as a deacon in the

First Christian Church and was a Mason. He held life memberships in both Oklahoma and American Vocational Associations, the Oklahoma and National Education Associations, American Legion, and was active in the Payne County Retired Education Association, AARP, and was involved for 16 years in the Stillwater Christmas Store Charity and other community affairs.

He held offices in statewide and national professional organizations.

While in Broken Arrow, he had served as a commander of the American Legion Post, and was President of the Lions Club and helped organize a Jaycees chapter there. He was a charter member of the Stillwater Exchange Club and received the Book of Golden Deeds Award in 1990.

In October 1997, he was inducted into the Vocational Technical Foundation Hall of Fame in Oklahoma. He was an avid OSU sport fan and was a life member of the OSU Alumni Association for 51 years.

He was a member of the First Christian Church of Stillwater and was employed as a supervisor of distributive education.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sisters, Oakle Hilbert, Evelyn Best and Gwendolyn Hilbert; and brothers, Zell and Dick

He is survived by his wife; two sons, Larry Best and his wife, Gwen, of St. Charles, MO; and Alan Best of Tulsa; one daughter, Jan Courtright and her husband, Terry of Stillwater; two grandchildren, Erin and Dara Courtright, both of Stillwater; two brothers Don Best of Walters and Troy Best of Tulsa; and three sisters; Susie Ragland of Oklahoma City, Eulalia Arnold of Broken Arrow and Nadine Booher of Walters.

Memorials can be sent to the First Christian Church, 411 W. Mathews, Stillwater, OK 74075, or the Charity of your choice. Family will greet friends at the Funeral Home Sunday Evening from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Condolences may be e-mailed to the family at STRODEFH@aol.com.



1944



Commander Ted Best

