

Theodore E. Gebhardt, Sr.

Born February 28, 1923 in La Grange Texas. Raised in a community heavily influenced by its German heritage he and his older sister Catherine were raised bi-lingual learning English and German at the same time.

Since his family could not afford to send both his sister and him to college, after graduating from La Grange high school in 1940 he joined the National Youth Administration and was sent to Bastrop, TX. The NYA was designed to be an on-the-job work and education program to give young men and women a chance to learn an occupation. Part of the program was class work in which he learned radio operation and Morse code. The rest of the time was spent cutting down pine trees with hand saws to make log cabins for the Bastrop State Park, some of which are still in use today.

Ted was inducted into the Army in January, 1943 and because of his fluency in German was assigned the Ninth Army Air Corp Intelligence Section. This section was trained in how to use the secret German radio communication device known as the Enigma. After training he served as a Sergeant in the 3rd Radio Squadron – Mobile Detachment. This detachment participated in numerous campaigns and battles and provided invaluable frontline information that assisted in beating back the last ditch German offensive known as the Battle of the Bulge. When the war ended he was transferred to a military government unit in Germany, which among other duties helped track down high-level members of the Nazi party.

After the war he enrolled at the University of Texas at Austin, later transferring to Southern Methodist University and receiving a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration. He took a job with Republic National Bank and spent 36 years with them, eventually retiring as a Vice President in the Agra Business division.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years Catharine, his son Ted, Jr. and his wife Carla of Dallas and his grandson Ted III of Dallas and his sister Katherine Powell of Houston and numerous nieces and nephews.

A devoted husband, father and friend Ted will always be remembered as a generous and caring person blessed with great wit. He will be missed.