

**EGNATOVICH, Lewis Jacob Egnatovich**

(Abstracted from information sent to Elmer by McCoy Anderson)

Mr. Lewis Jacob Egnatovich, age 94, with heavy hearts we are saddened today at the loss of Lewis Jacob Egnatovich (Lou). On December 7, 1941, the Japanese Fleet bombed Pearl Harbor. They killed 429 of his shipmates on board the U.S.S. Oklahoma, but not him. On Friday, March 18, Lou died peacefully at the age of 94, cancer did what WWII could not do. He was a loving and dedicated husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather. Lou was an amazing person and an American Patriot through and through. He will always be remembered and missed. This is a final salute to the last surviving crewmember of the U.S.S. Oklahoma which sunk in Pearl Harbor, now may the entire crew rest in peace. Lou was a lifetime member of the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Elks Club. He served 30 plus years of Federal Service to this country that he loved so much. Lou touched the lives of many people with his smile and generosity all the way to the end. Lou is survived by his loving wife, Sarah Catherine Egnatovich, 1 step-daughter Terry (Jim) Beam, 2 step-sons Bobby (Melody) Franklin and David Franklin, 1 daughter-in-law Diane Egnatovich Buck, 9 grandchildren, Craig (Susan) Schwier, Maria (Douglas) Giles, Andrea (Scott) Lane, Jesse (Heather) Beam, Michael Hamelin, Joseph (Sarajane) Hamelin, Lorie (Dudley) Hunt, Alicia (Eddie) Draper, Jenna (James) Parker, and 20 great grandchildren, Heather Schwier, Meagan Schwier, Sarah Schwier, Craig Schwier, Alexandra Giles, Nicholas Giles, Grayson Giles, Christian Lane, Kylie Lane, Dudley Hunt, Christian Hunt, Kayleigh Hunt, Aliyah Hunt, Ryland Hamelin, Jade Hamelin, Gabriel Draper, Katelyn Draper, Tristan Parker, Devyn Parker, Rayden Parker. Lou was predeceased by his sons Lewis Egnatovich, Jr, and Jerry Egnatovich and a step-daughter Diane Waters. Services will be held Friday, March 25, 2016 at Gateway-Forest Lawn Funeral Home, 3596 South Highway 441 in Lake City, Florida. This will be a Navy full honor service. Interment will be at The National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punch Bowl), in Hawaii. In lieu of flowers the family has requested that donations be made to Haven Hospice, or any veteran organization of your choice.

**EHLERS, Walter D. Ehlers**

(Abstracted from information released by the City of Buena Park, CA.)

On Thursday, February 20, 2014, Medal of Honor decorated World War II veteran Lt. Walter D. Ehlers passed away. He was 92 years old. Walter D. Ehlers, of Buena Park, California, served in with the U.S. Army 7th, 3rd, and 1st Infantry Divisions. Originally from Ft. Riley, KS, Walter enlisted in the Army in 1940 with his brother, Roland. His exemplary military career included invasions in North Africa, Sicily, and Normandy. He was a member of the Honor Guard at the Casablanca Conference in 1943. After this, he led his 12-man reconnaissance patrol across Omaha Beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944, with no casualties. Walter was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for the extraordinary heroism he displayed on June 9 and 10, 1944, near Goville, France. After learning that his brother gave his life on the beaches at Normandy, Walter went on to complete campaigns throughout Belgium and Germany and received a battlefield commission. By the end of the war, Walter had served eight campaigns and was awarded the Silver Star, three Purple Hearts, two Bronze Stars, England's King George Military Medal, Belgium's King Leopold Medal, the Presidential Unit Citation with Two Clusters, the Combat Infantry Badge, and France's Croix de Guerre. He was also knighted by Belgium King Albert II. Walter was honorably discharged by the Army in 1945. After the war, Walter moved to Buena Park, California. In 1955, he met his wife, Dorothy, and had three children: Catherine, Tracy, and Walter, Jr. Following in his father's footsteps, Walter, Jr. would go on to join the Army and served in the 1st Infantry for four years. Walter worked for the Veterans Administration as a counselor and later as a Service Officer. After 34 years of government service, Walter retired. He served on Buena Park's Park and Recreation Commission for seven years. In 1964, he was part of President Johnson's delegation, and in June 1994, he spoke in Normandy at a D-Day 50th anniversary ceremony in front of international leaders, including the Queen of England and President Clinton. On November 14, 1998, the City of Buena Park honored Walter by naming the Buena Park Recreation Center the Walter D. Ehlers Community Recreation Center. In 2002, Walter was awarded the National Order of the Legion of Honor award, the highest honor France bestows on its citizens and foreign nationals, for his heroism and valor in France during the war. In 2013, the U.S. Postal Service honored all 464 Medal of Honor recipients from World War II. The agency included photographic images of the 12 surviving recipients, including Walter D. Ehlers. "The Buena Park community is forever blessed with the legacy of Walt Ehlers," said Buena Park Mayor Miller Oh. "We will always remember our hometown hero and his dedicated service to our country." On February 25, 2014, the Buena Park City Council plans to adopt a resolution declaring the day of his birth, May 7 as Walter D. Ehlers Day in Buena Park. The City Council meeting will also be adjourned in his honor. Walter D. Ehlers was a patriot, war hero, decorated veteran, community activist, devout family man and a true American hero. Walter is survived by his wife of 58 years, Dorothy, his three children: Lt. Col. Walt (David) Ehlers Jr., Catherine, and Tracy as well as several grandchildren.

**ERICSON, Ray Davis Ericson**

(Abstracted from information received from his son, Jim Ericson, one of Elmer's genealogy friends)

Ray Ericson left this mortal existence peacefully on January 18, 2014 to return to Heavenly Father and be reunited with his sweetheart due to causes incident to age. We are happy for our father, grandfather, brother, uncle, cousin, and friend and grateful for the life he led. Ray Davis Ericson was born to Charles Levi Ericson and the former Jemima Davis on July 18, 1929 in Salt Lake City, UT. Ray grew up as the middle child of three brothers in Salt Lake City. He graduated from East High School in

1947, where he participated in football, basketball, and track. He then attended the University of Utah where he played football. He married Audrey Planty on December 15, 1951 and later divorced. They had two children, Devon and Dean Ericson. While married, they lived near San Diego, CA where Ray worked for Long's Drugs and they owned an ice skating rink. He later married the former Mary Elizabeth "Mickie" Lowry on August 25, 1967. They were subsequently sealed in the Salt Lake Temple on April 7, 1971. They had two children, David Ray and James Kelly Ericson. Ray loved hunting, fishing, camping, and spending time in the outdoors. He also enjoyed sports and being in the company of good friends and associates. He had a big heart and a big personality. He brought joy to children for more than 40 years at Christmastime wearing a red suit that Mickie made for him. He spent most of his adult life working in sales and the construction industry. A lifelong member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Ray served in many church callings, including Scouting, Young Men's, and various priesthood responsibilities. He also served as an ordinance worker at the Jordan River and Mt. Timpanogos Temples. He is survived by a daughter, Devon Ericson; sons Dean Ericson, David Ray Ericson (Megan), and James Kelly Ericson (Kelly); and grandchildren: Zachary and Evan (Dean's), Jessica, Emily, and Alyssa (Dave and Megan's), and Elisabeth, Hannah, James, and David (Jim and Kelly's); his brother, Loyd J. Ericson (Norma); and many loving nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Elizabeth Lowry and his brother, Charles Lee Ericson. We are grateful to all of Ray's friends, family, and branch and ward members for their constant love and support. We would also like to thank the staff at The Charleston at Cedar Hills and Brighton Home and Hospice for their care, especially the loving service provided by Leann Jackson, Jay, and A.J. Funeral service will be held on Monday, January 27, 2014 at the Cedar Hills 7th LDS Ward Chapel, 9737 Chesterfield Drive, Cedar Hills, UT. Warenski Funeral Home, 1776 North 900 East, American Fork, is in charge of the arrangements. Interment will be at the Highland City Cemetery

### **ESTES, Charles Edwin Estes**

(Abstracted from the Richmond Times-Dispatch April 10th, 2015)

Charles Edwin "Ed" Estes came home from World War II and started working for his father, W.W. Estes, a trucking magnate who owned Estes Express Lines transportation business. A flight instructor in the Army Air Forces during the war, he had used savings from his pay and giving fellow GIs haircuts to buy an airplane. He accumulated more savings barnstorming in his plane on weekends and he married his high school sweetheart. Working for his father was tough. Mr. Estes decided to start his own freight-hauling business after his father refused him a \$10-a-month raise in 1946. "My father said I wasn't worth it, so I went outside to get a Coke and cool down," Mr. Estes said in a story posted on the James Madison University website. "I saw a truck going by, flagged him (the driver) down and bought it. I had my own trucking business with one truck and no drivers." He went into business in Shockoe Bottom in Richmond as C. E. Estes Contract Carrier. He kept his head above water by making sure his trucks never traveled empty. His first job was delivering transformers to Norfolk. He told his truck driver to head back from Norfolk on U.S. 460 and to pull into the first service station he came to. Mr. Estes told the driver to wait for him until he could find a load of freight. "I'll meet you and let you know where to pick it up." When his father later asked him to help him run Estes Express Lines, "I told him I was making too much money to work for a salary," Mr. Estes said. A shrewd businessman, Mr. Estes acquired Great Coastal in 1957. He parlayed a small beginning into Great Coastal Express, a company that grew to have a fleet of more than 550 tractors and about 800 employees. It became one of the leading trucking businesses on the East Coast. The business moved to Midlothian Turnpike and then to a 100-acre complex on state Route 10 in Chester. He was semi-retired by the time his daughter became CEO of the business when she was 30 and chairman emeritus when she sold the company in 2002. Mr. Estes, who died Monday at home in Richmond at 92, was honored at a memorial service Friday at First Presbyterian Church, 4602 Cary Street Road. Burial of ashes will be today, Saturday, in Woodland Cemetery in Chase City, where he was born in 1923, and Monday in Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond. Mr. Estes and his first wife, Dorothy Thomasson Estes, whom he had dated since they were in the seventh grade at Chase City High School, continued their courtship when they both attended James Madison College, now James Madison University. Mrs. Estes died in 1996. In tribute to her, Mr. Estes gave JMU \$2.5 million to help build the school's Dorothy Thomasson Estes Center for Theatre and Dance. It was the largest donation in JMU's history at the time. Mr. Estes was a member of River Road United Methodist Church and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. He had served on the boards of many civic organizations, ranging from Randolph-Macon College to the Richmond Home for Ladies. The Greater Richmond Business Hall of Fame inducted him in 1998. Survivors include his wife since 1999, Susan Jane Estes; a daughter, Martha Lee Grover; two sisters, Mary Speight and Ruth Tanner; and three grandchildren.