



Donald Thannhauser Birch

November 7, 1923 - December 31, 2010

DONALD T. BIRCH

Donald T. Birch, 1923-2010, a WWII veteran, passed away on December 31. A memorial service will be held at Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, Tallahassee, FL on Monday, January 3, 2011 at 2:00 pm.

Memorial contributions may be made to Holy Comforter Episcopal Church or The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Born in Winston-Salem, NC, Don lived in Wisconsin, Michigan, Missouri, Illinois, West Virginia, Georgia, and Tallahassee, Florida during his 87 years. During WWII he served as a Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Army, installing electronic counter measures equipment in B29 aircraft in Denver, CO and England, and was awarded 3 Bronze Stars. After WWII, he married Mary O'Quinn from Thomasville, GA. Don leveraged his training in electronics, working in Atlanta, GA as a communications technician for Delta Airlines and then was a part of a fledgling company known as Television Electronics Co. Don moved to Tallahassee in 1949 where he taught electronics at Lively Tech for six years and opened and operated a TV business for four years. In 1959 he went to work for Florida State University where he worked for twenty seven years as an electronics engineer in the FSU Nuclear Physics program,

designing and building specialized electronic instruments and maintaining two large mainframe computer systems, retiring in 1986. Mary, his wife of forty four years, died in 1990. In 1992 he married a new love, Lucene Williams Sims.

Don was preceded in death by his first wife Mary O'Quinn Birch, and his stepson Jerry C. Arline. Don is survived by wife Rev. Lucene Williams Birch, step children Ron Williams (Joan), Caroline Jones (Bill), Michael Williams (Jean), and Lucy Wells (Appie), step grandchildren Connie Heffelfinger, Emily Kuiken, Jerry Arline Jr, Andy Williams (Tara), Becky Williams, Calvin Jones, Matt (Melody) Jones, Derek Jones, Kate Williams, Ken Williams, Appie Wells, and Daniel Wells, and step great grandchildren Shawn Muenich, Jordan and Meagan Heffelfinger, Brooke and Cole Kuiken, Anneliese, Alayna, and Emily Williams.