

Lt. Col. Wheeler J. Morrison

Highly decorated in military career

Lt. Col. Wheeler J. Morrison, 83, of Bellflower, Calif., formerly of Franklin, died June 1, 2003, in a Bellflower hospital after a lengthy illness. He is the son of the late Harley R. Morrison and Anna Jancik Morrison. He was married to the late Barbara Williams of Santa Monica, Calif.

He was commissioned from Officer's Candidate School of the U.S. Army in 1942 and served in Europe during World War II. He saw action with the 40th Infantry Division during the Korean Conflict, 1951-1953. He became a much decorated career Army officer earning the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Korean Service Medal, United Nation's Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, Army Commendation Ribbon with metal pendant, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army Commendation Ribbon with two oak leaf clusters and was entered into the "Golden Book of Soldiers of Verdum" on September 11, 1944. He completed his military career with retirement in 1963.

He went on to finish another career with the California Department of Motor Vehicles as a traffic judge.

He was a member of the Cowee Baptist Church.

He is survived by one daughter, Judy, and husband, Mike Karmelich; one son, Richard and wife, Sondra Morrison; three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; two half-sisters, Jean and husband Eugene Stamey, Dixie and husband, Furman Shook, all of Franklin; and several cousins in South Dakota.

He will be buried at the National Military Cemetery in Riverside, Calif.

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