

Robert Joseph Hansberry, Sr

Robert Joseph Hansberry, Sr., passed away peacefully on May 16, 2011 in St. George, Utah after a long illness. He lived a remarkable life filled with pride in his military service and his love of God and country. He had a deep respect for his Veteran brothers; his treasured friends. Robert was born July 1, 1935 to Joseph Johnson Hansberry and Evelyn M. Kelley in Jersey City, New Jersey. He married Machiko Dannohara in 1955 and together they had four children. They later divorced. Robert married his "angel," VaLoy (Val) Mathews Hansberry on June 7, 1975, later solemnized in the St. George LDS Temple. As one of America's youngest warriors, Robert enlisted in the United States Navy in September 1951, at the age of 16. Upon discharge from the Navy, Robert enlisted in the United States Army, where he furthered his education, working on a Bachelor's Degree in Finance. After an honorable discharge in 1962, Robert worked for the Dept. of the Army at the Signal Long Lines Facility in Davis, CA. After several years of service, he accepted a position with the F.A.A. in Las Vegas, NV where he ultimately completed his education.

In 1996, Robert retired due to disabilities from his military service. He was a long-time member of American Legion Lester Keate Post 90 and served in several offices of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Dixie Chapter 7. Robert remained active in his role as an advocate for Veteran's Issues and was instrumental in obtaining the donation of vehicles for the transport of Veterans in need of medical attention to the VA Facility in Salt Lake City. Robert's most proud achievement came, as he lay confined to a hospital bed. He was the first person in Washington County to donate \$4,000 to the 'Adopt a Room' Campaign to raise funds for the furnishings of the new Veteran's Nursing Home. Mayor, Chris Hart of Ivins, UT personally extended his wishes to Robert that he be well enough to attend the scheduled groundbreaking for the facility in July.

Surviving family include his wife, VaLoy (Val) Mathews Hansberry of St. George, UT; children, Daniel J. (Camelia) Hansberry, Jeanne Mari (Brett) Peterson, Janis Ann Hansberry all of Las Vegas, NV and Robert Joseph Hansberry, Jr. of Philadelphia, PA; a stepdaughter, Donna Dennison (Peter) Bates, Spanish Fort, AL; 7 grandchildren; a brother, Dr. William E. (Alice) Hansberry, Fernandina Beach, FL and a sister, Joan E. Guthrie, Perry, GA. He is preceded in death by his parents, and his in-laws, Ross and Orma Mathew.

A celebration of Robert's life will be held on Monday, May 23, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. in the Spilsbury Mortuary Chapel, 110 S. Bluff, St. George. Friends may call Sunday, May 22, from 6 – 8 p.m. and Monday from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. prior to services at the Mortuary. Interment will be in the Tonaquint Cemetery with Military Honors.

Arrangements are made under the direction of Spilsbury Mortuary, (435) 673-2454. Friends and family are invited to sign Robert's Guest Book online at www.spilsburymortuary.com.

Best Regards,
Arnie Nathan
District 7 Commander American Legion
435-652-8333