



## Edward Ringgold Elburn

May 23, 1918 - March 3, 2012

Edward “Ringgold” Elburn, age 93, departed this life on Saturday, March 3, 2012, at Safe Haven Manor in Sudlersville, MD.

Ringgold was born on May 23, 1918, near Chestertown, MD, in Queen Anne’s County, the third son of Walter Ludlow Elburn and Mary Rebecca “Molly” Ringgold of Elburn’s Florist and Greenhouses fame.

Ringgold is predeceased in death by his wife of 50 years, Mabel Elizabeth Miller Elburn (January 5, 1918 to January 4, 1993). He is also preceded in death by brothers, William “Walter” Elburn, Joseph Arters “Joe” Elburn, Thomas Franklin Elburn, and James Ellsworth “Jimmy” Elburn.

He is survived by one brother, Richard Deford “Dick” Elburn of Chestertown, MD; one son, Carl Edward Elburn and wife Harriett Rebecca “Becky” Lusby of Chestertown, MD; one daughter, Joan Elizabeth Elburn Farley and husband William Lloyd “Bill” Farley of King George, VA; three grandchildren, Christopher Edward “Chris” Elburn and wife Ioana Dudu of Hanover, MD; Carrie Ann Elburn of Chestertown, MD, and Trail Ringgold Farley of Alexandria, VA; four great-grandchildren, Blade Edward Carroll and Logan Scott Carroll of Chestertown, MD, and Shelby Briana Elburn and Sophia Alexandra Elburn of Hanover, MD. He is also survived by numerous nephews and nieces and their families.

Ringgold Elburn graduated with honors from Church Hill High School in 1935, receiving the Good Citizenship Medal awarded by the Sons of the American Revolution. At age 17, Ringgold adjusted his birthdate to allow himself to enlist in the Maryland National Guard on December 1, 1936. He was called to active duty in the United States Army on February 1, 1941, and served with the 115th Infantry, 29th Division, 2nd Battalion Medical Detachment – the “Medicos” of Chestertown, MD.

He married Mabel Elizabeth Miller on April 11, 1942, at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Church Hill, MD, before being deployed to England on the Queen Elizabeth in September 1942.

Ringgold Elburn landed with the Medical Detachment in the second wave on Omaha Beach on D-Day. He would follow the front line throughout the duration of World War II until the Russians were met in Germany and the German surrendered. He received a Purple Heart for wounds received at St. Lo’, France, and was awarded a Bronze Star for bravery. Ringgold was honorably discharged on June 27, 1945, at Fort Meade, MD.

Ringgold reenlisted in the Maryland Army National Guard in 1947, where he would form Company G and be promoted to 1st Sergeant, a rank he held until retirement on May 23, 1978. First Sergeant Edward Ringgold Elburn’s military career is documented in numerous publications, books, newspaper articles, and internet websites, including “Young American Patriots – The Youth of Maryland and Delaware in World War II”, “the 115th Infantry Regiment in World War II” by Joseph Binkowski and Arthur Plaut, “The GI’s War” by Edwin P. Hoyt, and “29th Division... A Division of Heroes” by Laurent Lefebvre. He was featured on the front page of the Baltimore Sun on June 4, 1994, as part of their “D-Day: Prelude to Triumph” series.

Ringgold is documented in the Library of Congress American Folk life Center Veteran's History Project, the 29th Infantry Division Historical Society, the National D-Day Memorial library at Bedford, VA, the National World War II Memorial Registry in Washington, DC, and the National Purple Heart Wall of Honor. On December 5, 1993, the drill floor at the Chestertown National Guard Armory was dedicated to 1st Sergeant (Ret) Edward Ringgold Elburn as "Elburn Hall." From remarks made by Major General James F. Fretterd on the day, "1st Sgt. Edward Ringgold Elburn is an individual who epitomizes the dedication, courage, and tenacity of a citizen-soldier. He was an outstanding role model for all those fortunate enough to serve with him. He looked like a soldier and certainly acted like one."

Ringgold would return to Normandy twice within the 29th Division Association, in 1978 and again in 1994.

He was immediately eligible for and was in the process of being awarded the French Legion of Honor Medal by French Consulate. However, the award had not been processed at the time of his death and unfortunately it is not awarded posthumously.

Besides his extensive military career, Ringgold was an avid gardener and truck farmer, well-known for the quality and abundance of his produce. He and wife Mabel owned and operated Elburn's Produce Stand in Kingstown for many years, and Ringgold was in the grassroots formation of the weekly Chestertown Farmer's Market held in the town square on Saturdays.

He loved and collected antiques, particularly oil lamps, and loved to salvage and refinish antique furniture.

Ringgold was a loving husband, son, father and uncle. No one whose life he touched will ever forget his vitality, zest for life, wit, and wisdom.

A viewing will be held on Saturday, March 10, 2012, from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. at Fellows, Helfenbein and Newnam Funeral Home, 130 Speer Road, Chestertown, MD. Ringgold will be cremated in accordance with his wishes. A funeral service will be held at 4 p.m. at Fellows, Helfenbein and Newnam Funeral Home Chestertown, MD, followed by a reception of memories, companionship, and love at the funeral home. Ringgold will be interred at Chester Cemetery next to his wife, Mabel. A private ceremony will be held at a later date.

The family requests the memorial donations in 1st Sergeant (Ret) Edward Ringgold Elburn's name be made to your favorite charity or to one of the following: Hospice of Queen Anne's, Inc., 255 Comet Drive, Centreville, MD 21617; Safe Haven Manor, 104 Charles Street, Sudlersville, MD 21668; the National D-Day Memorial, 3 Overlord Circle, Bedford, VA 24523; the Wounded Warrior Project, 1120 G Street NW, Suite 700, Washington DC 20005; Fisher House Foundation, Inc., 111 Rockville Pike, Suite 420, Rockville, MD 20850; or the Historical Society of Kent County, P.O. Box 665, Chestertown, MD 21620.

# Cemetery Details

**Private**

## Previous Events

### Visitation

MAR 10. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Chestertown Location  
130 Speer Road  
Chestertown, MD 21620  
(410) 778-0055  
info@fhfuneralhome.com

### Service

MAR 10. 4:00 PM (ET)

Chestertown Location  
130 Speer Road  
Chestertown, MD 21620  
(410) 778-0055  
info@fhfuneralhome.com

# Tribute Wall



“ *Edward Ringgold Elburn*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Edward Ringgold Elburn*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Edward Ringgold Elburn*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *MANY THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED THE SERVICES FOR MY FATHER, SENT CARDS AND FLOWERS, MADE A CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION IN HIS NAME OR SAID A PRAYER FOR HIM. I CANNOT THANK YOU INDIVIDUALLY BECAUSE I DO NOT HAVE THE GUEST BOOK, FLOWER CARDS, OR SYMPATHY CARDS THAT WERE NOT SENT DIRECTLY TO ME, AND I AM NOT ALLOWED ACCESS TO THEM. HOWEVER I DO THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART. MY FATHER WAS LOVED AND RESPECTED BY SO MANY - THE LOVE OF MANY OVERWHELMS THE HURT OF A FEW. JOAN ELBURN FARLEY, RINGGOLD'S DAUGHTER*

JOAN ELBURN FARLEY - March 29, 2012 at 11:46 AM

SM

“ Carrie---I am truly sorry to hear of your Grandfathers passing. I did not know him personally, but Im sure he was a Loved and Respected Gentleman.

*Sending hugs your way...Shirley Shaffer McPeek*

---

**Shirley Shaffer McPeek** - March 20, 2012 at 03:59 PM

NH

“ Norris & Harriette Hall lit a candle in memory of Edward Ringgold Elburn



---

**Norris & Harriette Hall** - March 14, 2012 at 06:36 PM

KS

“ Kathy Sexton lit a candle in memory of Edward Ringgold Elburn



---

**Kathy Sexton** - March 09, 2012 at 07:27 PM

BS

“ We love you and are very proud of all that you did for our country and our family. Your love will always grow like your gardens in our hearts!  
*Love Always & Forever, Your Great-Grandsons,  
Blade Edward & Logan Scott*



---

**Blade Edward & Logan Scott** - March 08, 2012 at 10:00 AM

JB

“ Jack & Anne Bigelow sent a virtual gift in memory of Edward Ringgold Elburn



Jack & Anne Bigelow - March 08, 2012 at 08:30 AM

TG

“ Tony & Donna Gibbons-Neff lit a candle in memory of Edward Ringgold Elburn



Tony & Donna Gibbons-Neff - March 07, 2012 at 07:49 PM

JF

“ Joan Elburn Farley sent a virtual gift in memory of Edward Ringgold Elburn



Joan Elburn Farley - March 07, 2012 at 01:35 PM

JF

Daddy - You and Carl and Chris were on the videotron at the Verizon Center last night in honor of Military Night, as part of the military montage. 18,000 people stood and clapped and cheered for you - I was so proud! J

Joan Elburn Farley - March 07, 2012 at 01:38 PM



“ *We love you and miss you Great PopPop!*



---

**Carrie Elburn** - March 07, 2012 at 06:53 AM



“ *Carrie Elburn lit a candle in memory of Edward Ringgold Elburn*



---

**Carrie Elburn** - March 07, 2012 at 06:50 AM



“ *Buck And Gaynelle Laposata lit a candle in memory of Edward Ringgold Elburn*



---

**Buck and Gaynelle Laposata** - March 06, 2012 at 04:08 PM



“ *Kim Nicholson lit a candle in memory of Edward Ringgold Elburn*



---

**Kim Nicholson** - March 06, 2012 at 03:17 PM

RL

“ Ringgold, an “Outstanding Soldier” and a “Great Man”. We’ll miss you Top. Ron Leard HHC 2/175

Ronald Leard - March 06, 2012 at 09:45 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



JOAN FARLEY - March 05, 2012 at 11:22 PM

CE

“ Chris, Ioana, Shelby And Sophie Elburn lit a candle in memory of Edward Ringgold Elburn



Chris, Ioana, Shelby and Sophie Elburn - March 05, 2012 at 06:29 PM

FA

“ Frances Adkins lit a candle in memory of Edward Ringgold Elburn



Frances Adkins - March 05, 2012 at 02:31 PM

TJ

“ Tom And Nancy Lee Jewell lit a candle in memory of Edward Ringgold Elburn



---

**Tom and Nancy Lee Jewell** - March 05, 2012 at 12:59 PM

BS

“ An American Patriot, Through and Through, Rest in Peace, Top.

---

**Bobby Sweetman** - March 05, 2012 at 10:48 AM

JB

“ Jimmy Joiner, Cheryl And Brendon Butler lit a candle in memory of Edward Ringgold Elburn



---

**Jimmy Joiner, Cheryl and Brendon Butler** - March 05, 2012 at 10:17 AM

KB

*Joan, Just want you to know I'm thinking about you and your family during this time, I know how difficult this can be. I lost my Father last Easter with prayer and kind friends and family we were able to get through the hard times! Love you my friend!*

*Kathi Bezeredi  
Fredericksburg, Va*

---

**Kathi Bezeredi** - March 06, 2012 at 08:38 AM