



Francis Wesley Blankner

August 20, 1924 - August 7, 2015

Francis Wesley “Buck” Blankner (90 years old), was born on August 20, 1924 in Orlando, Florida. He is the last surviving of 4 brothers (Leonard, Edward, and Jim) to parents Leonard and Frances Blankner. He was married 50 years to his wife Jean S. Blankner who died in 1998. As member of the Florida Bar Association he has been practicing law in Orlando all his life and continued to work until the day he died. He served in the military during WW2, as a navigator, aboard a B-29 in the Pacific. He was awarded the Purple Heart for injuries incurred while the plane landed with engines on fire. He is survived by his 3 children, his daughter Lynn who lives in Michigan and Buck Jr. and Matt who reside in Orlando. He was a man of simple tastes, great sense of humor and a very giving, loving and caring spirit. He will be greatly missed not only by his family but so many people he befriended throughout his life. Services will be held at a later time this fall.

Tribute Wall

LC

“ 25 files added to the tribute wall



Lynn Blankner Ciupak - August 10, 2015 at 04:57 PM

LC

“ 48 files added to the album New Album Name



Lynn Blankner Ciupak - August 10, 2015 at 12:43 PM

LC

“ 13 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Lynn Blankner Ciupak - August 10, 2015 at 12:22 PM

LC

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Lynn Blankner Ciupak - August 10, 2015 at 12:19 PM

LC

“Dad loved Flora and Fauna and the Night Skies...when we all went to the Grand Canyon in 2001, he would be studying the shrubs and trees while we were all staring at the Canyon. He'd call me over to describe some in detail and show me the leaves and seeds. I now have the same fondness for Flora and Fauna. While at the Canyon, each morning, Dad would get up before Dawn and watch the Sunrise with us over the Canyon and each night we would go out to the rim and lay on blankets and watch the stars come out...and Dad would describe all the planets and stars and constellations. What fun we always had trading calls between Orlando and Detroit, whenever there was a fabulous full moon, or blue moon, or comet, or really visible planet, just to make sure the other one wouldn't miss it. I will always remember my Dad most when I watch the stars and study a tree or shrub.

Love you, miss you, your Lynn

Lynn Blankner Ciupak - August 10, 2015 at 12:16 PM

“ Dear Cousins, Here is the 1st Page of story – memories from my Dad, Uncle Buck:

I received copies of Mike Blankners emails with Family timeline, genealogy etc. from Jimmy Blankner, and gave copies to my Dad. He went through them and enjoyed them. He recognized most of the names but some he had no knowledge of at all. It did lead him into reminiscing though and he told me about three incidences I knew you all would be interested in hearing also. Two of these incidences were told to him years after they happened and one he lived through, and still laughs about.

1) In about 1918 Pop Pop was getting ready to go to Baltimore, to visit family, and decided to clean his 32 automatic gun before he left, and while doing it he actually shot himself in the hand. The bullet went through without hitting any bones, but Dad said he could see the scars after Pop Pop told him the story, years later. Pop Pop never had to go to any of the Wars, although he might have been the right age during the Spanish American War....and Ganaw always said he should have, so they would have gotten some pension.

2) Sometime after Pop Pops' Mother in Law (Flora Alice Young Leake) broke her hip, (she slipped on the carpet in Pop Pop and Ganaws home carrying Uncle Jim as a baby, Uncle Jim wasn't hurt) Pop Pop decided to install a hand rail on Grandmas back porch steps for her. While he was nailing the hand rail in place....he hammered one of the nails into his Pocket Watch and demolished it. Dad said he told that story over and over because he really liked that pocket watch! Dad said this must have been around 1922-3, just before he was born.

3) In about 1939 or so, it was around midnight, one night, and Ganaw had to go the bathroom, which was on the 2nd floor, near all the bedrooms of their home on Central, and when she got to the bathroom the door was closed. Blankners always left the bathroom door open when it was empty, so she checked the door knob lightly and felt it was locked. She checked each of the bedrooms and everyone was accounted for, including Ginny, who was visiting from Jacksonville, Jim and Dad who were 15 and 19. At that moment,

she decided that there must be a burglar in the bathroom. So she went to the hall linen closet and got that famous 32 automatic out and went in and woke Dad up (he was stunned she had a gun, didn't know they had one at that time) and she then woke up Jim and Ginny and told them there was a burglar locked in the bathroom. Since they couldn't go to the stair landing to call the police, since the burglar would hear them, they all tiptoed to Ginnys room and called out the window for help. Mr. Baer, the next door neighbor and owner of the Haberdashery downtown, heard them and Ganaw told him they had a burglar locked in the bathroom. He called the police and 2 squad cars arrived with help. They got into the house and went to the bathroom....which was not locked, and no one was in there. It was then that Ginny told them, that she had used the bathroom, and in their home, they always kept the bathroom door closed, not just when they were using it. Mr. Baer and the police were very cordial about the whole thing. Ganaw informed Ginny that from then on...she should please leave it open when if it wasn't occupied.

If I get any more stories, I'll pass them along. I'm sure he has a few more...he's been telling me about his Cousin Rachel too, who was more like a sister to the boys than a cousin. She nursed Ganaws Mom and Dad for years and lived with them, next door. Love, Lynn

Lynn Blankner Ciupak - August 10, 2015 at 11:57 AM

SR

“ *When our family was in need (Schlegel) you and your family came to us with no hesitation. I have never forgot this. You were my inspiration to try to do good for others less fortunate than us. Thank you kind sir. Susan Schlegel Rollinson*

Susan Schlegel Rollinson - August 10, 2015 at 08:12 AM

LB

This man was a example of courage , integrity ,kindness, strength. A great father and grandfather, such a wonderful example of a man of character. He made me and my children feel like we was part of his family,we will miss him greatly with his heroic stories . Love you grandpa, you will be in our hearts forever.

laura bonino - August 10, 2015 at 09:39 AM

BB

I had the pleasure to know Buck as he had been my mother's neighbor. He was one of the nicest people I have ever known. We enjoyed talking about old Orlando and he would share stories about his family, going to the Citadel, the War and then going to law school. Buck was truly a southern gentlemen. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Bobbi Barrett

Bobbi Barrett - August 16, 2015 at 06:12 PM