

## **Henry H. "Hugh" Merritt, Jr.**

Henry Hugh Merritt, Jr, 89, until recently of Virginia Beach, Virginia and residing in Fairfax, Virginia died February 1, 2008. Mr. Merritt was married for more than 60 years to the late Evelyn Gordon Merritt. Mr. Merritt was born in Norfolk, the son of the late Henry Hugh Merritt and Erma Lee Jones Merritt. He was predeceased by two sisters, Hazel Lee Merritt and Edythe Merritt James, and one brother Harry M. Merritt.

He entered the Navy in 1935. At the out break of the WW II he was aboard the USS Canopus, AS-9. He fought as member of the Naval Battalion, on Bataan & Corregidor. He was captured on Corregidor. Subsequently, he was in Bilibid and Cabanatuan 1&3, prison camps. Approximately 14 months before the war ended he was sent to Japan aboard the "Taikoku Maru"; there he performed slave labor in two different copper mines in Hitachi & Ashio until he and the others were liberated.

He remained in the Navy retiring as a CWO-4, upon completion of 30 years service, in 1966. He created the Bataan and Corregidor Memorial at the Little Creek Amphibious Base, doing all of the work himself, except the marble monument, and he maintained the memorial for several years, until health constraints intervened.

He is survived by his son, Gordon Merritt and wife Alice of Fairfax Station, Va., his sister Willie Mae Merritt Pritchard of Virginia Beach, Va.; two grandchildren, Christopher Merritt and wife Pam of Lafayette, Ca., and Lynne Merritt Kain and husband Bill of Midway Ky.; and two great-grandchildren, Graham and Lee Kain.

The family will receive friends on Wednesday, February 6, 2008 from 2: 00 PM to 4:00 PM at H. D. Oliver Funeral Apts., 2002 Laskin Road, Virginia Beach, Va. Burial will be in Arlington National Cemetery on Monday, March 17, 2008, at 11:00 AM.