

*Mass of Christian Burial
for
William French*

April 27, 1920 - April 30, 2014



Monday, May 5, 2014

Eleven O'clock in the Morning

**Our Lady of Pompeii Roman Catholic Church
San Parde Pio Parrish
4680 Dante Avenue
Vineland, New Jersey**

*Reverend Peter Saporito
Presiding Priest*

The Obituary

WILLIAM FRENCH, age ninety-four, of Mays Landing, New Jersey, passed away on April 30, 2014.

Born and raised in Northern New Jersey, Bill took great pride in serving as a US Postal Service letter carrier after high school. After the attack on Pearl Harbor and the loss of his brother Fred, a sailor in the US Navy, Bill repeatedly tried to enlist in the US Marine Corps. Until President Roosevelt ordered the USMC to accept black men, Bill was not accepted.

Upon enlistment at Montford Point Camp in New River, North Carolina, Bill was among the first African-Americans to join the US Marine Corp. He proudly served in a confidential position carrying the mail among the various offices and barracks. Following the ending of World War II, Bill returned to the US Post Office, where he completed over thirty years of service.

Upon retirement, he owned and operated a horse stable business in Central Jersey. In 1983, Bill and his wife Lilia moved to Mays Landing, where they continued riding their horses and enjoying retirement in South Jersey.

In June, 2012 the US Congress awarded Congressional Gold Medals to the Montford Point Marines. Bill received his Gold Medal in a special ceremony in Mays Landing. The presentation was made by Congressman Frank Lobiondo and Marine Colonel Jon Schleifer with full military honors. Bill was a member of the American Legion while in North Jersey and was a member of the Montford Point Marine Association. Bill was also a member of the Hamilton Township Republican Club for many years.

Bill is survived by: his wife of thirty-six years, Lilia; a son and daughter; and several grandchildren.

Funeral Liturgy

Presiding Priest: Reverend Peter Saporito
Deacon: George VanLeer

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading - #C-3
Read by Joanne Hofstetter

Second Reading - #E-5
Read by Joanne Hofstetter

Gospel Reading - #G-2
Deacon George VanLeer

General Intercession - #H-1
Deacon George VanLee

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Presentation of the Gifts
Wine and Hosts
Dr. Nesida

Final Commendation

Remarks of Remembrance



Interment

Our Lady of Pompeii Cemetery
Vineland, New Jersey



John 11: 25-26

*Jesus said unto her,
I am the resurrection, and the life:
he that believeth in me, though he were dead,
yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth
and believeth in me shall never die.
Believest thou this?*



Pallbearers

Colonel Schleifer
Sergeant Romanesko,
Sergeant Pizzica
Sergeant Johnson
Corporal Jones

Flagbearers

Members of the Legion Riders

Acknowledgment

*Our family wishes to express sincere appreciation
for all acts of kindness, prayers and expressions of
sympathy rendered during our time of bereavement.*

Final arrangements entrusted to:

GREENIDGE
FUNERAL HOMES, Inc.
Atlantic City, New Jersey