



Walter Dean Hart

October 3, 1916 - March 18, 2007

Dean Hart, prominent attorney and lifelong Pauls Valley resident, died March 18, 2007 at Pauls Valley General Hospital. He was 90 years old.

Dean was born in Pauls Valley on October 3, 1916 to Charlotte Blackwood and Walter Lauren Hart. He always called Pauls Valley home, though he spent most of his high-school and college years in Oklahoma City. After graduating Classen High School in 1934, he traveled far from home to attend Virginia Military Institute for one year. He came back to Norman, to the University of Oklahoma where, a proud member of Beta Theta Pi, he earned his BA in 1938 and his law degree in 1941. Dean passed the bar that same year, but put his law practice on hold for four years while he served in the U.S. Army.

Dean was a true war hero. He served his country from July, 1941 until September, 1945. He attained the position of Company Commander of B Company—602 Tank Destroyer Battalion, in which he commanded 128 men in combat operations. He served as support on occasions for 18 different armored, airborne, cavalry and infantry divisions. In September 1944, he landed on Normandy Beach, and served 14 months in the European Theater of Operations in General Patton's Third Army. Captain Hart participated in the first liberation of a Nazi concentration camp at Ohrdurf, Germany. In recognition of his heroism, two museums in Bastone, France display his

photograph. He was awarded numerous medals: the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart with an Oak Leaf Cluster, the Croix de Guerre with Silver Star from the French government (a rare honor among American servicemen), the American Defense Service Medal, and four Battle Stars.

After the war he returned to Oklahoma, not only a hero but a husband. Immediately following his basic training, he and his fellow trainees had been assigned to harvest wheat in North Dakota, and there he had met the farmer's daughter who would become his wife of almost 64 years, Lucille Grenier. They married in Thorne, North Dakota, on November 2, 1943. In 1945, reunited, they settled in Pauls Valley where they started a family (one son and five daughters were born over the next 18 years.) He practiced law until his retirement at age 73. His office was located in the building owned by his family's business, Home Petroleum. His son became a partner in his firm and still practices law in that same building.

Dean made volunteerism and community involvement a way of life. A longtime member of the Rotary Club, he served as his club's president and was honored as a Paul Harris Fellow. He served for 10 years on the school board, was a member of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, served for many years as Garvin County Head of the Red Cross and Garvin County Chairman of the Democratic Party, was a Boy Scout cub master and served on the Boy Scout Board for Arbuckle Council. In addition, for over 60 years he was a member of the Oklahoma Bar Association, and held the post of president of the Garvin County Bar Association.

Walter Dean Hart is survived by his wife, Lucille; by six children—Dean Hart, Jr. and wife Joann of Pauls Valley, OK; Charlotte Hart of West Newton, MA; Anastasia Shirley and husband Doug of Watonga, OK; Lucinda Kennon and husband Philip of Oklahoma City, OK; Laura Howell and husband Anthony of Silver City, NM; and Simon Hart of Paris, France; by twelve grandchildren, and by six great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and by

his brother, Jack Hart.

A Celebration of Christian Burial will be held Tuesday, March 20, 2007 at the First United Methodist Church in Pauls Valley. It will be followed by interment at Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 19. 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Wooster Funeral Home and Cremation Services (Pauls Valley)
1601 South Chickasaw
Pauls Valley, OK

Service

MAR 20. 2:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church- Pauls Valley
407 N. Willow Street
Pauls Valley, OK

Tribute Wall



“ *Walter Dean Hart*

November 12, 2022 at 02:44 AM



“ *I was so sorry to hear of your loss. Mr. Hart was one of my favorites. Being an only child, I always loved the Friday night sleep overs at your home and the fun of being a part of your big family for just that night. I will always remember his big smile.*

My thoughts and prayers are with you during this very difficult time. From my own experience, I know that the wonderful memories of our loved ones will be a great comfort.

Judy##imported-begin##Judy (Irwin) Weaver##imported-end##

March 24, 2007 at 12:16 PM



“ *Lucille & Family,*
I am sorry to hear of Dean's passing. You will be in my thoughts and prayers.##imported-begin##Waymolene Abel##imported-end##

March 23, 2007 at 07:32 PM



“ The Wash DC Harts send the Dean Hart family our condolences. Dean was a great man . He will fondly be remembered as an honorary patriarch of this family for his kind support of Hazel and a young Jimmy Hart. The young Mason Hart would not be a hunter today except for what has been passed down from Dean to Jimmy to Steve and now Mason##imported-begin##Steve , Vicki, Mason and Jessica Hart##imported-end##

March 21, 2007 at 03:57 PM



“ It was an honor to know Dean and to have the opportunity to play golf with him. His love for the game and his personality on the course made it a very memorable experience that I will never forget.##imported-begin##Mike J. Roberts##imported-end##

March 20, 2007 at 06:37 PM



“ My deepest sympathies for your loss.##imported-begin##Joyce Tate##imported-end##

March 20, 2007 at 12:24 PM