



## Colonel Cecil L. Forinash

December 9, 1917 - July 25, 2014

Forinash, Cecil L. (Colonel, US Army Retired), age 96, of Knoxville, Tennessee died July 25, 2014 after a brief illness. He is preceded in death by his wife of 59 years, Mary May Forinash. He is fondly remembered by his children David L. (Jean) Forinash of Elizabethton, Tennessee and Patti (Walter) Trent of Colorado Springs, Colorado; his grandchildren Mariebeth (Keith) Ayotte, Geri (Matt) Mahaley, Tim (Heather) Forinash, Jason Forinash, Derek (Sean Mayo) Trent, Kelli Trent, Laura (Zac Grey) Trent, and six great-grandchildren. Cecil was born December 9, 1917 in West Chester, Iowa to John C. and Mary Forinash. He entered the University of Iowa in 1935 and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army Reserve in 1939. He entered active duty as part of Third Infantry Regiment on July 5, 1939. In 1940, he was assigned to the Philippine Islands and in 1941 became an aerial observer with the Air Corps. Upon Japan's invasion of the Philippines, he requested and was assigned to Second Battalion, 31st Infantry Division of the Philippine Army. He was wounded in the fighting, but elected to stay in the Philippine Islands. After months of fighting in the defense of Bataan and Corregidor, he was captured by the Japanese Army April 9, 1942, and endured days on what is now known as the "Bataan Death March". After months in prison camp in the Philippines, he was transferred on a hell ship to Japan where he remained a prisoner of war at various camps until his release on September 8, 1945. Upon his return to the United States and subsequent hospitalization, he was sent to Miami Beach for recuperation and met the love his life and future wife, Mary May who was in charge of the Red Cross Operation serving former Japanese prisoners of War. They married in Powell, Tennessee on June 22, 1946. Deciding to attend the University of Tennessee College of Law, he graduated in 1949. After law school, he re-entered the Army as a Judge Advocate General Corps Officer where served across the United States, Korea, and Europe until his retirement November 1, 1969. He and his family returned to Knoxville in 1969 where he briefly entered into the private practice of law. He became a prosecutor in the Knoxville City Court and later retired as an Assistant Attorney General in Knox County in 1983. After retirement, he and his wife continued to follow University of Tennessee football and basketball as well as travelling across the country, to the Far East and Europe. He served as caretaker for his wife for ten years after she developed cancer until her death in 2006.

The family joined Church Street United Methodist Church in 1969, and remained a member of the Church and the Murphy Builders Sunday School Class until his death. The family wishes to thank Kim Hutchinson who cared for Mary and Cecil for many years; and to Sally Williams who helped him over the past two years. The family also thanks Velma Bradford for her companionship in recent years. A special thank you to the staff of the VA Mountain Home CLC who made his last days as comfortable as possible. Interment service will be held at Arlington National Cemetery, and friends may call at their convenience at Rose Mortuary Mann Heritage Chapel. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to Church Street United Methodist Church, 900 Henley St. Knoxville, TN, 37902. On-line condolences may be extended at [www.rosemortuary.com](http://www.rosemortuary.com) Arrangements by Rose Mortuary Mann Heritage Chapel.

# Cemetery

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## **Arlington National Cemetery**

1 Memorial drive

Fort Myer, VA,

# Comments

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“ I served with Col. Forinash in Stuttgart, Germany from 1966-1968. I was a legal clerk and my only claim to fame was that I was the only one who could read his writing!

I loved working for him, he reminded me of my grandpa. Some of the others were Cpt Osteen and Maj Chalekian.

Many times I wished I would have re-enlisted. Col Forinash helped me get reassigned close to home when I rotated out of Germany. I contacted him a short time before his death and he sent me his life story. I will always treasure it..

**David Mullins** - December 21, 2019 at 08:58 PM

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“ Was a trusted and able friend when I entered practice upon release from active USA duty in 1968. Robert W. Godwin

**Robert W. Godwin** - August 14, 2014 at 06:48 AM

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“ Deepest sympathy to the Forinash and Trent Families . A great hero and patriot . God bless

**Randy Shepard** - July 30, 2014 at 03:38 PM

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“ So sorry for your loss. I had the honor of meeting Col Forinash at our POW meetings. I am glad he had the chance to attend and meet others here who had to endure being captured. Thank you Col Forinash for you service and your sacrifices to our country. RIP

Doug Grissom  
Rolling Thunder TN 4

**Doug Grissom** - July 28, 2014 at 08:06 AM

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“ Patti and Walter - We were so sorry to hear of the death of your loved one. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. Helen Williams Indian Hills Apts. and Glenda lery Blue Ridge Apts.

**Glenda lery** - July 28, 2014 at 07:48 AM