



## Walter Max "Hickory" Morton

December 22, 1929 - April 5, 2024

Walter Max "Hickory" Morton died Friday, April 5, 2024, at his home in Springdale, Ark., age 94. Born December 22, 1929 in Springdale to Walter Marvin "Jake" Morton and Bessie Lee Prince Morton Vernon. He is preceded in death by his parents and four older siblings: sisters, Virginia Mae Morton Potts, Clara Marvine Morton Anglin, of Springdale and brothers Jimmy Morton of California and Jack Bernard Morton of Berryville Ark.

Hickory and siblings grew up in Springdale on their grandparent's farm, located next to the Springdale Country Club, where he and his brothers earned money by being caddies. That developed into a lifetime love of playing golf and habit of collecting "lost golf balls". He attended the Springdale school system, but enlisted in the US Marine Corp at the age of 17. He served with the 1st. Battalion, 11th Marines 1st Provisional Marine Brigade reaching the rank of sergeant. He served as a telephone wireman, one of the most dangerous positions, as it was his duty to lay and maintain communications systems between headquarters and the front lines. In Korea he fought in five battles, Nacdone River Bulge, twice, Inchon Landing, Chosin Reservoir and Liberation of Soul S. Korea. All UN troops serving at the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir were given the nickname "The Chosin Few". He developed debilitating rheumatoid arthritis from the negative zero temperatures in Korea. He spent nine months in Tennessee Naval Hospital recuperating. After five years of hospitals and extensive examinations, the Marines rated him at 50 percent disabled and permanently retired him on March 13, 1957. Later in life

he was rated 100 percent disabled. He earned his GED after returning to the US.

Returning to Springdale in the early 1950s, he married Colleen Jeanette Gay, and they had a daughter, Gaylene in 1955. They divorced in 1958. He married Mary Mahoney of Springdale on May 1, 1999.

Hickory bought the Sunset Café in Springdale in 1963 and owned it for several years. He owned a radio and television repair shop and worked for many years as a vending machine repairman for Servomation, before retiring. He has been a member of the Springdale Country Club since 1972, where he has been an annual competitor in the Chick-A-Tee tournament, winning the competition in 1980. He placed second numerous times as well as winning the Senior Division in the following years. After retirement, he traveled across the country playing in golf tournaments and was still competing in 2023.

He and his wife Mary would travel across the country for golf tournaments, Chosin Few reunions, and visiting friends and family.

He is survived by his wife, Mary, of the home, daughter Gaylene Morton Long and her husband Mark Long of Collinsville, OK, grandchildren: Russell Isaac Long, his wife Elizabeth Schenk Long and great-grandson Noah Long of Colorado Springs, CO; Jessica Long Davis, her husband Joshua Davis and great-grandson Jacob Davis, of Collinsville, OK; Mary's son, Kevin Vickers and wife Crystal Vickers of Springdale; grandson Bradley Vickers and great-granddaughter Alexandria Vickers of Alexandria, MN; several nieces and nephews, and brothers and sisters-in-law.

Graveside services and burial will be at 10:30 am Friday, April 12 , at the National Cemetery in Fayetteville, Ark., with cremation under direction of Sisco Funeral Chapel. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations may be made to the VA hospital in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Online condolences may be left at [www.siscofuneral.com](http://www.siscofuneral.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Fayetteville National Cemetery

700 Government Ave.  
Fayetteville, AR  
<http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/fayetteville.asp>

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

APR 12. 10:30 AM (CT)

Fayetteville National Cemetery  
700 Government Ave.  
Fayetteville, AR  
<http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/fayetteville.asp>

# Tribute Wall



“ *I feel so blessed to be able to say not only did I know this special man, but was lucky enough to say he was a friend. Such a gentleman but yet don't mess with him. One last hug good bye from Tim and I. Thoughts are with your family during this difficult time.*  
*Tim and Johnice Bunch*

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**Johnice Bunch** - April 12, 2024 at 08:43 AM



“ *Mr Hickory was one of the finest men I ever met , he was so kind and gracious, a true gentleman , I will never forget the golf lessons I received from Mr Hickory, he truly loved the game of golf , Springdale Country Club has Lost a legend , rest easy my friend!!*

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**Eddie Massey** - April 11, 2024 at 05:16 PM

JJ

“*"Hickory" a friend and a Marine.*

*"Hickory", a wireman in the First Marine Division, in December 1950, under heavy Chinese fire, marched 80 miles from Yudam-ni, North Korea in temperatures that nightly reached a temperature of minus 40 degrees, to Hungnam, North Korea.*

*During the Division march, the frostbitten Hickory continued to lay wire in support of the Division units. Through his efforts, moving from unit to unit, under heavy Chinese fire, the March was successful.*

*The First Maine Division cut its way through 7 Chinese Divisions and parts of 3 others, killed at least 25,000 and wounded close to 13,000 Chinese. We, the Marines had in round numbers 700 dead and 3,500 wounded.*

*Hickory was one of the Marines among our 6,220 non-battle casualties, mostly frostbite victims. Hickory although suffering from significant frostbite was among the 2,500 Marines that returned to his duty station*

*I know that with Hickory's last breath, he remembered our Corps. May our Colors never fade.*

*Maintain Marine! Semper Fidelis!*

*Jim Johnson*

*A Major of Marines*

*George Company, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, FMF  
Korea 1952*

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**James Johnson** - April 11, 2024 at 10:24 AM

ZE

“ Hickory was a great man and a privilege to know. We will always remember him as a quiet hero and a joy to have known. Please accept our deepest condolences. Bill, Darcel, Brett, Scott, Rivka Zemke and family

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**Zemke** - April 09, 2024 at 04:02 PM

1A

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**1st Marine Division Association** - April 07, 2024 at 08:22 PM

PR

“ May the good Lord wrap his comforting arms around this family at this time of loss and at the same time opening them up to our brother Hickory welcoming him home. Our deepest sympathy for your loss.

*Pat Rice  
Detachment 1296  
East Valley Marines*

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**Pat Rice** - April 07, 2024 at 08:10 PM

CD

“ Christie D. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Walter Max "Hickory" Morton.

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**Christie D.** - April 07, 2024 at 05:31 PM

PM

“ *Loved all the trips that James and I took with Hickory and Mary; always fun where ever we went. The world lost one of the good guys when Hickory died. He will always be remembered and missed. Prayers to you Mary.*

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**Peggy Marshall** - April 07, 2024 at 04:16 PM

SB

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**Sean and Lisa Barrows** - April 06, 2024 at 08:25 PM

SB

“ *Many many great memories with Hickory. We will miss him greatly and feel so blessed to have known Hickory. We will be praying for Mary and the family. Thank you Hickory for all the laughs and all the great golf pointers! We will see you again one day.*



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**Sean and Lisa Barrows** - April 06, 2024 at 08:01 PM

N8

“ *NWA Marine Corps League Detachment 854 purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Walter Max "Hickory" Morton.*



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**NWA Marine Corps League Detachment 854** - April 06, 2024 at  
06:52 PM