

George Coke, a native of Arlington, Texas, was among the first American casualties of WWII. More than 75 years after his death, friends and family members will gather at First United Methodist Church to honor the hometown boy who died at Pearl Harbor.

George Anderson Coke, whose grandparents were among the area's earliest settlers, was born on August 6, 1923, the son of George Anderson "Dutch" Coke Sr. and Julina Jane (Tomlin) Coke, and the younger brother of Hugh M. Coke. Coke, a lifelong resident of Arlington, was a popular member of the Boy Scouts and First Methodist Church. He also enjoyed sports, particularly boxing and football, which he played for Arlington High in the fall of 1940. He joined the United States Navy upon graduation from high school in 1941.

Seaman 1st Class George Coke was serving aboard the USS Oklahoma when Japan launched an aerial attack against the American naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941. The attack, which severely damaged the Pacific Fleet, resulted in more than 3,500 American casualties. The Oklahoma, which lost more than 400 sailors, was torpedoed and sunk by Japanese warplanes. No ship at Pearl Harbor, with the exception of the USS Arizona, suffered as many fatalities.

18-year-old George Coke was counted among the hundreds of servicemen killed in the attack. His remains, originally declared unrecoverable, were recently identified among the graves of unknown sailors buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. Family members made the heartfelt decision to return him to his hometown.

George Coke Jr. will be laid to rest in Parkdale Cemetery, adjacent to the graves of his beloved parents. He will be buried with full military honors and public recognition for his heroic sacrifice.

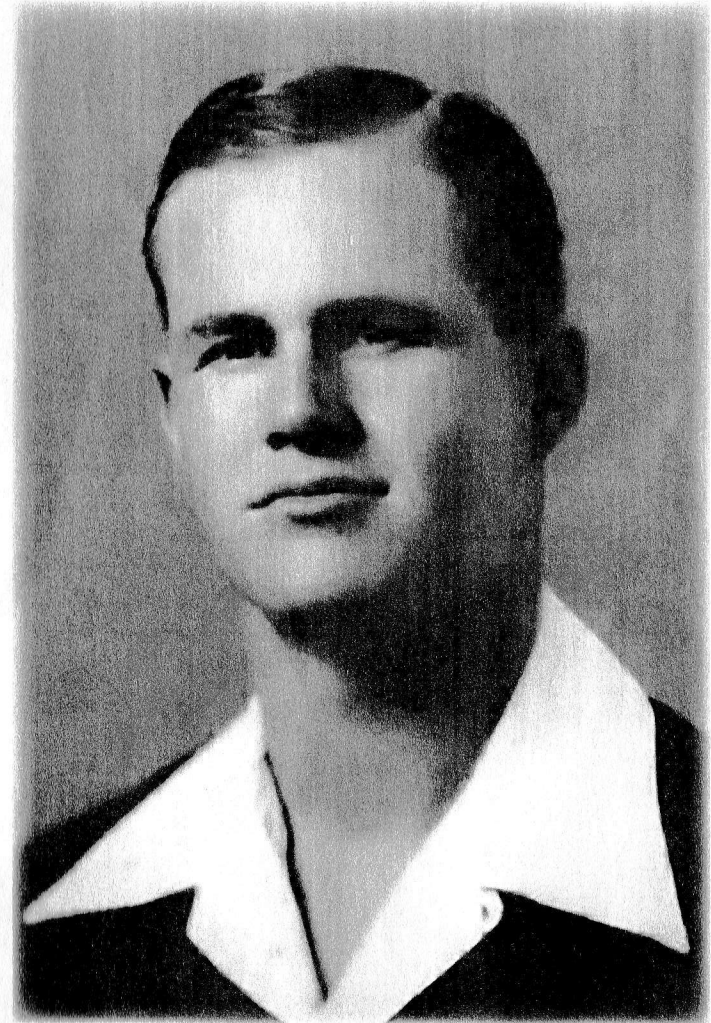
**Information provided courtesy of the Arlington Historical Society.*



313 N Center • Arlington, TX 76011
www.arlingtonmethodist.org

SEAMAN FIRST CLASS
GEORGE ANDERSON COKE, JR.

August 6, 1923 – December 7, 1941



MEMORIAL SERVICE

Saturday, June 24, 2017 • 1:00 pm
First United Methodist Church • Arlington, Texas

COMMITTAL WITH MILITARY HONORS
Parkdale Cemetery • Arlington, Texas