



Van Chapman

September 29, 1924 - September 5, 2011

Van Chapman, 86, of Searcy, died Monday, September 5, 2011 at White County Medical Center. He was born September 29, 1924 in Griffithville, Arkansas the son of the late George Benjamin "Ben" and Pansy Chapman. Van grew up in Griffithville on a small family farm, a child of the Great Depression. He was a 1942 graduate of Griffithville High School, where he was valedictorian. After high school, he briefly attended Arkansas State Teachers College before enlisting in the United States Army on March 15, 1943, where he served with the 252nd Port Co. TC, Calcutta, India, in World War II.

After discharge from active duty on May 17, 1946, Van returned to college. He graduated from the University of Arkansas School of Law in 1952. After graduation, he moved to Searcy and opened a law practice on the town square. He continued his military service in the U. S. Army Reserve and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1970. Until recently, he owned and managed a large tax consulting firm in Searcy, where he enjoyed serving his many diverse clients. He also worked as a real estate broker.

Van was an active member of the First Christian Church in Searcy. A proud veteran, he was a member of VFW Post 2330, where he recently served as quartermaster. He was also a member and past president of the Searcy Lions Club, a member and past president of the White County Democratic Club, and a member of the University of Arkansas Alumni Association.

Van was a lifetime fan of the St. Louis Cardinals. He was also a loyal

Razorback football fan and a supporter of the University of Arkansas Razorback Foundation. He valued hard work and education, and enjoyed reading and discussions of world and national politics and history. He enjoyed many years of travel with his wife, Glenda, to varied destinations in Europe, the old Soviet Union, Asia, Africa, and North and South America.

Van was predeceased by his first wife, Mary Beth Chapman; seven brothers, Hiram, Ralph, Gordon, Roger, Wayne, Neil, and Doyle "Kelly" Chapman; and by a grandson, James David Ahillen. He is survived by his wife of thirty-eight years, Glenda Fry Chapman; three sons, David Chapman (Marty) of Bella Vista; Dick Chapman (Judy) of Little Rock, and Donald Hiram Chapman of Searcy; one daughter, Amy Hall (Joe); one stepson, Dennis Choate (Phyllis); three stepdaughters, Diane and Denise Choate, and Debbie Ahillen (Jim); 12 grandchildren; 9 great grandchildren; one great-great grandchild; his brother Keith Chapman of Anchorage, Alaska; a sister-in-law, Mary Chapman of Griffithville; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday at the Powell Funeral Home of Searcy. Funeral Services will be Friday at 10:00 a.m. at the First Christian Church on Highway 36 in Searcy with interment to follow at 1:00 p.m. at the Arkansas State Veterans Cemetery at 1501 W. Maryland Avenue in North Little Rock.

Memorials may be made to the First Christian Church of Searcy.

Tribute Wall

CY

“ Van was a faithful member of the Searcy Lions Club. Recently, he was one of five members who were honored for their service. Among them they had 250 years of service to the citizens of White County through the Lions Club. At out Tuesday luncheons, he could always be counted on to offer a "happy dollar" when the Razorbacks won! We send our heartfelt condolences to his family and friends.

Cheri Yecke - March 29, 2013 at 02:11 PM

MP

“ We are are sorry for your loss. We will keep you in our prayers. May God bless and keep you. He will be missed.

Mark and Julie Pate - March 29, 2013 at 02:11 PM

JC

“ Glenda, David, Dick, Amy & Hiram,

I was so sorry to hear of Uncle Van's passing. I have so many nice memories of him from over the years, many of them involving Razorback football (of course!). I know he will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Jill Chapman Collins - March 29, 2013 at 02:11 PM

LE

“ Dear Family, So sorry for your loss. I will always think of him every time thr Hogs make a first down. He would throw an elbow my way and he expected the cheer to be done by all in his group. What a true Hog fan. The stadium will be a little more quiet...thanks for the best seats in Reynolds. -L.M.H.

Leah - March 29, 2013 at 02:11 PM

JS

“ I am sure I speak on behalf of all your fellow members of Razorback Basha, CHina-Burmi-Indian vets...in sending our sincere sympathy. I served as secretary for several years and got to know Van very well. He was such a happy, easy to like person and added so much to our meetings.

Jim Lide sent me an e-mail, I missed the obit in the Gazette on the 8th. Sorry.

We lost another Basha member--Bob White of Stuttgart--at the same time.

My best personal regards to you & your family. Sincerely, June

June Spann - March 29, 2013 at 02:11 PM

DC

“ I want to thank my father for all the things he taught me and the things he allowed me to learn on my own. The world is missing him already, with thw exception of the IRS.

I could feel him cheering the Cardinals in the WS's and I will always hear him call those HOGS!

donald hiram chapman - March 29, 2013 at 02:11 PM

SG

“ *I cherish the memories of all the football games we went to, which were a lot. So many memories. I guarantee I'm a hardcore democrat because of you teaching me this since day 1. And it stuck! I love you and will miss you*

Sarah Ahillen Guthrie - September 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM