



# Ervin Dow Matthews

AUG 26, 1917 - DEC 23, 2009



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## **Ervin Dow Matthews**

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**E**rvin Dow Matthews of Dallas, Texas, was born on August 26, 1917 and went West on December 23, 2009. He was preceded in death by his wife of 48 years, Mary Edith Matthews; his parents, James Raleigh and Nella Johnson Matthews; brothers, James Autry, Glen Orville, and Thomas Ivan Matthews; sisters, Thelma Matthews Vaughan and Doris Matthews Wolfe. He is survived by daughters, Sharon Matthews Pappas and her husband, Bill; Carolyn Matthews Seely and her husband, Jim; five grandchildren, Todd Pappas and his wife, Cindy; Kory Pappas, Trey Pappas, Kendal Seely, Tarin Seely; two great-grandchildren, Makenna Pappas and Sierra Pappas; sisters, Janell Lindsey and her husband, Larry; Maxine Toole Duncan, and their families. He is also survived by Marjorie Crow, close friend and companion, and her family. Mr. Matthews was born at home in Oakland, Arkansas and grew up in Flippin, Arkansas. He graduated from high school in Kansas city and attended a technical school studying Radio Technology. After graduation, he was employed as a radio operator for Braniff Airways in Amarillo, Texas. He learned to fly in the CPTP (Civilian Pilot Training Program). After building his flying time, he was hired by Braniff Airways as a co-pilot in June of 1942. It is while he was in flight training in Amarillo that he met Mary Edith Batson, sister of his flight instructor. After a short courtship of six months, they were married on July 19, 1942 and began a long, exciting, and prosperous life together spanning nearly 49 years. Matt, as he was known by friends and associates, became a Captain in 1950 and retired after 38 years in 1977. His career spanned the era from fledgling airlines to jumbo jets. In retirement, Matt dedicated himself to golf, fishing, and grandkids. The Masters Golf Tournament was a must-see every year for Matt. Most of his family lived in North Augusta, South Carolina, and the visit was always a mini family reunion. Matt helped teach his grandchildren to fish, water safety, boat safety, how to catch fireflies, and he loved to sing them songs from his youth. Matt loved music and liked to dance. He



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was still out on the dance floor not more than a month before he passed away. Daddy, Dow, Matt, Mr. Matthews, Captain, Grampa, Padoon or 'Ol Papa—whatever you called him, he will be missed and fondly remembered. A Memorial Service will be held at 12:30 PM on Saturday, January 9, 2010 at the Wildwood Chapel at Restland Memorial Park, Dallas, Texas. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children (2222 Welborn Street Dallas, TX 75219-3993 (214) 559-7555), and the Smile Train, [www.smiletrain.org](http://www.smiletrain.org) ( The Smile Train 28th Floor 41 Madison Avenue New York, New York 10010), or a charity of your choice.



## Tribute Wall

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JN

**Judy Roberts Nebrig** posted:

Sharon, I was so sorry to hear about your Dad. What a long and wonderful life he lived. I'm still in Austin but send my condolences and love to you and your family. Hopefully I will see ya'll at Tuppy's next month. Judy Roberts Nebrig

January 8 at 1:32 PM

TM

**Tresa Matthews** posted:

I always looked forward to Aunt Mary Edith and Uncle Dow's visits as a kid. They were so much fun. No matter how old I got, Uncle Dow would sing the little green frog song to me when I asked. I wish I remembered it to sing to Amy. The best part for me was waking up in the morning to the sound of Dad and Uncle Dow drinking coffee and talking. I couldn't hear what they were saying, but their low voices were very comforting. I think this is why my favorite thing to do at family holidays (after the meal!) is to find a quiet place to lie down and just listen to the voices of all the people I love, happy and laughing. My prayers to all. Tresa Matthews

January 4 at 4:40 AM

LM

**Lisa Matthews** posted:

I have so many fun memories from my childhood from when Uncle Dow and Aunt Mary Edith would visit. I am so sorry for your loss. He will be remembered very fondly. My prayers are with you. Lisa Matthews (daughter of Larry Matthews)

December 29 at 6:48 AM

TN

**Terry Nichols** posted:

Sharon and Bill, Sharon, I am so sorry about your Dad. Losing a parent is never easy but I am sure you find some comfort in the fact that he had such a good life—and a long one! If I can do anything for you, please let me know! Love, Terry

December 29 at 6:02 AM



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

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



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