



## Oliver Craig Allen

March 14, 1921 - July 15, 2015

Services for Oliver Craig Allen, 94, of Tyler, will be held on Monday, July 20, 2015 at 10:00 AM at Marvin United Methodist Church with Dr. Doug Baker and Rev. Gerry Giles officiating.

Gerry Giles will be officiating a graveside service at Spring Hill Cemetery in Paris, Texas on Monday July 20 at 3:00 PM under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home.

Mr. Allen Passed away Wednesday, July 15, 2015 in Tyler.

He was born March 14, 1921 in Lamar County to Ellis Aubrey and Mamie England Allen.

Mr. Allen was a member of Marvin United Methodist Church. He graduated from Paris High School in 1939, and Paris Junior College in 1941. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree and Masters of Arts degree from East Texas State University (now Texas A&M – Commerce).

Oliver served in the Army Air Corps and obtained the rank of Staff Sargent. Oliver was serving in the Philippines in the 19th Bomb Group, 7th Materiel Squadron, at Clark Field when it was bombed by the Japanese on December 8, 1941, just hours after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

As World War II began, Oliver's squadron covered about half a mile of the front lines in the Philippines. He was captured by the Japanese forces on April 9, 1942. Oliver survived the Bataan Death March and was held at Camp O'Donnell. He then served on a bridge detail repairing the bridge over the river Penaranda, after which he was held at Camp Cabanatuan.

In October 1942 he and his fellow Allied prisoners of war traveled on the Totoro Maru to Korea, and he was held until the end of World War II in a Japanese prisoner of war camp in Mukden, Manchuria. His camp was liberated by American forces on August 14, 1945. During his captivity, Oliver suffered from scurvy, dysentery, malaria, frostbite, and starvation.

Mr. Allen was a member of several Prisoner of War and World War II societies, including the American Ex-Prisoners of War, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Battling Bastards of Bataan. Oliver often talked about his experiences, and has spoken at numerous schools and public forums, including invited talks at Texas A&M University. Having had a strong desire to share his story, he and Mildred wrote *Abandoned on Bataan* in 2002.

Mr. Allen had a long career as a school teacher, much beloved by generations of students, to whom his love of learning was infectious.

Oliver was preceded in death by his parents, his brother Clifford Allen, and his daughter Bonnie Cathryn Allen.

He is survived by his loving family including his wife of 68 years, Mildred Dougan Allen; sons, Danny Ray Allen and wife Georganne of Tyler and Timothy Craig Allen and wife Fran of League City; grandchildren, Adrienne Leach and husband Chris of Tyler, Andrew Allen of Tyler, Caitlin Allen and Erin Allen of League City.

Honorary pallbearers will be The Crusaders Sunday School Class and Oliver's cousins.

Visitation is scheduled from 4:00 – 6:00 PM on Sunday July 19, 2015 at Stewart Family Funeral Home, 7525 Old Jacksonville Highway, in Tyler; and on Monday July 20 at 4:00 PM at First United Methodist Church, Paris, Texas. If desired, memorials may be made to Marvin United Methodist Church, in memory of Oliver's love of God; and to Service 2 School ([www.service2school.org](http://www.service2school.org)) in memory of his dedication to and caring for his fellow soldier, and his life-long passion for learning.

# Cemetery Details

## Springhill Cemetery

Farm Road 2648  
Paris, TX 75462

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL **19**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Stewart Family Funeral Home  
7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy  
Tyler, TX 75703  
(903) 581-2008

# Tribute Wall

MN

“ *Mr. Allen was my 7th grade history teacher at Fourth Ward in Paris . He was a great teacher and and a wonderful man. I have thought about him for years and loved listening to his stories in class .*

*A true hero for sure .*

*Monty Nowell*

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**Monty Nowell** - July 21, 2015 at 08:14 AM

PW

“ *A few years ago I read "Abandoned on Bataan" written by Mr.Allen and his wife Mildred. I was very moved by his story. I had intentions to call or write to them, and I regret that I didn't. His perseverance and courage were incredible, as he and many others suffered atrocities that most of us will never understand. God bless the family who survives him. He is truly an American hero. Let us never forget what they gave to us. Peggy Wilmeth, Lindale.*

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**Peggy Wilmeth** - July 19, 2015 at 02:31 PM

RY

“ Mr Oliver Allen and I first met nearly 40 years ago. Over the years I have come to find that Mr Allen is a true American hero in many ways. Besides his tremendous service to our nation, he is a true American hero to his family and anyone along the way that could be helped by another kind human being. The exemplary way of living his life I'm sure has been noticed by many and has had a positive effect on more than could be imagined. He will be missed. My thoughts and prayers are for his family to be comforted knowing he is with our Lord.  
Randy Yates

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**Randy Yates** - July 19, 2015 at 08:27 AM

DB

“ I was bless to have worked with Mr. Allen at NuTech. He would tell us about being a POW during WWII. I wished every American could here his biography or read about it in his book. Mr. Allen was a wonderful man, husband, a super dad and grandfather, and to me an American Hero. I pray for God's comfort and strength to his family in their time of loss. I will miss him.  
  
With Love and Prayers,  
David Burden and Family

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**David Burden** - July 19, 2015 at 07:16 AM

BS

“ Blazer Mechanical Services purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Oliver Craig Allen.



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**Blazer Mechanical Services** - July 17, 2015 at 03:27 PM

EL

“ *Ed & Ashley (Dougan) Spoto- Madison & Laney purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Oliver Craig Allen.*



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**Ed & Ashley (Dougan) Spoto- Madison & Laney** - July 17, 2015 at 11:10 AM

JD

“ *Jerry & Sharron Dougan purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Oliver Craig Allen.*



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**Jerry & Sharron Dougan** - July 16, 2015 at 09:21 PM