



## Brig. Gen. Eugene Phillips, US, Army Ret.

November 26, 1917 - December 25, 2014

Native Roystonian Brig. Gen. Eugene Phillips, U.S. Army Ret., 97, died Thursday, December 25th following a brief illness at the home of his son in Fairfax, VA.

Gen. Phillips was born in Canon, GA on Nov. 26th, 1917, son of the late M.D. and Minnie Phillips. He grew up in Franklin County and graduated from Royston High School as class valedictorian in 1935. He entered the University of Georgia in the fall of 1935 and graduated in 1939 with a bachelor's degree in Journalism and was commissioned as a second lieutenant, Cavalry, U.S. Army.

Prior to volunteering for active duty in World War II, he worked for the Atlanta Journal and other newspapers. It was during this time that he was introduced to Nadine Barnts of Springfield, MO. They were married on December 29th, 1941 at Fort Lewis, Washington, and celebrated 64 wedding anniversaries before Mrs. Phillips died in Royston in 2006.

In addition to 18 months combat with the Third Infantry Division in North Africa, Sicily, Italy and Europe, he served on the staffs of Generals Eisenhower, Patton and Bradley. He graduated from the Cavalry School, Armor Officer Advanced Course, Command and General Staff College, and the National War College.

Following World War II he served as an information officer at the Nuremberg War Crimes trials. After a stint with the State Department in Burma, Gen. Phillips joined the staff of the Milwaukee Journal and later worked for the Associated Press before serving again on active duty. He served in a variety of assignments and capped his career when he was promoted to brigadier general in 1968, serving the Office of the Chief of Information for the Army. He retired after a 34-year career in 1973. His awards include the Legion of Merit and the French Croix de Guerre. In all, he traveled to some 30 countries.

In his civilian career, Gen. Phillips served on the public relations staff of Delta Air Lines and as director of the Washington, D.C., office of Aerospace Corporation before opening his own firm as a consultant.

After retiring from his consulting practice, Gen. Phillips and his wife returned to Royston in 1983, where he became involved in a number of civic and community activities and served as Royston's first city manager from 1990-1992. He was a member of many organizations, such as Rotary, the local chamber of commerce, American Legion, Reserve Officers Association, Military Order of World Wars, and the Public Relations Society of America.

Gen. Phillips is survived by his only child, Thomas E.B. Phillips, a retired lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve and his wife Monica Lombard Phillips, of Fairfax, VA; and three grandchildren, Jonathan E. Phillips, Ph.D., of Baltimore, MD, Drew B. Phillips of Venice, CA, and Alli M. Phillips of Washington, D.C.

Funeral services for Gen. Phillips were scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 30th, 2014, at Zidon Baptist Church, where he maintained his membership for 81 years, and burial to follow in the church's cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, contributions are requested to be sent to Hope for the Warriors <http://www.hopeforthewarriors.org/>.

Pruitt Funeral Home in Royston, GA is in charge of arrangements.

# Tribute Wall

PK

“ I am the daughter of Perunie (Horace O. Phillips). I started exchanging Christmas cards with Eugene when my dad died. I reall enjoyed visiting with him this way. We are so sorry to hear about his death.

God bless you.

*Perlene Phillips Koch*

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**Perlene Phillips Koch** - September 10, 2015 at 08:30 AM

WT

*Thank you for sharing, Cousin Perlene. We so enjoyed Perunie and his wife's visit years ago.*

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**Wanda Thompson** - March 15, 2025 at 03:19 PM

LR

“ I celebrate you dad's home going with you. My grandmother, Clyde Rice, used to take my cousin Judy and myself with her to visit Eugene. He led a very fruitful life and left a great legacy.

God bless you and your family at this time .

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**Lynda Rice** - September 10, 2015 at 08:30 AM

MD

“ We are sorry to hear about Brig.Gen Phillips passing.Our prayers are with you all,the family of Mr. Phillips.

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**Mr& Mrs Marvin D.Smith** - September 10, 2015 at 08:30 AM



“ To the family of Mr. Phillips,  
I know that this is a very difficult time for you. We as humans were never meant to experience death. God's purpose for us is that we live on the earth forever in perfect health. The Bible mentions a time when the ones who have passed away will rise again in John 5:28,29. Take comfort in knowing that you will see Eugene again. Please accept my condolences.

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March 13, 2015 at 12:00 AM



“ Tom and the Phillips Family- Phillip admired your Dad/grandfather very much. He remembers sharing lunch with him last summer as he shared his WWII memories with him. Phillip said he was amazed at the full and accomplished life he had lived! He won me over when he told me there seems to be a very special relationship between man and dog! Rest in peace Mr. Phillips.

Love,  
The Cases

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December 28, 2014 at 12:00 AM