



## Verbia Talkington

October 4, 1910 - January 28, 2010

Verbia Talkington, 99, died Thursday, Jan. 28, 2010 at the home of his granddaughter, Catherine Towers, in Aurora.

In addition to Mrs. Towers, he leaves his long-time love Jane Hazelrigg; son Stephen Talkington; daughter Sheila Shafer; granddaughter Lorrie Hunt; grandson Mark Talkington; great grandchildren Tony Oliver, Victoria Towers, Brianna Towers, Savannah Talkington, and Ryder Talkington; and many relatives. His wife of 48 years, Harriett Evelyn Smith, preceded him in death in 1988.

Born Oct. 4, 1910, in a log cabin in Greene County, Ill., to Jephtha Talkington and Anna Voyles, Mr. Talkington faced life head-on, inviting adventure and taking risks around the world. He witnessed history, met Pope Pius XII and General Dwight D. Eisenhower, elbowed with Clark Gable and Jean Harlow, and once thumbed his nose at Benito Mussolini in an alley in Rome. He liked drinking, cussing, and fighting. He loved women. And they loved him back.

In his early years, Mr. Talkington hopped trains, riding the rails eventually to Colorado where he worked the coal mines before entering the U.S. Navy. He served on gunboat patrol on the Yangtze River, standing watch in the harbor in Shang Hai as the Japanese invaded in 1938. He witnessed the battles between Chinese nationals and the guerilla army led by Mao Tse Tung. He marched across the Golden Gate Bridge at its opening, helped develop the Navy's first bronze diving suit, and was present at the raising of the U.S. flag at Iwo Jima, a moment etched into America's memory.

After serving in the Navy, Mr. Talkington worked as a mechanic and a shipping clerk in Jacksonville before farming in McLeansboro. He later owned and operated LorBeth dress shop. Most recently he was a resident of Naperville.

Funeral services will be held 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 31, 2010, at Mackey Daws Funeral Home in Roodhouse with burial in Richwood Cemetery. Visitation will be at the funeral home from noon until time of service. Donations are suggested to Elmhurst Memorial Hospice or Honor Flight Chicago. Condolences may be left at [www.mackeydaws.com](http://www.mackeydaws.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Richwood Cemetery

Rural route

Roodhouse, IL 62082

# Tribute Wall

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“ This was our grandfather he passed away at my sister’s home. She took excellent care of him... his son my dad truly misses him..as we the family does.. thank God he got to go with my sister to the honor flight in Washington DC.. it was an amazing experience for him! We love you grandpa ❤️



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lorrie talkington - February 07, 2024 at 09:49 AM



“ Verbia Talkington

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January 28, 2023 at 11:11 AM