

## EARL GIVENS RICHARDSON OBT.

**BUFFALO VALLEY** -- Military graveside services for **Earl Givens Richardson**, 83, of



Cookeville, will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, Oct. 24, at Rock Springs Cemetery in Buffalo Valley.

The family will receive friends from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 23, from the chapel of Dyer Funeral Home.

Mr. Richardson died Monday, Oct. 20, 2008, in Bethesda Health Care Center.

He was born March 11, 1925, in Maury County to the late **William Lindsey and Mary Frances (Reid) Richardson**.

Mr. Richardson was a member of the Methodist Church, the Veterans Honor Guard, the Fraternal Order of Police, Al Menah Shriners and AARP. He was retired from the U.S. Government with the Social Security Administration and served as a court officer for Putnam County.

*(Picture: Earl Givens Richardson presenting the U.S.A. flag to Claude Ann Huddleston Burton a descendant of William Jared. The dedication was on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October 2007 at the William Jared Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN. The Honor Guard attended the dedication and presented full military services for William Jared who was a Revolutionary War soldier).*

His family includes **his wife, Sue Denny Richardson** of Cookeville; a daughter and son-in-law, Jean Marie and Bill Hull of Columbia; a sister, Mary Anne Whitworth of Nashville; two stepchildren; four step-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two brothers, William and Lindsey Richardson.

Pallbearers will be representatives from the Veterans Honor Guard.

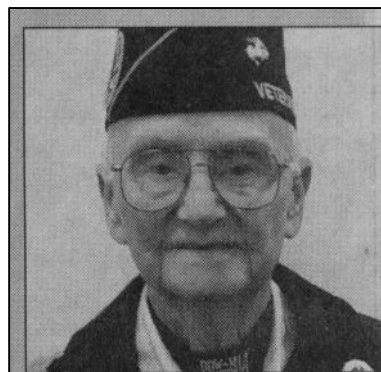
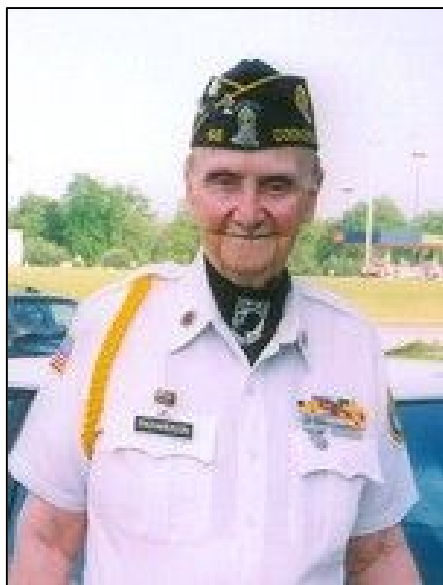
Honorary pallbearers will be Putnam County court officers, judges and attorneys, William Thomas Whitworth Jr., William R. Richardson, Lee Roy Shofner, Walter Kemp and Howard Robinson.

Memorial donations may be made to the Veterans Honor Guard or "The Compassionate Friends."

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: Wednesday, Oct 22, 2008



Barbara Sue (Denny) Richardson & her husband Earl G. Richardson at their home in Putnam Co., TN. 2004



**Earl G.  
Richardson**

Enlisted in Marine Corps in 1943 and attended boot camp at Platoon 594 in San Diego. Served with 4th Marine Division at Iwo Jima. Discharged in 1946.

Joined Reserve unit in Nashville in 1950 for duty in Korea. Was in Reserve Rifle Company until 1966 with a rank of S/Sgt.

## **HONOR AND DUTY**

### **Members of the Veterans Honor Guard volunteer time and energy to honor America's bravest**

By Earl Richardson, Vice Commander, Veterans Honor Guard



Elizabeth Ayres  
Herald-Citizen Staff  
Sunday, May 25, 2008:  
Herald-Citizen, Cookeville,  
TN

From left are Veterans Honor Guard members Greg Nead, unit commander; Wayne Richardson, rifleman; and Earl Richardson, unit vice commander. Herald-Citizen Photo/Ty Kernea

"It's very honorable. I'm very proud to be doing what I am doing."

Veterans Honor Guard unit commander Greg Nead shares his sentiment of being involved with the 18-member volunteer organization as he sits around a table with two of his fellow guard members, vice commander Earl Richardson and rifleman Wayne Christopher.

For anyone who has ever been to a military funeral or even attended a local Veteran's or Memorial Day event, you know who they are. They are the gentlemen who fold the flag, the ones who fire the ominous 21-gun salute whose reverberation rattles you to the core. They come dressed in their polished uniforms of white and black and stand at attention for lengths at a time, whether it be sweltering or snowy, on a sunny day or in a torrential downpour. And they never, repeat, never charge a dime for their services.

Current members of the Veterans Honor Guard range from 65 to 83 -- it is not uncommon for members to serve at several funerals each week, so retirement is actually an advantage in their availability -- but membership is open to servicemen and women of any age who have been honorably discharged from their branch of service.

"The members are veterans of World War II, the Korean Conflict, Vietnam, Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom," said Vic Humeniuk, adjutant and quartermaster of the guard. "They are former Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps servicemen and women. They are (members of) Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts 5025, 6277 and 6296, American Legion Posts 4, 46, 99, 135, 163, 217, 238 and 587, Disabled American Veterans Chapters 7 and 32 and Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 203. They hail from Monterey, Cookeville, Crossville, Fairfield Glade and Sparta.

"The unit works closely with directors of funeral homes located in nine counties. The area served is roughly from Smithville to Fairfield Glade and Celina to Sparta, but there are no set boundaries," Humeniuk said. "The unit has been to Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery west of Nashville, Coalfield, Spring City, McMinnville and once even to Estes, Miss.," where the guard drove for a soldier's burial after a memorial service in Cookeville.

"We will never say 'no,'" said Commander Nead.

The process begins when the family of the deceased notifies the funeral director of their request for the Veterans Honor Guard at the service. The funeral director notifies the adjutant, Humeniuk, who then notifies the members. Numbers vary, but there are always at least eight to 12 members at each service -- seven riflemen, a commander, a bugler to play "Taps" and two flag folders. At the service, the unit commander confers with the funeral director regarding the procedure to be followed. Some families request full military honors while others just ask the guard members to serve as pallbearers. Sometimes "the family wants the prestige Honor Guard members in uniform add to the service," Humeniuk said.

"The current honor guard was first conceived by members of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 741, from Cookeville. Uniforming and training started in 1996," continued Humeniuk. "Shortly thereafter, members of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6277 from Monterey joined the unit. Since then, members of other veterans organizations have joined the ranks. The unit has since adopted its own set of bylaws." Since its inception, as of press time, the Veterans Honor Guard has provided its services at 1,458 funerals.

The Veterans Honor Guard asks for no payment for their services but instead survives on financial support from families of the deceased who make honorariums to the group, funeral homes, a Volunteer Electric Consumer Grant, the general public and the members themselves. Both Budweiser and the Herald-Citizen have made contributions of bugles for the guard members to use in their services.

Members of the Honor Guard are given honorary pins for every 100 funerals they serve, with pins ranging from "100 Funerals" to "1,100 Funerals." Commander Greg Nead, at interview time, was 14 funerals shy of 1,000. Nead, 75, is a Navy veteran who saw action during the Korean Conflict. He also serves as commander for American Legion Post 135. Vice Commander Earl Richardson, 83, is a Marine Corps veteran who fought with the 4th Division in World War II and Iwo Jima and with the 1st Division in the Korean Conflict and the Battle of Seoul in South Korea. He, at interview time, had served at 670 funerals. Rifleman Wayne Christopher, an Air Force vet who served in Vietnam, is the "spring chicken" of the group at 65 years of age. He has served in approximately 150 funerals.

"We are (serving) our contemporaries when we do their funerals," said Nead. "I feel honored that we are honoring boys we went to boot camp with, those we served with."

Richardson shared that, within the last six months, he has served at the burials of a foxhole buddy in Iwo Jima and his squad leader in Korea.

"But I find that, the younger the soldier is, the harder it is for us," said Christopher. "It feels like I help the family, showing respect to the deceased."

"It's hard to tell you about the job that we do," Richardson said. "I know it's a job that needs to be done. I'm honored to be a part of this organization and participate in these funerals. I can't think of anything that would give me more satisfaction."

\*See Veteran Honor Guard, Chapter 5 and Denny files at:

<http://www.ajlambert.com>

Source: Maury County Tennessee Maury County Historical Society: ISBN: 1-56311-452-6.

**RICHARDSON – SEGRAVES** (Pgs. 413-414).

**Dorothy Marie “Dot” Seagraves. Dot was born June 13, 1924 in Maury County, TN, the only child of William Lewis “Will” and Lora Willis (Weatherford) Seagraves.**

Will was born February 12, 1895 in the Southport community of Maury County, died October 29, 1979, and was the first child of John F. and Florence (McKissick) Seagraves. He graduated from Central High School and later attended Milligan College, Middle Tennessee State Teachers College, and George Peabody College. He taught in the Maury County school system for 14 years, and served as principal at Theta, Ettaton, Sullivan, and Beechland schools. After his retirement from teaching at Beechland, he was employed as a U. S. postal clerk for 30 years. He served two terms as magistrate on the Maury County Quarterly Court. He was a member of the U. S. Civil Service Retirees and the National Retired Teachers Association. He and Lora were married March 20, 1916, and they are both buried in the Glenwood Cemetery. Will had one brother, Frank, who was a commercial teacher at Central High. Frank was born Oct. 17, 1899 and died April 21, 1955. He is buried in Rose Hill.

Lora was, b. March 15, 1896 – d. January 29, 1983, was the sixth child of Willis Riley and Sarah Louvenia (Hickman) Weatherford. Willis Riley was b. July 19, 1861 – d. October 13, 1938. Sarah Louvenia was b. September 3, 1863 – d. April 1, 1929, and was the child of Noah and Nancy (Walker) Hickman. Lora's brothers and sisters were Lee Roy, b. January 30 1883; Felix, b. September 9, 1885; Lucy, b. March 6, 1887; Bertie, b. November 30, 1890; Cleave, b. November 9, 1892; Odie, b. November 23, 1898; Alpha, b. June 19, 1901; Bailey, b. October 14, 1903 and Hazle, b. August 28, 1907.

**Dot married Earl Givens Richardson and they had one daughter, Jean Marie, b. October 23, 1951 in Maury County, TN. She married William Edward “Bill” Hull and they live in Columbia where she teaches music at Baker School. Dot retired from U. S. Department of Agriculture with 25 years of service. She is a member of Highland Church of Christ.**