

Gaillard Morris Frederickson, 83

Dec. 19, 1915 - May 3, 1999

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama - Gaillard Morris Frederickson, 83, Birmingham, Alabama, died May 3, 1999. Born in Harlan, Iowa, on Dec. 19, 1915, he was the first son of Morris and Anna Frederickson.

Gaillard was a graduate of Harlan High School and the University of Iowa, Iowa City, College of Business, where he graduated first in his class. After college he went to work for his lifelong employer in New York City -- Equitable Life Assurance.

In the middle of his business career, he joined the Army Air Corp. and earned his pilots wings while flying the twin engine A-20, a light attack, low level bomber/gunner. He was sent to the South Pacific and based in New Guinea. He earned the Purple Heart for his 68 missions over occupied enemy territory from which the Japanese were attacking U.S. shipping and troops. During his 35th mission, he was shot down and wounded over enemy waters and lost his gunner in the battle. His plane crashed and sank in the Pacific and, for 12 hours, floated alone in the ocean amidst sharks and enemy patrol boats, before he was rescued by an amphibian sea plane. After recovering from his injuries, he went back on flight status, flying 33 more missions. Near the end of WWII, he served in Washington, D.C. in the Adjutant General's Office.

After WWII, Equitable Insurance transferred him in 1946 to their Birmingham office, where he served as an administrative manager for Alabama and northern Florida until his retirement in 1978, earning the title bestowed upon him by his fellow employees of, "Mr. Integrity."

On August 5, 1951, he married Sally (Porter) Frederickson and they had one son, Robert Frederickson, M.D.

He was an active member of the Birmingham's First Christian Church where he was a Sunday school teacher, deacon, twice chair of church board along with many other volunteer activities and organizations.

Services were held May 6, 1999 at the First Christian Church, with burial at the Southern Heritage Cemetery in Birmingham. He is survived by his wife, Sally; son, Dr. Robert and wife, Lyn; granddaughter, Amy; grandson, Mark Muir and wife, Kristie; sisters: Bernadine White and Irene Mores, Harlan, Iowa. Memorials may be sent to the First Christian Church, music department in Birmingham, Alabama.

Gaillard's father, Morris, was a prominent Harlan builder and leader having constructed the former Harlan Library, First Baptist Church, former Harlan City Hall and over 60 area homes. He also served on the Harlan Municipal Utilities Board and was a leader and board member in the development of Myrtue Memorial Hospital.

