

Clarence Elmer Gay

LIVINGSTON -- Clarence Elmer Gay, born in Milvid on Feb. 3, 1921 and reared in Holly Grove, died on July 23, 2007 at his residence in Baytown at the age of 86.

He graduated from Livingston High School and attended Lee College in Baytown.

He was known as someone whose greatest love was for his Lord and his family. He accepted the Lord as his personal savior in 1960 during a tent revival. He loved singing specials in church and his favorite song was "Face to Face with Christ My Savior."

He was an active member of Northside Baptist Church in Baytown and the Gold Sunday School Class. He was known as Papa Gay to all the children that knew and loved him.

He was sometimes teasingly called The Pied Papa because the children would come to him after church for gum or candy. He faithfully studied his bible every day.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Miles and Lizzy Gay; his wife of 48 years, Evelyn Williams Gay; brother, Cecil Gay ; sisters, Leona Singletory, Cloria Richardson and Bessie Mae Wheeler.

Survivors include his daughter and son-in-law, Sharion and David Clark of Baytown; five grandchildren, Jonathan Parrish and wife Jamie, Elisabeth Duty and husband Jeff, Amber Clark and Jonathan Ian and David Jr. Clark; one sister, Myrtle Jordan; 11 great-grandchildren with number 12 due in October, and several nieces and nephews.

He worked as a master electrician at Goose Creek Consolidated ISD and Lee College in Baytown. He retired in 1981.

Mr. Gay served in the Army Air Corps from August 1942 until October 1947. He was a top turret gunner on B-25 aircraft, 12th Airforce, 310 Bomb Group, 380th Bomb Squadron and received the European Theater of Operations Medal, the Silver Star, three Bronze Stars, two Presidential Citations, Air Medal with silver oak leaf, WWII Victory Medal, American Campaign Medal, silver wings and Certificate Award for Valor. He flew 48 missions and flew decoy in France during the Normandy Invasion on D-Day. Once, his B-25 returned from Italy with 186 flack holes, some 14 inches in diameter, and a ruptured right wing gas tank, landing with only one motor. He always said God was their co-pilot because there was not a hole anywhere where a man was stationed. He also flew in the battle at Anzio Beach.

Funeral services will be Thursday, July 26, at Earthman's Funeral Home in Baytown, with burial at Earthman Memory Gardens in Baytown.

To view the online obituary or to post a tribute for the family, go to www.earthmanfuneral.com. If anyone wishes to make a contribution in his name, the family asks to make them to Northside Baptist Church, 300 Cedar Bayou Rd., Baytown, TX 77520 to the Missions Department.