

Bataan Death March survivor dies

HARRODSBURG — A 69-year-old Mercer County man who survived the Bataan Death March during World War II died Thursday after a long illness.

Reid Thompson Shewmaker of 756 Fairview Court died at 6:15 p.m. Thursday at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Lexington. He was a disabled veteran, a member of the American Legion and a member of Harrodsburg Christian Church.

While in the U.S. Army, Shewmaker was among thousands of American and Filipino soldiers who were captured in 1942 by the Japanese after a battle on the Bataan peninsula in the Philippines and were forced to march to a prison camp. Many perished due to disease

and starvation during the "death march."

Born June 7, 1914, in Washington County, he was a son of the late James and Ina Sims Shewmaker. Survivors include his wife, Mabel Gritton Shewmaker; a daughter, Susan S. Willian of Buffalo, Ky.; a brother, Hart Shewmaker of Indian Harbor Beach, Fla.; a sister, Sallie Brady of La Grange; a half brother, Ed Noel of Louisville; and two grandchildren, Angela and Emily Willian, both of Buffalo, Ky.

Funeral will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday at Ransdell Funeral Chapel with the Rev. Jim Powell officiating. Burial will be in Spring Hill Cemetery.

Visitation is after 6 p.m. today at the funeral home.

Shewmaker Reid Obituary

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Tue, Sep 4, 2018