

Nolin M. Buchanan (USAF, Retired), 89, of Jacksonville, N.C., and formerly of Franklin, passed away on Thursday, April 26, 2007, of pneumonia, with his daughter, Ruby Ann Coston, by his side.

Nolin, born and raised in Macon County, was the son of the late Benjamin and Isabelle Thompson Buchanan. He was married for 55 years to the late Edna Grace Huffman, who died in 2000. He was also preceded in death by his 3-year-old son, Robert; three brothers, Wade, William R. "Bill" and Moltan; three sisters, Missouri "Sue," Alethia and Martha Ann; and 8-year-old granddaughter, Karen Norvell.

He grew up on Raphael Thompson-Buchanan lands, Thompson Branch Road of the early 1800s. He attended local schools and was baptized and confirmed as a teenager at Ridge Crest Baptist Church.

Nolin joined the CCC in the 1930s and was assigned to an area beyond Asheville for six months. In the fall of 1939, he joined the U.S. Army and trained at Fort Moultrie, S.C. He visited his parents and family once after training. His first assignment was Panama and after Dec. 7, 1941, he was immediately sent to Camp Davis, N.C., Holly Ridge, Onslow County; Hawaii; then the South Pacific.

The following was published in The Franklin Press: "Nolin M. Buchanan, who is serving with the United States Army Anti-Aircraft Artillery Batalion stationed in the Pacific area, has been promoted to technician fifth grade. He also wears the good conduct ribbon and a bronze battle star on his Asiatic Pacific ribbon for his participation in the Marshalls campaign last year." Nolin served under Admiral Chester Nimitz, U.S. Navy, as well as many other officers during this great sacrifice. For six years, his mother did not see him and his father passed away during this time. He came home in dress uniform and looked great. He was discharged in 1945, when the war had ended.

He married Edna Grace Huffman of Richlands. Work was not plentiful and after a few years, joined the U.S. Air Force, serving approximately 23 years in the military. He and his family were stationed at Savannah, Ga.; Puerto Rico; France; Germany; Greenville, S.C.; and discharged at Myrtle Beach, S.C. Upon his retirement, he bought his home in Jacksonville and lived out his life there.

As a civilian, he worked as a night guard at More Buick-Pontiac, then landscaping, Food-Town Furniture Company, Jacksonville Country Club and Onslow Memorial Hospital.

Retiring again, he was active in his local church. He enjoyed good music, dancing, travel, renewing old friendships, senior citizens activities, outdoor grilling for his many friends, church family and children. He was always witnessing the importance of love and respect. His niece, Monta Raye, described him as "the greatest."

Nolin respected his parents and was a devoted husband, father and grandfather. He was loyal to his friends, active, easy-going, humorous and always smiling.

He is survived by a son, Elmer Lee Buchanan; two daughters, Ruby Ann Coston and husband James and their son Jim, and Linda Rudy and husband Ed-Lyn and Linda's son Jerry Norvell Jr. and wife Kelli, son Kolton and daughter Katie of Dallas, Texas; a sister, Mattie Belle Buchanan of Franklin, who loved him dearly; and several nieces and nephews.

The family received friends Monday, April 30, from 7 to 9 p.m., at Johnson Funeral Home in Jacksonville.

A funeral service was held Tuesday, May 1, at 12:30 p.m., at his church, Cardinal Village Free Will Baptist Church, with Rev. John Moran Jr. officiating.

Nolin's final resting place was beside his wife at Coastal Carolina State Veterans Cemetery in Jacksonville, with full military rites conducted by the U.S. Air Force Honor Guard. Pallbearers were U.S. Air Force. The flag that had draped his coffin was folded and presented to his daughter, Ruby Ann.

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