



# **Rex Landreth Brasher, Sr.**

JUN 2, 1920 - SEP 23, 2012



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# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 5



## **Rex Landreth Brasher, Sr.**

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**R**ex Landreth Brasher, Sr., resident of Memphis, Tennessee, passed away on the 23rd day of September, 2012, at the age of 92, after a long battle with alzheimers. He was a resident of Baptist Trinity Hospice at the time of his death. He was born in Sarepta, Calhoun County, Mississippi, on June 2, 1920; he briefly attended school in Calhoun County, Mississippi, Training School on the Memphis State College campus, and Messick High School. He was graduated from Messick in 1938 where he was Senior Class President, played on the football team, and boxed in the Amateur Golden Gloves competition. He had an art scholarship to study in Florence, Italy, in 1939, but the war in Europe intervened and he had to turn it down. He attended Memphis State College and The Memphis Academy of Art. Rex joined the United States Army Air Force in June of 1941 when war appeared inevitable; he was selected to attend officer candidate school, but declined to stay with his Memphis friends who volunteered with him; he was trained as an armorer for B17 bombers, learned how to fuse bombs, and became an expert on 30 and 50 caliber machine guns, weapon synchronization, and explosives; upon completion of his Air Force training he was offered a chance to become a fighter pilot flying P40's, which he quickly declined; he flew as a tail gunner on B17's on the east coast hunting German submarines; and was transferred to England in August of 1942 where he was stationed for three years with the 92nd Bomber Group, 327 Squadron, at Alconbury and Podington, England. He was married before shipping out to England; he was discharged as a Staff Sergeant in September, 1945. While in England he went out in the countryside and sketched and painted old churches, cemeteries, castles, and caricatures of military life. He also sketched many of the Squadron's B17's as they returned from missions and kept a notebook of these drawings. He had several exhibitions of his paintings while in England and was profiled in the military newspaper for the 92nd Bomber Group; named as artist of the week for the 92nd



## Obituary

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Bomber Group and had several exhibitions of his art work while in England. Upon his return to Memphis, he began his professional career as a graphic artist and later became a professional commercial photographer. He was a member of the old Memphis Artists Guild and a member and past president of the Memphis Photography Association. He was a docent for the Memphis Belle Association for a number of years and was one of its featured volunteers in its Spring 2003 publication. He was also profiled in the book *Fame's Favored Few* which was written about the 327th and members of that Squadron. He was the owner of Rex Brasher Photography, Inc. for many years and later Brasher-Rucker Photography at the time of his retirement at the age of 83. He was formerly a member of Prescott Baptist Church where his parents were early members; after he returned from military service, he and his wife, Juanita, were part of the original group of families founding Colonial Baptist Church in Colonial Acres where he organized the first Junior and Intermediate baseball teams. He was preceded in death by his parents, William Earlye and Modell Landreth Brasher, both of Calhoun County, Mississippi; and a brother, James Robert Brasher. He leaves his wife of 72 years, Juanita Jones Brasher, 3 children: Rex L. Brasher, Jr. (Marilyn) of Memphis, Tennessee; David Ronald Brasher of Columbia, Maryland; and Cheryl Elaine Brasher Lester of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; two granddaughters: April Brasher Burtnick of Liberty, Pennsylvania, and Peggy Lester Hudkins of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; five great grandchildren; and dear friends Jim and Paula Harris. The family will receive friends from 10:30 am until service time at 11:30 am, Wednesday, September 26, 2012, at Memorial Park Funeral Home with the interment to follow at Memorial Park Cemetery. Memorials may be sent to the Alzheimers Association or to the American Diabetes Association, or to the charity of the donor's choice. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Memorial Park Funeral Home and Cemetery, 5668 Poplar Ave. Memphis, TN 38119, (901)767-8930, "Behind the Stone Wall".



## Tribute Wall

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DQ

**Debbie Quinlan** posted:

I am so sorry to hear of Rex passing. He will be in my daily prayers

March 15 at 6:17 PM

DM

**Dennis Medford** posted:

So sorry for your loss. Dennis

September 26 at 11:07 AM

CC

**Cindy Cook** posted:

To the Brasher family, my thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. Rex, thank you for your service to our country and for sharing your talent and gifts with the world. May God be with you Juanita.

September 26 at 11:05 AM

JD

**Joanne Doerflein** posted:

To Sweet Juanita and the entire Brasher family...I got to know Rex and Juanita thru Jim and Paula Harris...They are truly wonderful people. My thoughts and prayers are with them at this very sad time. May God bless them and keep them both in his loving ar

September 25 at 12:03 PM

AP

**Andy Pouncey** posted:

It was truly an honor to know Rex Brasher. Rex always had a smile, a pleasant disposition and a passion for telling stories of WWII. You could also tell that he loved Juanita very much. The Memphis Belle Memorial Association was blessed to have him as

September 24 at 4:09 PM

RL

**Roscoe Langford** posted:

Rex still lives every time I look at the large portrait of Sue and I in the living room. He was not only an excellent photographer but also good friend.

September 24 at 11:45 AM



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SC

**Steve Cook** posted:

Rex, my boss, my mentor, my friend. Rex gave me a means to make a living in photography that has blessed me beyond measure. He taught me or perhaps better phrased, passed on to me, his gift of how to see "light". Now, he is surrounded by it. stv

September 24 at 9:51 AM

JH

**Jim And Paula Harris** posted:

We cherish the many years of friendship with Rex and his bride, Juanita Brasher. First meeting them, at The Memphis Belle, at Mud Island, we learned of their lives before and after WWII. They were docents, sharing the experience of war both from the milit

September 24 at 8:49 AM

JD

**Joanne Doerflein** posted:

My sincerest condolences to the Brasher Family. It was my great pleasure to know Rex and Juanita thru my Brother Jim and Paula Harris. I left a little early from my visit with them. I wish I had stayed so I could have spent a little time with Juanita for thi

September 23 at 7:59 PM



# **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Rex by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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