



SELLERS, ALVIN R

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Alvin R. Sellers of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania died Thursday, December 26, 2013 at his residence. He was 88 years old. Alvin was born November 7, 1925 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, son of the late August Sellers and the late Lillian Sellers (nee - Höne). He is the beloved husband of Edeltraud "Trudy" Sellers (nee - Lagies); father of Marion Mitchell and her husband David, Dori Daknis and her husband Steve, Glenn Sellers and his wife Janet, and Howard Sellers and his wife Sherri; grandfather of John Lane, Christina Boyd and her husband Ned, Nate Fleischer, Dani Mitchell, and Lauren and Lindsay Daknis; great grandfather of Nora Witkin. He was predeceased by his siblings August, Henry, Lillian, Ruth, and Herman Sellers, and Elizabeth Riley.

Alvin was born, raised, and educated in Philadelphia. His family resided at 3548 North 11th Street in the city, where he lived until being inducted into the United States Army on January 27, 1944. He served in the 383rd Infantry 96th Division and participated in the Southern Philippines campaign during World War Two. He was honorably discharged from the service on April 18, 1946 after reaching the rank of Technician Fifth Grade. After the war he returned to Philadelphia and worked for many years as a baker. He also worked as an assembler for the Honeywell Corporation. Alvin married Trudy Lagies in 1957 and they have lived in the Fox Chase section of Philadelphia for the last 46 years.

Relatives and friends were invited to his viewing on Saturday, December 28, 2013 from 10:00 to 10:45 A.M. and to his funeral service at 11:00 A.M. at the New Apostolic Church, "K" & Cayuga Streets, Philadelphia, PA 19124. Military Honors were rendered by members of the United States Army at the conclusion of the funeral service at church. His interment at Hillside Cemetery was private.

Donations may be made in his memory to NAC-USA Youth Development, LLC, 804 Meadowood Lane, Warminster, PA 18974. Homes for our Troops, 6 Main Street, Taunton,

MA 02780 or National Alliance for the Mentally Ill of NYC, 505 8th Avenue, Suite 1103, New York, NY 10018

Family flowers arranged by Schmidt's Florist 215-745-6234.

The following loving tribute was written by his family:

"Alvin was a faithful man, faithful to God and his church, to his wife, and to his country.

A lifelong member of the New Apostolic Church that his father had helped establish in Philadelphia, Alvin was born to August Herman Sellers and Lillian Hoene on November 7, 1925, the youngest of seven children. Born prematurely, he was tiny enough to fit into a shoebox and was wrapped in cotton to keep him warm.

After passing a typical boyhood, Alvin enlisted in the Army when America entered World War II and became a rifleman. He was among the youngest of the boys of the 96th Infantry who fought in the Pacific theater. On October 20, 1944, the day he landed on Leyte Gulf's blue beach, he wasn't yet 19. Alvin fought and survived the first wave of the invasion and was awarded a Bronze Star for heroism in combat. He is an Honoree of the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. His service to his country was a powerful shaping influence of his life. He never forgot his love for his country nor shirked his duty to it.

When he returned to Philadelphia, he fell in love with his sweetheart, Trudy Lagies. They were married in May 1957 and raised four children, Marion Mitchell (David), Dori Daknis (Steve), Glenn (Janet), and Howard (Sherri). He was a man who always strove to put his family first. For example, to support his family during difficult times, he rented a room in Ocean City, New Jersey and worked through the hot summer as a baker, far from those he loved. Also, for 56 years, he was constant in his devotion to his wife whom he loved above all others.

As deep as was his commitment to his country, his devotion to the church was even deeper. Along with Trudy, Alvin raised a family dedicated to God and the principles of his deep and abiding beliefs in God's eternal love. So committed was he to his concept of church that it shaped his concept of family. To this day, when Alvin's children think of their childhoods, their church memories are equally abundant.

Left to celebrate his life are his wife, children, grandchildren, great grandchild, and his large extended family.

With Alvin's passing, his family, his church, and his country will surely feel the loss of his presence."