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Kaufmann, Hans-Alex

Born November 12, 1923, in Hannover, Germany, he passed away April 17, 2012 at home.

He graduated from Baton Rouge High in 1941 and studied Electrical Engineering at LSU until drafted into the Army Air Corps in 1943. While stationed at Keesler Field in Biloxi, MS he was sworn in to become an American citizen in 1943. He was in the 381st Regimental Combat Team of the 96th Infantry Division of the Army. He made the initial beachhead on Leyte, Philippine Island on October 20, 1944. There he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal. On Easter Sunday, April 1, 1945, he participated in the initial assault on the island of Okinawa, which turned out to be the largest battle of WWII. While there he assisted his mortar squad leader while he was in action on Kakazu Ridge at 3 a.m. on April 13, 1945. By daylight Hans was recalling the action of his Sgt. Anderson's throwing mortar shells he handed him at the Japanese platoon and halting a direct attack. He wrote the citation that resulted in President Truman placing our country's highest combat award, The Medal of Honor, around Beauford Anderson's neck after the war ended. Two weeks before Okinawa was secured, Hans was wounded by a Japanese sniper and received The Purple Heart Medal.

After discharge in 1946 Hans returned to LSU to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering in 1948. He started his life insurance career with Franklin Life Insurance Company. He qualified for the distinguished Million Dollar Round Table and became a Life Member. In 1958 he joined Louisiana Companies as Vice President, and in 1963 Transamerica Occidental Life appointed him General Agent. In 1969 The Baton Rouge Association of Life Underwriters elected him President and in 1978 chose him as Man of the Year. He was a member of The Baton Rouge Business and Estate Planning Council and elected their president. He was a Life Member of the Sertoma Club of Baton Rouge and served as their president. In 1989 he received a gold Rolex watch for winning first place in an International Stock Picking Contest.

His hobby was playing tournament Bridge and he became a Life Master. He won four dice tournaments in Las Vegas. He is listed in Who's Who in Insurance, Who's Who in Finance and Industry, Who's Who in Poetry, and Who's Who in the World.

Hans is survived by his second wife, Thelma Fay Kaufmann; a son, Donald Joseph Kaufmann; a daughter, Janet Kaufmann Black and husband Doug Black; four grandchildren, Joshua Alan Black and wife Bettina, Alex Kaufmann Black, Leanne Kaufmann and Sara Elizabeth Kaufmann; three stepchildren, Scott Swain and wife Rebekah, Lisa Swain Horn and husband Luther, and Kimberly Swain Higgins; step-grandchildren, Tyler Freeland, Travis Freeland, Jason Higgins and Madison Higgins. Preceded in death by his father, Julius Kaufmann; mother, Irma Levy Kaufmann Weinhaber; and former wife, Betty Jane Waldman Kaufmann.

Visitation will be at Rabenhorst Funeral Home, 825 Government Street, Baton Rouge on April 18 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and April 19, from 10 a.m. until services at 11 a.m. at Rabenhorst. Interment at Greenoaks Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the [charity of the donor's choice](#).