

## **Ulysses Miller**

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**From:** Don Coulson [donlcoulson@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 23, 2013 12:12 AM  
**To:** Ulysses Miller  
**Cc:** meyer@firehousemail.com  
**Subject:** Don Coulson - Obituary

Hi Ulysses and Lew. Below is my dad's obituary. I did not put it in the newspaper because it would have been over \$1,400. My dad would have come back and kicked my butt if I'd wasted that kind of money. Could you pass it on to whatever groups are appropriate. I know he was in a ex-POW group and a Purple Heart and something else, but I don't know if there were any more. Thank you both for your kindness to my dad. Sincerely, Melodi Coulson

Don L. Coulson

El Cajon

Born in Oklahoma in 1922, he departed this life on April 15, 2013. He is survived by his three children, Don P. Coulson, Irena Coulson and Melodi Coulson. And also by three grandchildren, Steve Zarkos, Heather Boswell, Dawn Nelms and eleven great-grandchildren.

He served in the U.S. Army during WWII and was a POW in Dachau, Germany. In spite of all of the torture and damage done to his body and mind during the war, he came home ready to live. He met his soul-mate, Irene, when he was still skin and bones from being a POW. He charmed her into marrying him after nine days. They were married for nearly 65 years and he never left the house without kissing her good-bye.

He did many thousands of hours of volunteer work and was a very active politically too. He was instrumental in the fight to integrate African Americans into the machinist union and was also a big part of adding the first paramedics to Santee, CA. They saved his life a few years later, when he had a heart attack.

His wife passed away about 3 years ago and without her, he lost both his anchor and his rudder. Life went on, but it lacked color and flavor. He still raised hell and fought injustices, but with much less passion. We miss him, but he was ready to join his wife of nearly 65 years, in the next part of their journey together. They are both missed very much.

He did not wish to have a memorial service. In one final act of volunteering, he donated his body to the medical school at UCSD.

To our father, grandad and uncle. Thank you for your dedicated service during WWII. Our lives wouldn't be the same without men like you protecting our way of life. What you endured as a prisoner of war is a true testimony of American Patriotism. You will never be forgotten.