

Robert O'Mara

Robert Marshall O'Mara, 78, died Sunday, June 9, 2002, at his home in Lexington. He was born on September 17, 1923 in Mt. Vernon, the son of Thomas Coyle O'Mara and Lella Mae Lovell O'Mara. He was the youngest of their five children. He graduated from Mt. Vernon High School in 1942. After Pearl Harbor, he joined the Army Air Force and served throughout World War II. He flew 53 combat missions as a radio operator and gunner in a B-25 in the 12th Army, 321st Bomb Group during the invasions of North Africa, Sicily and Italy. He returned to the states, but soon volunteered for another tour of active duty. He served as a radio operator in C-47s flying in the 27 Troop Carrier Squadron, part of the 14th Air Force (the famed Flying Tigers) operating in the China-Burma-India theatre. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross with oak leaf cluster, the air Medal with nine clusters, two Presidential Unit Citations and the Chinese Award for Service.

After the war, he attended the University of Kentucky on the GI Bill from 1945-1949 studying engineering. While there, he met Ruby Carroll Jesse. They were married on June 4, 1950 and had two sons, Robert Michael and William Thomas.

Bob was a civil engineer for the Kentucky Department of Highways. He started his work for the highway department in Mt. Vernon as supervisor of a survey crew and worked his way up to District Traffic Engineer for the Louisville district, where he spent most of his career. He graduated from Northwestern University's Traffic Institute in 1966. During this tenure, he developed his strong desire to never see snow again after working through the many weather related problems while in Louisville. But he was most proud of his success at upgrading the pay for many of his staff while there.

He was active in the Boy Scouts, serving as Cubmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster and finally District Commissioner. He was a member of the Order of the Arrow and coached

his two sons to attain the rank of Eagle Scout. Despite his diminutive stature, he coached football, helping to organize a YMCA youth league football team. Then, following his typical pattern, he stepped back to a supporting role and became the play-by-play announcer for the high school football team. He was an active member of Lion's International and served as President of the Fern Creek Lion's Club and attended state, national and international conventions.

After retiring from the Highway Department in 1979, he and Ruby moved to Fort Myers, Florida and stayed for 19 years. Bob became involved in the community as they formed a homeowners corporation. He served as Secretary, VP of Publication and President of the Plantation Estates Homeowners Association. He and Ruby returned to Kentucky in 1998 to be closer to family.

Bob loved history and was an extraordinary avid reader, from the most recent mystery novel to nonfiction books on subjects from A to Z. He was proud of his Irish Heritage and researched his family tree. He enjoyed photography, travel, crafts and became a computer nut in his later years.

But most of all he was proud of his family, his son, Mike and wife, Peggy; his son, Bill and wife, Judy; his grandchildren, Christine Coleen VanBuren and her husband, Billy, Erin Kelly O'Mara, Shannon Martin O'Mara, Megan Martin O'Mara and Lauren Martin O'Mara and his great grandchildren, William Cody VanBuren and Kelly Lynn VanBuren.

Survivors include a brother, Thomas Coyle O'Mara, Jr., of Ronoak, Virginia; a sister, Marguerite McDaniel of St. Petersburg, Florida and his wife, Ruby Carroll O'Mara, along with nieces, nephews, his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Memorial services will be conducted at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, June 15 at the Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church, 3534 Tate's Creek Road, Lexington. Private interment will be at Duncan Memorial Cemetery, Crestwood. The family request no flowers and memorials to your choice of charity.

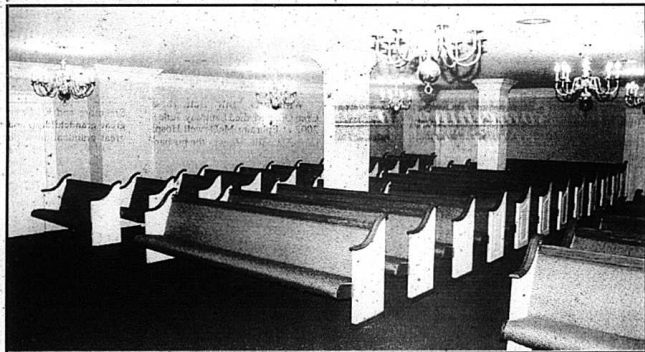
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Cemetery Notices

Pine Hill Cemetery

Anyone who would like to send donations for the upkeep of Pine Hill Cemetery please send to: Lorene Ponder at 314 Jessica Circle, Richmond, KY 40475.

High Dry Cemetery

Anyone who would like to send donations for the upkeep of the High Dry Cemetery please send to: High Dry Cemetery, c/o Jonett Phelps, RR 6 Box 480Q, Mt. Vernon, KY 40456. Any and all donations will be appreciated.

New Daugherty Cemetery

Anyone wishing to make donations for the upkeep of the New Daugherty Cemetery at Red Hill please send them to George Shackelford, PO Box 32, Lexington, KY 40445 or call 453-4901. Any donations are needed and will be greatly appreciated!

Piney Grove Cemetery

All flowers and decorations need to be removed from the ground by June 14, 2002. If not removed by June 14th, mowers will move them on this date. Flowers and decorations on stone will be O.K. to leave in place. Thanks for your corporation and support.

Johnetta Cemetery

Donations needed for the upkeep and maintenance of Johnetta Cemetery. Please send to: Harold D. Ballinger, 507 Thane Link, McKee, KY 40447.

Sowder Cemetery

Anyone who would like to send donations for the upkeep of the Sowder Cemetery please send to William Hasty, 25 Shirley St., Mt. Vernon, KY 40456.

Tom Stephens Cemetery

An account has been set up for the upkeep of the Tom Stephens Cemetery (located beside the First Church of Jesus Christ in Sand Springs).

Anyone wishing to make a donation for the upkeep of the cemetery may do so by sending them to: Tom Stephens Cemetery Fund, PO Box 16, Mt. Vernon, KY 40456. Committee members are Benny Miller, Jay Brown, Jason Brown and Harold Woodall.

Smith Cemetery

Donations are needed for the mowing and upkeep of Smith Cemetery on Red Hill Road. Anyone that has loved ones buried there and can give a donation, it would be greatly appreciated. Please send to Smith Cemetery, c/o Marvin Smith, Rt. 2 Box 384, Lexington, KY 40445.

Red Hill Cemetery

It is time for mowing and cleaning the Red Hill Cemetery. This will be taken care of by Marie Ruppe again this year. Anyone interested in helping in anyway, it will be appreciated. Thank you, Marie Ruppe, Rt. 2 Box 325, Lexington, KY 40445 or call 453-3875.

Livesay Cemetery

Donations for the upkeep and mowing of the Livesay Cemetery need to be sent to Gloria Livesay Seals, Rt. 3 Box 622, Brodhead, KY 40409.

Roberts Cemetery "Old Freedom"

This has been a very trying year. Due to the wet spring after fertilizer was spread on the cemetery to help smother out the weeds and thicken the grass, donated by Bro. Don Cummins, we mowed the grass 13 times from May 30, 2001-May 30, 2002. We also filled sunken graves with dirt. Removed a tree that fell across the fence in the back and repaired the fence. Expense - \$386.00. Received in 2001 - \$761.00. Thank you for your support we need your support continue to keep up the cemetery. Please send donations to: John D. Cromer, Rt. 3 Box 830, Brodhead, KY 40409 or Community Trust Bank, PO Box 157, Mt. Vernon, KY 40456, acct. #002-721-100-7

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