

Charles E. Risley

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CENTREVILLE Charles Elliott Risley was born in Grasonville on June 9, 1920, the son of Fred and Katie Parks Risley. He died, after years of ill health, on Dec. 28, 2009.

He was educated in the local school and went to work on the water at an early age. He was also occupied as a carpenter and worked with the local contractors after oyster season was finished.

Earl Coursey got Elliott interested in the local politics and he ran for the office of delegate in the legislature in Annapolis from Queen Anne's County. He won the office and stayed for three consecutive sessions (12 years). Later after politics, he was employed by the State Department of Natural Resources in the Oyster Preparation Department. He traveled Maryland and Virginia and stockpiled oyster shells at Langenfelder's at Lane Point.

He was interested in his family and their activities. He was also a baseball fan and enjoyed watching the games on TV. He had a close relationship with his coworkers from the state. He was also a past commander of the VFW Post 7464 in Grasonville, where he was a charter member.

He was involved with the Knights of Pythias in Grasonville. He was in the Army from 1941-1945 and traveled extensively overseas in the Radar Division of the 8th Air Force. He was active in the Grasonville Volunteer Fire Department and held the office of treasurer for several years.

When the bill came up in the Legislature for the establishment of the Chesapeake College, Ellicott Risley was on the Ways and Means Committee that passed the bill to make the college a prospect for the future of Queen Anne's County.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Patricia Risley Downes and her husband Crosley Downes of Queen Anne. He is survived by his wife, Margaret Risley of Grasonville; a son Peter Risley and his wife Kay; two grandsons, Jeffrey and his wife Angie and Jason, all of Grasonville; and a daughter, Peggy Risley and her husband Leland Dong of Denver, Colo.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, Jan. 2, 2010, at noon at Fellows, Helfenbein and Newnam Funeral Home, 106 Shamrock Road, Chester, where family and friends may call one hour prior. Interment will follow at Stevensville Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, friends are requested to send donations to the Grasonville Volunteer Ambulance



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