



Company I Poopsheet

Company I, 502 PIR, 101st Airborne Division, US Army

January 2013

Dr. Wm. Harold Parham (Co. I 502 PIR) died on Friday, October 12, 2012. He was 88. He was born at St. Vincent's Hospital in Jacksonville, in 1924, the son of the late James Robert and Elizabeth Rhodes Parham, third generation Southerners. He graduated from Robert E. Lee Senior High, attended the University of Florida, and



received his Bachelor degree from Stetson University in 1949, and received their Distinguished Alumni Award in 1984. The University of Florida, in 1974, with the concurrence of the Governor and Board of Regents, conferred upon him its first and only Doctor of Health Administration Degree with the University of Miami, and the University of South Florida participating. The only time all three medical schools have ever participated in a convocation together, and the only time the University of

Florida has held a convocation off campus. He was also a graduate of The Parachute School at Ft. Benning, GA (1943), and the Armed Forces Information College, Ft. Slocum, NY (1951). He served in Combat, as a Distinguished Member of the 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division during World War II, was the Medical Historian for the Eighth U.S. Army in Korea, and an Aide de Camp to the Chief Surgeon, Far East, Japan. He formed the first, medical society in a combat zone, the 38th Parallel Medical Society in Korea. Harold served as an Executive Vice President and C.E.O. of the Florida Medical Association for thirty-five years. In 1985, he was made an honorary member of the Board of Past Presidents of the Florida Medical Association. At the height of his career, he became recognized nationally as an authority

in the areas of medical economics, legislation, and professional liability. He was the first full time lobbyist in Washington and Tallahassee for the FMA, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Florida, and the Florida Hospital Association. Much of his life was spent supporting tort and judicial reform and opposing excessive government and taxes at all levels. Dr. Parham organized and served for ten years as the attorney-in-fact and Founding President of the Florida Physicians Insurance Reciprocal, Founding Chairman of the Professional Insurance Management Company (PIMCO), and founding Trustee and Agent for twenty-five years of the Florida Medical Insurance Trust, the FMA Investment Trust. He served as Managing Editor of the FMA Journal, and was the recipient of numerous resolutions and commendations for his achievements. His favorite was presented to him in 1989, on the occasion of 100 years of Public Health in Florida, by the State Health Officer, To Dr. Harold Parham, whose friendship and support helped all of us in Public Health to do our job. He contributed mightily in this and many other ways to the improvement for Health in Florida. At the time of his death, he was a member of the Ortega Methodist Church, Florida Yacht Club, and the Jacksonville Commodores League. He spent most of his time before and after retirement operating and restoring powerboats. He is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Mary Copeland, their daughter Mary Virginia and her husband, Lane Burnett; one grandson, William H. Parham III and five granddaughters, Victoria, BrieAnna, and Caitlin Burnett; Christine and Anne Parham; a brother Thomas M. Parham and a daughter-in-law, Cheryl Parham. His son Will and his two brothers, James R. Jr. and Charles, preceded him in death. He requested no eulogies, flowers or memorials, but requests that friends join his family for a celebration of his life and a toast to his memory. Harold worked and played hard, sometimes to excess at both.

