

Luther Jacob Virts, Jr. **(1923-1994)**

Written by Linda Virts Kremkau



Son of Luther Jacob Virts, Sr. He was known by Lu or Junior. Born in Lovettsville, Virginia, in 1923. Attended Lovettsville School for the first grade. Moved to the outskirts of Waterford and attended Waterford Elementary School. When he was 16, his father, Luther Jacob Virts, Sr., took him to get his driver's license in Leesburg. He bought his first car when he came home from the Army in December 1948. It was a black, 4-door 1941 Dodge. He was employed by his father in Purcellville for 2 years and did general farm duties (drove farm machinery) on his 315 acre farm. In February 1943, he enlisted in the Army. With his first tour, he was a cook for 5 months and worked in construction the rest of the time. During his first tour, it took 3 weeks to get to New Caledonia, zig zagged because of the Jap subs. During WWII, U.S. armed forces occupied the island as a defense against possible Japanese invasion. My dad built Japanese prison hospital and camp even though they never received any prisoners. Stayed in New Caledonia (New Meva) about a year. He was then shipped to one of the Mariana Islands in the western Pacific--Saipan. Built B-29 airfield base. Shipped home a few days before Christmas on an aircraft carrier. Went to Germany June 1946. Stationed at Wurzburg. He rode in a cattlecar to Bamberg and then shipped to Wurzburg. Worked at hospital in Wurzburg Army Hospital for about 4 months. Transferred to Bayreuth to the Hepatitis Hospital. With his second tour, he was a medical technician in Germany with the 120th Station Hospital in Bayreuth, Germany. He performed duties at a Hepatitis Research Center as Ward Master. There he met my mother, Erna, at an Army club on the Army base. Dad walked almost 3 miles from the hospital to visit my mother up a steep hill. They honeymooned in Berchtesgaden in the Bavarian Alps. I was born on June 11, 1948, and the three of us returned to the states in December 1948. After returning to the states from Germany, he lived with my grandfather (Luther, Sr.). He received an Honorable discharge from the Army on December 8, 1948. Made Corporal on Oct. 18, 1948. In February 1949, he went to work for PEPCO. He lived on 22nd street 800 block across from GW Hospital. President Truman used to take his morning "constitutional." My father would stand by his car (stiffly) and Truman would walk by and say "Good Morning" to him. The first time my father saw him, he ran and told my mother to come outside to see the President with his two bodyguards. My father would see him often. My sister, Sherlie Lee, was born October 16, 1949, in Washington, DC.

In the early 50's, my father moved us to the suburbs of Maryland, College Park. Then we moved to Adelphi 1963, until his retirement in June 1978 with 29-1/2 years with PEPCO. He and my mother retired to Dayton Beach, Florida, where he died October 17, 1994. He and my mother raised two daughters, Linda and Sherlie, and they gave him three grandsons.

settlement. Yet he is modest as regards his accomplishments, and in his chery way disclaims any undue praise for what he is, and for what he has done, either for himself or his country.