

## ROY HUGH SULLIVAN CELEBRATES HIS 99TH BIRTHDAY

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Herald-Citizen Staff  
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Roy Hugh Sullivan, left, shakes the hand of Billy G. Smith from Congressman Bart Gordon's office after receiving a plaque honoring him on his 99th birthday. Herald-Citizen Photo/Ty Kernea



**COOKEVILLE** -- Roy Hugh Sullivan received quite the surprise for his 99th birthday Tuesday. As family and friends gathered to celebrate, Billy G. Smith of Congressman Bart Gordon's office dropped by with a special gift -- a plaque with a message from the congressman himself.

On it was the following inscription: "To Col. Roy Hugh Sullivan. Dear Col. Sullivan, congratulations on celebrating your 99th birthday. You are to be commended for your hard work and dedication to our country. You have

created quite a legacy for the citizens of our community and our nation to follow. I wish you a special day filled with many pleasant memories. All my best, Congressman Bart Gordon." "That's nice, isn't it? Bart Gordon. He's done some good things," said Sullivan. "In addition to this," he then added with a smile. Sullivan also received a birthday card from Congressman Lincoln Davis. The card read: "Col. Roy Hugh Sullivan, happy 99th birthday. Thank you for your service for all Americans. I wish you a happy birthday, surrounded by your family and many friends. Lincoln Davis, member of Congress."

In addition to being a former Algood basketball coach, Sullivan also worked as a small arms instructor in Texas and Georgia before joining the military during World War II. After returning home, he worked for the National Guard Armory. He won multiple medals over the years. One of his favorites is the one he won at the University of Tennessee for breaking a state record in the 120 hurdle jump. After handing the plaque and card to Sullivan, Smith told him, "They're recognizing your contribution to this country and to this county in particular, and we're certainly privileged and proud to have you among us."

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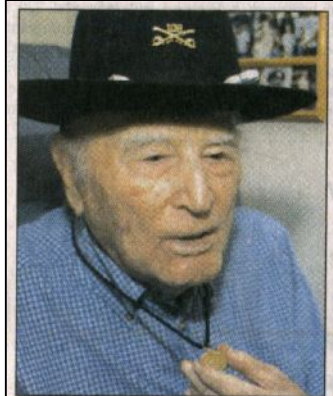
### **Roy Hugh Sullivan Obt.**

b. 1 September 1910, Clay Co., TN – d. 15 February 2010, Monterey, TN, md on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February 1935, Albany, KY to **Patricia (Davis) Sullivan**, b. 23 May 1917, Cookeville, TN – d. 4 December 2007, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN, d/o **Ezra Davis & Arie Rena Bullock**. Roy Hugh Sullivan is buried in the Cookeville City Cemetery, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN.

**COOKEVILLE** -- Funeral services for Col. Roy Hugh Sullivan, 99, of Cookeville will be held Saturday, Feb. 20, at 1 p.m. from the Cookeville chapel of Hooper-Huddleston & Horner Funeral Home. Burial will be in Cookeville City Cemetery. Family will receive friends Friday, Feb. 19, from 5-7 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 20, from noon until time of services at the funeral home. Col. Sullivan died Monday, Feb. 15, 2010, at Standing Stone Care and Rehab Center in Monterey.

He was born Sept. 1, 1910, in Clay County to the late Amburs and Hallie Daniel Sullivan. Col. Sullivan

was a member of Cookeville First Cumberland Presbyterian Church. He graduated from Tennessee Tech in 1934, and while there he earned eight varsity letters in basketball and track. After graduation, he began a



Herald-Citizen Photo/Ty Kemea  
**Roy Hugh Sullivan, 98, shows off one of the many medals he has won over the years. This one is from setting a state record in the 120 hurdle jump.**

teaching and coaching career in East Tennessee. His military career, which spanned 34 years, began in 1936, when he enlisted in the 109th Cavalry, Tennessee National Guard. He was later commissioned as a lieutenant in the Horse Cavalry and was called to active duty in early 1940. He served at Fort Hood, Texas, Fort Benning, Ga., and the Pacific Theater during World War II. In 1946, he returned to Cookeville and resumed coaching, this time at Algood High School. During his tenure there, his teams enjoyed great success. Many of his former players kept in touch and honored him with a visit on his 99th birthday. After the war he was instrumental in reforming the National Guard in this area and served as the battalion commander of the local unit. His military career then took him to full-time service at National Guard Headquarters in Nashville until his retirement. He later served as an instructor at TTU for several years.

His family includes his daughter, Sharon Angel of Cookeville; two sons and daughters-in-law, Charles and Pat Sullivan of Gloucester, Va., and Dan and Charlotte Sullivan of Saluda, N.C.; a sister, Eula Hawkins of

Nashville; a son-in-law, Courtney LaFon of Alpharetta, Ga.; nine grandchildren, Heather Croy of Richmond, Va., Cathlin Norris of London, England, Colleen Sullivan of Cold Springs, N.Y., Jeff Angel of Clarkesville, Ga., Jonathan Angel of Cookeville, Christopher LaFon of New York, N.Y., Kyle LaFon of Birmingham, Ala., Heath LaFon of Alpharetta and Erica Sullivan of Saluda; and eight great-grandchildren. In addition to his parents, Col. Sullivan was preceded in death by his wife of over than 72 years, Patricia Davis Sullivan; a daughter, Maureen LaFon; and a son-in-law, Jim Angel. Pallbearers will be family and friends. Dr. Wesley Henry and Revs. Jonathan and Erin Angel will officiate the services. Hooper-Huddleston & Horner Funeral Home (931-526-6111) is in charge of arrangements. You may share your thoughts and memories at [www.hhhfunerals.com](http://www.hhhfunerals.com).

Wednesday, Feb 17, 2010: Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN

\*Read more about the citizens of Putnam Co., TN at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>