



Havis Grantham

December 29, 1923 - November 12, 2012

Mr. Havis "Ray" Grantham, 88, of Wynne, Arkansas passed away Monday, November 12, 2012 in Wynne.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Viola "Pete" Grantham; parents, Joseph Freeman Grantham and Annie Parkinson Grantham; daughter, Connie Brown, brothers, Pelton and Charlie Grantham and sister, Rachel Dildine.

Mr. Grantham was born on December 29, 1923 in Forrest City, Arkansas. He was a bus mechanic and bus driver for Wynne Public Schools and Marion Public Schools. He was a member of New Hope Baptist Church. Havis enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1942. In the spring and summer of 1944, Ray's bomb squadron flew 29 bombing missions over Belgium, France, and Germany. During their last mission over Mannheim, Germany, their plane was hit with enemy fire and Ray received wounds in his left hand and leg. Their plane, a B-17, barely made it back to base in England. Ray received the Purple Heart and an Air Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters. While on tour Staff Sergeant Ray Grantham was a Turrett Gunner or a Tail Gunner on the B-24's or the B-17's. He landed sometime in Africa, Russia, and Brazil. He was discharged in 1945.

Survivors are his son, Danny Grantham and wife Pat of Wynne; sister, Josephine Martin of Wauchula Florida; grandchildren, Dana Phillips, Chad Grantham, Angie Brown Bumgarner, Jeff Brown and Tommy Williams; 14 great grandchildren and 3 great-great grandchildren.

Visitation will be Thursday, 6 to 8 PM at Kernodle Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral services will be Friday, November 16, 2012 at 2 PM at Kernodle Funeral Chapel. Burial with Military Services will follow at Harris Chapel Cemetery.

Tribute Wall

PA

“ Uncle Havis was truly a living testimony to his love for the Lord, his family and this great country. I, too, will miss him and the wonderful family stories he shared. We appreciate the kind words and testimony shared by Mr. O'Dell McCallum, granddaughter Dana Phillips and Rev. Brad Hardesty, the services of Kernodle Funeral Home and the soldiers conducting the Military recognition especially the one playing Taps with jets flying over coincidentally at the same time seem to express a Salute and Farewell to an Honorable WWII Veteran.

Patricia Grantham Arnold - November 19, 2012 at 02:42 PM

GR

“ Danny ~ Loved your mom and dad. What a blessing they were in my growing up years. I seldom saw either without a smile on their face and they were sure to put one on mine. My love and prayers to you and yours. Glenda

Glenda Pierce Runions - November 16, 2012 at 08:19 PM

JB

“ Uncle Havis taught me how we should love God first, love our family and love our country. I will truly miss the times we shared eating at the Sawmill and his listening to his stories. Love you, Danny and Pat.

Jane "janie" Grantham Blake - November 16, 2012 at 06:20 PM

EG

“ Danny sorry about the death of your father I have been friends of the family for a long time I am unable to attend the visitation or funeral but will keep the family in my prayers Eldred

Eldred Grant - November 15, 2012 at 03:23 PM

KM

“ *Havis Grantham*

Ken McClanahan - November 15, 2012 at 10:40 AM

MH

“ *Havis (and 'Pete') will always hold a special place in my heart! I still remember spending almost every Sunday afternoon with them when I was younger - and if I didn't get to go home with them after church - I cried! I was so glad that Havis 'came back home' to New Hope and sat with us on 'our pew'. He was honored a couple of weeks ago at New Hope's Homecoming and gave a wonderful testimony! There will be an empty place on our pew as well as in my heart but I know I will see him again some day! Thoughts & prayers for the family at this time.*

Melissa Sanders Holland - November 14, 2012 at 12:27 PM

B(

“ *Why does it take a minute to say hello and forever to say goodbye. Every goodbye is the birth of a memory. Missing someone gets easier every day because even though it's one day further from the last time you saw each other, it's one day closer to the next time you will. I will always hold dear the memories of Uncle Havis stories and laughter. He was a very special uncle. He will be greatly missed by all. Barbara Jo*

Barbara (Grantham)Stafford - November 14, 2012 at 11:07 AM

JC

“ On behalf of my father, William Clark, who served on the same WWII bomber crew with Mr. Grantham, please accept our sincerest sympathies for your loss. Mr. Grantham was a wonderful man, comrade, and brother-in-arms for my father. In a conversation with Mr. Grantham when I met him and his wife some 19 years or so ago, he spoke very eloquently about how close many of those crew members were to each other during their time overseas and in combat. My dad and Mr. Grantham were particularly close since they were in close proximity to each other on the plane and in hometowns. My dad was a tail gunner from West Tennessee and Mr. Grantham was a waist gunner from eastern Arkansas. He was deeply saddened yesterday to hear of Mr. Grantham's passing. Again, please accept our sincerest condolences.

Jeff Clark - November 14, 2012 at 10:53 AM

RG

“ Danny and family, I was saddened to hear of Mr. Grantham's death. He was a fine man and always kind to me. May the Lord comfort you in this time of grief.
Randy Gardner

Randy Gardner - November 13, 2012 at 08:54 PM

ME

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Thoughts and prayers from the Margaret (Jerry) Eppes Family.

Margaret Eppes - November 13, 2012 at 08:24 PM

DK

“ We will miss you very much, but know that your reunion with Aunt Pete and Connie and Grandmother was glorious. Also I know Mother and Daddy were there to greet you along with Uncle Charlie and Uncle Pelton. This isn't goodbye it is see you later when we all get to Heaven. Ann

Dildine kids - November 13, 2012 at 02:16 PM