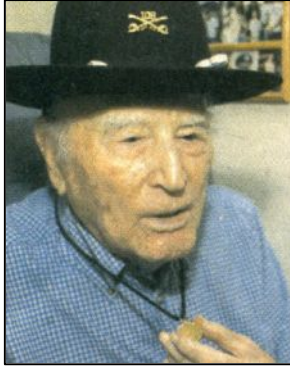


SHARPSHOOTER TALKS ABOUT HIS 98 YEARS

By Megan Trotter: Herald-Citizen Staff

COOKEVILLE – On Sept. 1, 2008, Roy Hugh Sullivan reached a milestone in his life that not everyone can boast of achieving. He celebrated his 98th birthday.



And what does he attribute to his long life?

“I never smoked a cigarette in my life,” he said. “I never took a drink of whiskey in my life. Most people wouldn’t believe that, but it’s true. I was interested in athletics, and I knew if I didn’t train and take care of myself, I couldn’t do any good.”

(Pictured: 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.)

Born in Clay County, Sullivan moved to Cookeville when he graduated high school to study at Tennessee Polytechnic (now Tennessee Tech). He graduated from college in 1934.

“When I was a teenager, it was the Depression days,” said Sullivan. “The largest grocery was on the west side of Cookeville and Roger Manning owned it. He was out on the sidewalk and he had a carton of oranges, and he was yelling out, ‘Big, sweet oranges! A dime a dozen! Imagine oranges for a dime a dozen! You couldn’t even buy one (for that price) now. And gasoline was a quarter a gallon too.’”

In 1935, he married Patty Davis. They were married 72 years before her death in December of 2007.

“Daddy, says they never had a disagreement. Mother didn’t agree with that, but daddy says they never had a harsh word,” chuckled his daughter, Sharon Angel.

Sullivan worked as a small arms instructor in Texas and in Georgia before joining the military.

“I was in the Philippines when World War II ended,” Sullivan said. “They asked me if I wanted to go to Japan and serve a year and get promoted to a Major. I said ‘My family means more to me. I appreciate your offer, but I want to go back to my family. I’d rather go home and see my family than (even) be promoted to a colonel right now.’”

After coming home to be with his family, Sullivan worked for the National Guard Armory, which offered a steady job close to home.

“It was a really good job. There was no pressure, I could stay at home, I could even come (home) to lunch,” said Sullivan.

Sullivan won multiple medals from national shooting matches over the years. He keeps 12 years-worth of them in a drawer at home. He remembers that he started shooting when he was big enough to hold a gun and that he did his best shooting with a pistol. Friends say he could shoot a paper target clean in half” – when facing it from the side.

One of his favorite medals is a track and field award he won at the Universality of Tennessee for breaking a state record for the 120 hurdle jump. According to his children, he kept that record for many years.

Sullivan and his wife had four children. In addition to Sharon, they also had Charles and Dan Sullivan and the now late Maureen LaFon. He laughs when he tells about his youngest son’s birth.

“When the doctor was about to deliver him, I said, ‘doctor, I’ve got two girls and one son. How about giving me a son this time?’

And you know, the doctor came in there after Danny was born and said, “Your baby’s in the nursery, just like the doctor ordered.””

Even though Sullivan left the military to be with his family, his life was far from dull.

“After the war was over, he coached (basketball) at Algood for four years, but in the meantime, he was the 1st battalion commander of the local National Guard unit,” said Charles. “And then when he stopped coaching in Algood, he was a partner in an automotive dealership here for two years. Then he worked in Nashville full time for the National Guard until 1968.”

Now Sullivan spends his time reading Westerns, watching sports, and keeping up with the daily news. He celebrated his birthday this week surrounded by family and friends while enjoying some birthday cake. However, no candles adorned the top this year.

“If we had 98 candles, we’d have to get the fire department on standby,” laughed Sharon.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: Sunday, 7 September 2008, pg. A-7.

Patricia (Davis) Sullivan Obt.

*See Roy Hugh Sullivan Obt.

COOKEVILLE -- Funeral services for Patricia Davis Sullivan, 90, of Cookeville will be held Friday, Dec. 7, at 1 p.m. from the Cookeville chapel of Hooper-Huddleston & Horner Funeral Home (www.hhhfunerals.com).

Burial will be in Cookeville Cemetery.

Family will receive friends Thursday, Dec. 6, from 5-7 p.m. and Friday, Dec. 7, from noon until time of services at the funeral home.

Mrs. Sullivan died Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2007, at her residence.

She was born May 23, 1917, in Cookeville to the late Ezra and Arie Bullock Davis.

Mrs. Sullivan was a homemaker and member of Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

Her family includes her husband of more than 72 years, Roy Hugh Sullivan (whom she married Feb. 3, 1935, in Albany, Ky.); a 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 son-in-law, Courtney LaFon of Alpharetta, Ga.; nine grandchildren, Heather Croy of Richmond, Va., Cathlin Norris of Creedenhill, England, Colleen Sullivan of Cold Spring, N.Y., Jeff Angel of Clarkesville, Ga., Jonathan Angel of Cookeville, Christopher LaFon of Atlanta, Ga., Kyle LaFon of Alpharetta, Ga., Heath LaFon of Athens, Ga., and Erica Sullivan of Saluda, N.C.; and eight great-grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, Mrs. Sullivan was preceded in death by a daughter, Maureen LaFon; a son-in-law, Jim Angel; a sister, Mary B. Huddleston; and three brothers, Albert, Eugene and Hubert Davis.

(Photo: Roy Hugh Sullivan, Herald-Citizen: Sun. 7 Sept. 2008, front page. *See Sharpshooter talks about his 98 years in the Putnam County history files at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>)

Pallbearers will be family and friends.

Revs. Jonathan and Erin Angel will officiate the services.

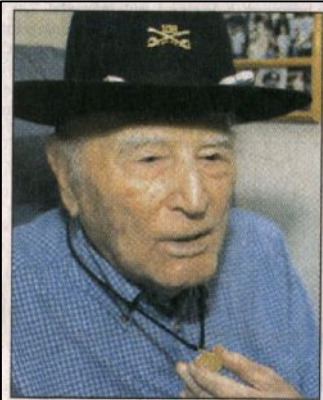
Published December 05, 2007 11:39 AM CST: Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN

Roy Hugh Sullivan Obt.

b. 1 September 1910, Clay Co., TN – d. 15 February 2010, Monterey, TN

*See Patricia (Davis) Sullivan Obt.

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.



Herald-Citizen Photo/Ty Kernea
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.

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 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.

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

*See other history items & Cookeville City Cemetery at <http://www.ajlambert.com>