

Thomas "Tommie" Branton Coleman, 81, of Clayton, died Tuesday, June 17, 2008, at Mountain Lakes Medical Center.

He was born in Rabun County to Mick and Lelar Thompson Coleman. He graduated from Rabun County High School. He served in the ending phase of World War II in the European Theater. He was one of the first four men hired when James Lee Carpets opened its plant in Rabun Gap. He remained with the company, which became Burlington Mills, until his retirement.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, George Coleman and Elcana "Hoss" Coleman.

Survivors include: his wife of 59 years, Ruth; a son, Dr. Mick Coleman of Decatur; a daughter, Pat Coleman of Clayton; and a sister, Edith "Sis" Dixon of Clayton.

A funeral service was held June 19 at Beck Funeral Home. Burial followed at Persimmon Community Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to Persimmon Community Cemetery or to a charity of one's choice.

Beck Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements. An online guestbook is available at www.beckfuneralhome.com.

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