

Donald Vance Lilly

December 3, 1923 – February 16, 1998

(From - Hinton News - March 10, 1998)

Ret. 1st Sgt. D. V. Lilly

Ret. 1st Sgt. D. V. (Donald Vance) Lilly, 74, of 211 Dean St., Beckley, died Monday, Feb. 16 1998, in a Beckley medical center following a long illness.

Born Dec. 3, 1923, he was the son of the late Clark James and Nell Lilly of Summers County.

Mr. Lilly was of the Presbyterian faith and belonged to the Masonic Temple, Beckley Lodge No. 95 AF and AM.

He entered the U. S. Marine Corps on Nov. 16, 1942, training at Camp Lejeune, N.C., having received his citation and paratrooper wings and being stationed with the 4th Marine Parachute Battalion.

On Feb. 19, 1945, Mr. Lilly and the 5th Marine Division landed on D-Day, H-hour on Iwo Jima. He was wounded in action on the third day and received the Purple Heart, Presidential Unit Citation, Good Conduct Medal, Asiatic Pacific Theater Medal, American Defense Medal and World War II Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged from the Marine Corps on Nov. 15, 1945.

Mr. Lilly was a 1946 graduate of Hinton High School, and after attending West Virginia Tech he worked on the C&O Railroad as a fireman.

On April 10, 1948, Mr. Lilly was sworn in as a West Virginia State Police officer. During his career he was stationed at eight detachments, including Beckley Company D, where he was company commander. He also served as company commander of the Summersville, Williamson and Whitesville detachments.

He was also district sergeant over the Whitesville and Pineville detachments. After being promoted to company first sergeant on July 16, 1967, he was in this position until he received an honorable medical discharge from the Department of Public Safety on Aug. 8, 1972.

Mr. Lilly was appointed chief adult probation officer for the 10th Judicial Circuit Court by Judge C. Berkley Lilly. He retired from this position after 10 years of service.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Clark J. Lilly and Nell E. Lilly; two brothers, Joseph E. Lilly and Cyril R. Lilly; and a sister, Nancy Nell Lilly.

Survivors include daughters, Bonnie Lou Tilley of Stanaford Acres and Mrs. Dean (Donna P.) Chipps of Bridgeport; grandchildren, Sumer Leigh Tilley of Fairmont, Lory M. Chipps of Decatur, GA., and Matthew L. Chipps of Morgantown; three sisters, Orpha Hazelwood of Hinton, Marjorie Anderson of Marlinton and Carol Ann Smith of Nitro; four brothers, Phillip A. Lilly of Hinton, Lyell Zane Lilly of Florida and Lowell K. Lilly of Washington, D.C., and Clark J. Lilly of Florida; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Services were held at 1 p. m. Thurs., Feb. 19th. at Blue Ridge Funeral Home Chapel with Chaplain 1st Sgt. Don Bennett and Sgt. Ronnie Blevins officiating. Burial followed in Blue Ridge

Memorial Gardens, Beckley.

Members of the West Virginia State Police, both retired and active members, served as pallbearers, including Sheriff Frank Lavender, retired state police officers H. H. "Dutch" Meador, James Parsons, Thomas Monk, Bill Wiant, Capt. Burk Cassell, Bill Arthur, Clacy Bartlett, active state police 2nd. Lt. C. R. "Jay" Smithers, and Lt. C. E. Berlin and friend, Robert "Bob" Biggs of Dry Hill.

Masonic graveside rites were observed.

Arrangements by Blue Ridge Funeral Home, Beckley.