

Norris Cleveland Dockins, 92, of Anderson, S.C., died Monday, May 21, 2007, at his residence.

He was born June 16, 1914, in Clayton to Benjamin and Martha Ledford Dockins. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II and saw action in the European and Pacific theaters. He attended Spartanburg Junior College and re-entered the armed forces in 1948. He was assigned to the Special Services Unit of the 1254th Air Transport Group at Washington National Air Force Base in Washington, D.C., where he served for 17 years. This unit provided transportation for the president. He then joined the Defense Intelligence Agency, where he worked for 11 years until his retirement in 1977. He was the last surviving member of his immediate family.

He was affiliated with the Masonic Order since 1959 and with the Shriners since 1965. He was a Past Master and life member of Henry Knox Field Lodge No. 349 in Alexandria, Va., where he served as secretary for 24 years. He also was Past Master of Fort Hunt Daytime Lodge No. 353 in Mount Vernon, Va. He had a Life Membership in Perpetuity at Hiram Lodge No. 68, Divver Lodge No. 349 and Ruff Lodge No. 240. He joined the Scottish Rite in 1959 and became a 33rd Degree Mason in 1985. He is a life member and past Venerable Master of the Lodge of Perfection of the Alexandria Scottish Rite Bodies.

He returned to South Carolina to be close to family and friends after the death of his wife. He was a member of Riverside Baptist Church in Anderson.

He was preceded in death by: his wife, Sarah Dockins; two brothers, Charlie and J.C. Dockins; and a sister, Genelia Dockins Ivester.

Survivors include: two nieces, Jean Willingham of Anderson and Rita Melton of Indian Shores, Fla.; a grandniece, Brande Yarborough of Anderson; a grandnephew, Zane Yarborough of Anderson; and a special friend, Ruth Aiken of Anderson.

Graveside services with Scottish Rites were held May 24 at New Silver Brook Cemetery with officiating by the Rev. Mike Bowers. Memorial contributions may be made to Spartanburg Methodist College, 1000 Power Mill Road, Spartanburg, SC 29301.

Sullivan-King Mortuary, Downtown Chapel in Anderson, was in charge of arrangements.

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