



John Wilton Cormier

December 8, 1918 - February 20, 2014

John Wilton Cormier, 95, died Thursday, February 20, 2014, at his home in Breaux Bridge, Louisiana.

He was born December 8, 1918, in Parks, Louisiana. He attended Breaux Bridge High School and married Kathryn Joslin of Joplin, Missouri, on August 11, 1943. She preceded him in death in 2004.

He joined the United States Marine Corps in 1936, following the basic course of instruction at Camp Beauregard, Louisiana. He qualified as a pistol marksman and gun range finder operator and served aboard the U.S.S. Wyoming from January 1938 to December 1939. During World War II, he served as a bugler and an anti-aircraft machine gun crewman in the Pacific aboard the U.S.S. Springfield.

Sgt. Cormier was honorably discharged in November 1945. After the war, under the G.I. Bill, he studied business at Strayer College in Washington D.C. He worked as a guard at the Library of Congress in Washington D.C. before and after the war. In 1972, the library's information bulletin noted his presence in the Capitol Rotunda when he and other members of the library's special police force paid their respect to the memory of J. Edgar Hoover—a library employee before his career in the FBI—as the lawman's body lay in state. His favorite vacation spot was his mother's kitchen. Captain Cormier retired from the Library of Congress in 1973.

After the Cormiers retired—Kathryn Cormier also retired from the Library of Congress--they moved to Joplin, Missouri, and Mr. Cormier regularly engaged

his father-in-law, William E. Joslin, in games of checkers.

Never a casual dresser, he rarely appeared in public without a tie, even years after retirement when mowing the lawns of elderly relatives. Never in a hurry but always punctual, he collected wristwatches and mantel clocks without obsessing over the nature of time. A quiet man, he never demanded respect, but inspired it just the same.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Cormier was preceded in death by his parents, Aubin and Edith Hebert Cormier; his brothers, Gussey and Leroy Cormier; and his sister, Jeannette Broussard.

Survivors include: three sisters-in-law and one brother-in-law, Anne Cormier of Farmington, Maine, Georgia Ann Joslin of Columbia, Missouri, and Ermanell and Meryl Olinger of Houston, Texas; 17 nieces and nephews; and special friend Levie Sonnier of Breaux Bridge, Louisiana.

The family thanks his caregiver, Myrtle Lasseigne, and the members of the Amedisys Hospice of Breaux Bridge, Louisiana. A memorial service will be held at Ulmer Funeral Home, Carthage, Missouri, at 2 p.m., Saturday, March 1, 2014, with interment immediately following at Powers Cemetery, east of Diamond.