

JAMES FLINCHUM

1923 - 2001

After writing or making comments about other loved ones and important people in my life, a brief biographical sketch of myself would be appropriate..

I was born deep in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Indian Valley, District of Floyd County, in October of 1923. Poverty was the order of the day. My parents, Hallie and Byrd Flinchum, worked from sunup to sundown, to keep food on the table for the large family.

Soon, it is time for me to begin school. I was not strongly encouraged to get an education: just to get a job and to help raise the smaller children.

Finally, Uncle Sam called me into service. My life changed forever and nothing was the same after that. It was a shock for me to adjust to the outside world, from where everyone was good and honest and where doors were never locked at night. Very soon, I found out the world wasn't like the rural mountain style I had become accustomed to.

I am forever grateful for my military experience and the wonderful people I met while in service to my country. Fifty-five years later I am still in touch with some of them.

After returning from the war, I married Nora Ethel James. By now, I am older and wiser. We left the mountains behind once again. Nora and I lived in various locations before finally settling in Virginia Beach, Virginia, for the next thirty years. We never forgot the mountains and the joy of being raised there. It was always peaceful and quiet. no rushing around.

I served in the Naval Base Fire Department, for twenty-five years, amidst loud noises and in a fast lane. My retirement now in the slow lane, back in the mountains. A rooster crowing early in the morning is now a loud noise for me.

I can never forget the wonderful people that I have worked with or have crossed my path during my life span out in the world. They have helped make my life worth living.

My military unit received the Presidential Unit Citation. Our names are all in back of the 354th book. They still have a annual reunion with most of the men, walking with a cane. Some are in wheelchairs; but all of them are jolly and friendly.

My parents bestowed upon me that a child must be honest, live up to his word, love the Lord and do good for the less fortunate. Yes, my parents are in Heaven now. But, I thank them for their leadership, their love for me, and what it has meant to me during my lifetime.

My wife, Nora, has been a great companion and helped make my life more pleasant. My son, Jim, added much to our happiness. To watch Jim grow into adulthood has been wonderful. I hope I can somehow imprint into his life some of the things my parents did for me.