



## Loran 'Doc' Morgan,

October 14, 1918 - November 23, 2009

TORRINGTON, WY.....Memorial services with Military Honors for LORAN B. MORGAN, MD, 91, will be held on Saturday, November 28th, 2009 at 1 pm at the First Wyoming United Presbyterian Church with Reverend Steven Seng officiating. "Doc" Morgan died on November 23, 2009 at Community Hospital in Torrington, Wyoming. Burial will follow at Valley View Cemetery in Torrington. Memorials can be made to the Western History Center Youth Program at 2308 US HWY 26 Lingle, WY 82240 Arrangements are under the direction of the Colyer Funeral Home and friends are invited to send condolences to the family at [www.colyerfuneralhome.com](http://www.colyerfuneralhome.com). Sand greens and sagebrush made golf even tougher than it had to be according to Dr. Loran B. (Bud) Morgan. In the early 1950's, Bud made daily summer visits to Torrington's golf course where he and a few buddies arranged a well and started the first grass green (hole#3). Bud's work on the burgeoning Torrington Wyoming golf course is only a small part of his rich and varied legacy. He was born in Pipestone, Minnesota, October 14, 1918, the fourth of five children born to William Towner Morgan and Mabelle Courtenay (Brown) Morgan. Loran grew up next door to his grandparents, Warrington B. Brown and Mary Halliday Brown. He had fond lifelong memories of his grandfather, a Civil War veteran, who died when Loran was a freshman in college. Bud was valedictorian of the Class of 1936, Pipestone High School, where he excelled in sports and academic achievement. Upon graduation, he entered the University of MN where he graduated in 1940 with two bachelor degrees

in pre-medicine. After graduating from medical school, he began his internship at St. Luke's Hospital, Denver, where he met a nurse from Torrington, Elizabeth (Beth) Ashburn, whom he married in 1944. Upon completion of his internship, Bud joined the US Army and eventually became a paratrooper and a battalion surgeon with the 17th Airborne. He made several combat jumps into Europe. In 1945 he parachuted into Germany, with the 17th's Operation Varsity, setting up an aide station to treat the wounded. For his heroism, he earned the Bronze Star. Upon discharge, he had achieved the rank of Major. For the rest of his life, Bud kept in contact with his fellow soldiers and attended annual airborne reunions. Following the war, Doc set up his first medical practice in Gilman, CO, where he ran a hospital to treat zinc-mining personnel. As the only physician in two counties, he made hazardous mountain runs by car and private airplane to serve that region's scattered population. It was the need to treat remote patients that drove him to his passion of flying. After his experience in Gilman, Bud moved to Torrington where he pursued a long career as a general practitioner with the Torrington Medical Group. In 1957, he returned to the University of MN to complete a degree in ophthalmology. During the Vietnam War, Bud volunteered for four terms of service in Vietnam where he treated Vietnamese civilians, many of whom suffered eye burns. From that experience, he invented an eye-irrigation device called the Morgan Lens, an instrument now used throughout the world for treating eye injuries. A longtime member of the American Legion, Bud served one year as a Wyoming State Commander. His upbringing and military knowledge gave him a deep sense of love of country. Doctor Morgan was a member of the First Wyoming United Presbyterian Church and a life member of Travis Snow Post #5 of the American Legion at Torrington. Doc Morgan is survived by his loving wife of 65 years, Beth, of Torrington, daughter, Beth Bowens (Bo), of Lakewood, CO, and his son Dan Towner Morgan of Missoula, MT, five grandchildren, Lyndsey, Zachary, Mariah, James, and Ryan, and a brother William Towner Morgan of Sartell, MN. He was preceded in death by his parents, his brothers, W. Stannard

Morgan and George Alan Morgan, his sister, Courtenay Morgan Forman, and daughter-in-law Pam Morgan.

# Tribute Wall

MC

“ Thank you Dr. Morgan and the entire Morgan family for making us feel welcome and offering such a wonderful place to make my career and lifelong friendship. The Morgan family is a true treasure to both of us and we love you all. Dr. Morgan's legacy will live on in every one of you. Love Mary and Chris

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**Mary Watne & Chris Clasby** - November 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JI

“ Thank you so much for all you have done for our family, you and Aunt Beth are priceless. We love you both so very much and will miss you greatly. This is not the end but the start of a new journey. Love you.

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**James W. Ashburn III** - November 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

PC

“ Beth,  
So sorry to hear about Doc's passing.  
He was a wonderful man. My Sal and I so enjoyed seeing the both of you at our reunions. Know that my prayers and thoughts are with you at this time  
Sincerely,  
Phyllis F. Consul

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**Phyllis F. Consul** - November 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CR

“ I will miss him more than words can express. I owed him so much for everything he did for me and my family.  
Love to Beth...letter to follow.  
Bob

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**Colonel (Ret) Robert Rhynsburger** - November 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

AJ

“ Dear Mrs. Morgan, Dan & Beth,  
As long as I can remember, when I was in school in Lyman, our family went to Dr. Morgan for eye check ups & contact lenses. He was always so gentle, kind, caring, & was very interested in what we had been doing since the last time we were in. He was one of my favorite doctors. He accomplished so many great things in his life, you must have been very proud of him. My mom is Mary Morrison. She & dad live in Windsor, CO now. We extend our deepest sympathy to your families. We will always treasure the memories & times we spent with Doc Morgan.  
With condolences, Anne Morrison James

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**Anne Morrison James** - November 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MK

“ Dr. Morgan was my hero. He was always a brilliant man, but accessible. He delivered me when I was born, was my mentor when I was a young woman and always was my friend.  
So Sorry I missed the service. We were away for the holiday. I would have loved to pay my respects and thank all the family for sharing this wonderful man with me all my life.  
with love,  
margy

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**Margy Karpf** - November 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ *Doc Morgan was my father's best friend in the War and in his service with the 17th Airborne. We send our love and condolences from Texas. We fondly remember the times we got to visit as kids and Doc would fit us with glasses and contact lenses as my Dad.....George Robie and Doc would discuss their old stories of World War II. These two men personified what was great about our country.....I was priviledged and honored to know and love them both.*

*We love ya'll and are praying for you.*

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**Richard "Dick" Robie** - November 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

“ Dr. Morgan was one of the doctors who treated me at the Torrington Medical Group when I was just a child. He took my tonsils out and was also my doctor when I had Pneumonia. When I got out of the hospital after having Pneumonia, I was not to be outside for quite some time, but I talked my Mom into taking me to a toy store. We crossed the street in the middle of the block, when who should wave at us but Dr. Morgan. We thought he would really come down on us, but he never mentioned it. However, I was real careful after that, until I was well enough to go outside. Also, when I had Pneumonia, Dr. Morgan was wearing cowboy boots for his back. I used to watch him walk in the hospital and think, since I grew up on a ranch, that I should become a doctor and wear cowboy boots, which I did not end up doing, not having the brains for a doctor. I knew he was an Army doctor, but did not know he was a paratrooper. My uncle, Joel Teeters, may not have known that either, but they may have had some conversations, as he was an 82nd. Airborne Glider Troop in WWII. We all admired Dr. Morgan for going back overseas during the Vietnam War to practice his new treatment. My parents, Wallace and Dorothy Newton, always thought the most of him. We did not "doctor" with him after he became an eye doctor. When we needed that type of medical attention, he had retired. One evening after Dr. Morgan was retired, he and Mrs. Morgan came by my Parents' house in Torrington to look at a car they had. He was either wanting to purchase it or buy one like it. I remembered when I was in college and stopped by his office to ask about purchasing his convertible, which was a great looking car. He had his office nurse tell me he was not interested in selling it. I told my Parents I wished I had been there when he came to look at their car, and I would have reminded him of when he would not sell me his car. I know we would all have gotten a laugh out of that. To Beth, his daughter, we do not know each other, but I remember seeing you around Torrington. I graduated out at Veteran High School either the same year, or a year before you graduated from Torrington High School. For Dr. Morgan having a son, I remember there was one, but I do not remember you. We want to extend all our Sympathy to all of Dr. Morgan's family and friends. I will never forget him and he will be

*remembered and missed by all.*

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**Garold W. And Theresa L. Newton** - November 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

ES

“ *The Airborne fraternity mourns the loss of Trooper and Life Member Loren B. Morgan. Our thoughts and prayers are with Beth and family during this difficult time.*

*Ed Siergiej  
17th Airborne Division Association WWII*

*Mary Siergiej  
17th Airborne Division Association Ladies Auxiliary*

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**Ed Siergiej** - November 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

WH

“ *My sincere condolences with the loss of Loran'Doc'Morgan, MD. and veteran from the 17th Airborne. My thoughts are with his family.*

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**Wesley Haex** - November 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

MV

“ *So sorry to read of your loss. What a wonderful person and friend!*

*We are currently in Casa Grande, AZ so we will not be able to attend the services but wanted you to know that our prayers are with you all.*

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**Mike & Donna Vick** - November 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RD

“ We were terribly upset to hear of the passing of your husband and send you and your family our most sincere condolences in your very sad loss.

*Marianne & Réal Desmarets*

*Belgium*

*Honorary member of the 17th airborne Division Association*

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**Réal Desmarets** - November 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

TM

“ *Beth and family,*

*We where saddened to hear of Bud's passing. You are all in our prayers.*

*I remember Bud coming to the hospital at the request of his big brother Stan when I had my stroke in 1980. He did that whenever my grandfather needed him by his side I always admired that.*

*Bud also called me a few times when the family was going through difficult times to make sure we where doing OK.*

*Bud cared about his family and that extended out to even great-nephews.*

*To Bud's Grandchildren..... you where so fortunate do not think of your loss think of all the great times you had with your grandfather. Like my grandfather I'm sure he was bigger than life to you!!!*

*God's Blessings to each of you,*

*Todd & Sally Morgan & family*

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**Todd Morgan** - November 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

CT

“ Greetings:

*It is with a heavy heart that we learn of the passing of another of our World War II Airborne Family Members. YES TIME is taking its toll on our Veterans and their family. On behalf of our now dissolved 17th Airborne Division Association may we say "Farewell to a Distinguished Veteran and a Valued Comrade".*

*Sincerely,*

*Col Del Townsend  
Co A & B, 194th GIR  
17th Airborne Division Association  
President, 2004 - 2008*

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**Col Del Townsend** - November 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

KW

“ *Beth, we send our deepest condolences to you and your entire family. I credit Doc with saving my life as a Dr. and he deserves everlasting credit for being a watchdog where Gwen's eyes are concerned.*

*Our care for him goes deeper than affection and admiration, it has to be classified as love for a great talented and caring man.*

*We send our best wishes,  
Keith and Gwen Whitney*

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**Keith Whitney** - November 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ So sorry for the loss of such an intelligent, kind and thoughtful man. He will be missed greatly. His name and business and product will live on, what a great legacy. My thoughts and prayers are with all of the family.

*Judy*

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**Judy Devine** - November 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Dr.Morgan you will be truly missed. So enjoyed when you would call the office.

*Thank you and the entire Morgan family for all you have done for me. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.*

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**Della & Mark Barrett** - November 23, 2009 at 12:00 AM