

OBITUARY:

ARD, PHILIP FISHBURN



Died Thursday, Jan. 29, 2004, at 6:20 p.m. at the Louisiana War Veterans Home in Jackson. He was born April 16, 1922, in West Feliciana Parish and was a resident of St. Francisville. He was a retired CPA from EXXON MOBILE CORP. with over 33 years of service. He graduated from Julius Freyhan High School in St. Francisville and was valedictorian of its 1939 class. He was a 1949 graduate of LSU with a degree in accounting. While at LSU he graduated as the top student in the College of Commerce (now known as the College of Business Administration) and received the College of Commerce Honor Award. While at LSU, he was a member of Omicron Delta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Eta Sigma, Beta Alpha Psi, Beta Gamma Sigma, Delta Sigma Pi, Pi Gamma Mu and Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. He was also a charter member and first president of Tau Kappa Epsilon social fraternity at LSU. He was in the U.S. Navy for four years during WWII, three of which he was the Chief Yeoman in charge of the captain's office aboard the famous aircraft carrier the USS ESSEX (CV-9) which was awarded 13 combat ribbons, the most of all the carriers built after Pearl Harbor. The ship was also awarded the coveted Presidential Unit Citation. During the Korean conflict, he served as lieutenant junior grade in the supply corps aboard the destroyer escort, USS Grady (DE-445) as the supply and disbursing officer for two years. Following his retirement, he served as an officer in the following organizations, first chairman of the West Feliciana Parish Tourist Commission and its second secretary-treasurer, president of West Feliciana LSU Alumni Chapter for two years, secretary of the West Feliciana Civic Club for two years and national treasurer of the USS ESSEX (aircraft carrier) Reunion Association for three years. He was also a member of the Louisiana Society of Certified Public Accountants, West Feliciana Historical Society, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Rogllio-Clack Post No. 164 of the American Legion and was a founding member of the Wilkinson County Christian Academy School Board. Graveside service will be held at Star Hill Cemetery, near St. Francisville, at 1p.m. Saturday, Jan. 31, 2004, conducted by the Rev. Harold Babin. Survived by two sons, Ronald Stanley Ard, St. Francisville and Steven Wayne Ard, Bellaire, Texas; a daughter, Melanie Ard Bailey, Plano, Texas; a sister, Eudora Ard Davidson, St. Francisville; two grandsons, Stanley John Ard and Michael Anthony Bailey; two granddaughters, Valerie Marie Ard and Mandy Angelle Bailey; and two nieces, Frances Ard Smith and Bonnie Ard Kemp, both of Baton Rouge. Preceded in death by his wife, Valerie Himbert Ard; parents, John Augustus and Mary Elizabeth Fishburn Ard; two brothers, Warner and James Ard; and a sister, Elma Ard. Pallbearers will be his sons, Ronald and Steven Ard, grandson, Stanley Ard, and son-in-law, Tony Bailey, Leroy Schilling and Don Reed. Honorary pallbearers are John R. Rarick, Gen. Robert H. Barrow, Vernon Martin, Capt. Ernest Wilson, James Olson and members of the USS ESSEX Association. Memorial donations may be made to the American Heart Association. Charlet Funeral Home, Zachary, in charge of arrangements.