

Donald B. Areaux

1914 - 2010

Age: 96

Areaux, Donald B.

Lawton

Formerly of Paw Paw

Donald Brown Areaux, 96, a lifelong resident of Paw Paw, until taking up residence at White Oaks Retirement in Lawton in 2009, died Friday, December 24, at White Oaks. Don was born December 22, 1914, the son of Theo and Cleo (Brown) Areaux. He was preceded in death by both parents, and his wife of 53 years, Helen (Rumsey) Areaux. Following high school graduation, Don went on to attend Western Michigan University, where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. Following graduation from WMU, the university employed him to teach at the Richland Training School, which was maintained by Western to assist students training to become teachers. During his last year at Richland he served as acting principal, but was drafted by the Army in 1942, inadvertently ending his five-year career in the educational field. During World War II, Don spent his first year serving as assistant chief clerk at Battey General Army Hospital in Rome, Georgia. He was promoted to chief clerk, and Sgt. Major of the 22nd Medical Replacement Regiment, where he was responsible for the allocation and supervision of duties of all enlisted personnel assigned to that Regiment. He went on to fill a position as Adjutant General of the Fifteenth Headquarters of the U.S. Army, where he was responsible for assigning men to Units using their military occupational specialties. While serving his country he earned the American Theater Ribbon, the EAME Theater Ribbon, a Bronze Star, a Good Conduct Medal, and a WWII Victory Medal. He received an honorable discharge to return home in December, 1945. Once home, he was employed as an accountant for Areaux Auto Sales, a Pontiac dealership owned by his father. While there he applied for and secured a position through the Veteran's Administration to serve as a vocational rehabilitation training officer to assist homecoming soldiers find employment with local businesses. He married Helen on June 9, 1956. She died May 30, 2008, nine days after celebrating her 93rd birthday. Both were long term employees of the Upjohn Pharmaceutical Company. In 1984 Don was awarded the William E. Upjohn Prize in recognition of special accomplishment for a program he designed and enacted. He remained there for 22 years, retiring at the age of 74. He truly enjoyed the small things in life, sporting a quick wit and positive attitude throughout life. In honor of his wishes there will be no memorial services and cremation has already taken place, with Adams Funeral Home tending to final arrangements. Donations may be made in his name to the White Oaks Alzheimers Fund in Lawton.

