

Trinity Standard

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Robert Arthur Anderson

TRINITY – Services for Robert Arthur Anderson, 92, of Trinity were held at 11 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 9, 2006, at the Dorcas Wills Memorial Baptist Church in Trinity with the Rev. Lindsey Nimmons officiating.

Burial followed in Cedar Grove Cemetery in Trinity.

Mr. Anderson died Tuesday, Nov. 7, in the Houston Veterans' Hospital.

He was born Aug. 8, 1914, in a small farming community near Des Moines, Iowa, the second of three children born to William Ralph Anderson and Elva Amelia Pierce Anderson. In Iowa, he played minor league baseball and was a member of the Iowa State Semi-Pro Championship Team in 1933, leading the state tournament with a .615 batting average.

When his family lost their farm during the Great Depression, they moved to Denver, Colo., in the fall of 1933. There he worked at a filling station operated by his uncle and resumed his minor league baseball career. As a member of the Denver Post All-Stars, he hit against famed pitcher Satchel Paige

during a Denver Post tournament. He would later say the foul ball hit off Paige was the greatest moment of his batting career.

He would later try out for the Chicago Cubs but lost the jobs to a switch hitter.

In July 1941 he was inducted into the U.S. Army and was assigned to military police duties with the 701st Military Police Battalion at Fort Snelling, Minn. He subsequently graduated from the first class of the Provost Marshal General School at Fort Oglethorpe, Ga. as a second lieutenant.

His first assignment was as unit commander for the 369th Escourt Guard Company at the Huntsville Internment Camp located south of Riverside in neighboring Walker County. There he had 135 enlisted men and two officers under his command helping to guard 4,500 German prisoners of war who had served under General Erwin Rommel during the North Africa campaign.

During his service at the POW camp, Lt. Anderson and his men often attended Trinity High School football games. It was at one of those game that he met Lucille Christian, who would later become his wife.

After seven months at the Huntsville camp, Anderson was sent to Madill, Okla, with 600 POWs where he supervised the cutting of timber, clearing land in an area that would become Lake Texhoma.

During the war he was stationed at a number of other Texas camps before ending up as camp commander at the Amarillo Air Force Base where he guarded 3,000 Italian POWs.

He was married to Lucile Christian on Aug. 15, 1943, in a ceremony held at her parent's home in Trinity.

After being discharged from the Army in January 1946, he moved with his wife and infant son to Denver where he worked at his father's service station.

Following his father's death in December 1946, Anderson moved with his family back to Trinity. In

the 1950s he purchased a liquor store which her operated until 1984. He also attended Sam Houston State Teacher's College and joined the Dorcas Wills Memorial Baptist Church, where he served as assistant song leader for many years. He also was a member of the Joe Werner Masonic Lodge, the Roy Trow American Legion Post and a charter member of the Disabled American Veterans..

He was preceded in death by his wife, who died in a 1981 automobile accident in Mexico; a son, Richard "Dick" Anderson, who died in December 2003; a brother, Rolland Anderson; and a sister, Mary Jean Frink.

Survivors include a son, William Robert "Bill" Anderson of Trinity; and three grandsons and their spouses, Jason and Marideth Anderson of Tomball, Jeremy Anderson of Dallas and Patrick and Carrie Anderson of Fort Worth.

The family requests that memorial contributions be made either to the Trinity Funeral Home by calling (936) 594-3507 or to the HEARTS Veterans Museum of Texas by calling (936) 295-5959. Please write "Bob Anderson Memorial" on donation checks.

Pallbearers were members of the Masonic Lodge.

Trinity Funeral Home directed the arrangements.



ROBERT ANDERSON