



The Alford American Family Association

Serving the Alford community over 25 Years
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Marvin David Chapman “Mike” Morgan

AAFA #0992

Charter Member

February 13, 1935 – September 19, 2018



Obituary

Marvin David Chapman Morgan, 83, born February 13, 1935, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana passed on to the next chapter of his eternal Life on Wednesday, September 19, 2018, while he was in Honolulu, Hawaii.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Sumie Mizumoto Morgan, and three daughters, Linda Morgan, Jeannie Morgan, and Carol Barnett; three grandsons, Drew Money, Brian Money, Jaxon Smith; one granddaughter, Nina Barnett; and five great grandchildren. He has one surviving brother, John Mark Morgan, along with a multitude of nieces, nephews, cousins, great nieces/nephews, second and third cousins, etc., that he was always overjoyed to see with open arms at biennial reunions. His grandsons and great grandchildren fondly remember him as "Paw Paw" (from the way he would greet them on the phone, "this is your paw paw calling").

Known as Chapman while growing up, he lived most of his early life between the Comite and Amite Rivers in East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana, spending countless happy hours swimming, fishing, and exploring in and around these rivers and their adjacent rural woodlands. One of his favorite memories was spending rainy days deep in the woods under pine trees so thick he would keep dry while being warmed by a small fire.

Chapman played football at Central High School in East Baton Rouge Parish and graduated in 1953. After spending one year at Louisiana State University, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and spent six years stationed in Japan, where he met and married Sumie, who came to know him as "Mike." "Mike" was a nickname that an uncle offhandedly gave to Chapman in his youth, and the name stuck well enough that when his new girlfriend had trouble pronouncing "Chapman," he offered her the name "Mike" instead. After leaving Japan and a short stint back in Baton Rouge and Jacksonville, Florida, Mike and his family moved to California in 1968, where everyone knew him as "Mike."

He worked for twenty eight years in aerospace communications: first out at sea on the tracking ship USNS Huntsville operating out of Port Hueneme, California, and Honolulu, Hawaii, which included support for the Apollo moon landing missions; then at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, where he retired in 1996.

He was a great lover of all kinds of music, but particularly enjoyed "Old-Time Country." He played the mandolin from an early age and later learned the guitar, fiddle, harmonica, and other stringed instruments, all of which he played by ear, never having learned to read music. He played and sang in several community bands over the years but enjoyed most the free concerts he and fellow musicians provided to local rest homes in Santa Maria and Lompoc, California. At the time of his passing, he was a member of Central Coast Fiddlers, Lilley Building Jammers, and La Maria Jam, where he sang and played guitar and mandolin for over twenty years. He compiled a songbook of lyrics to old-time songs from memory numbering over three hundred, shared this resource with regular attendees at the jams, and mentored many newcomers learning to play music or sing.

He was also a good dancer and particularly loved Cajun music dancing at family reunions. He was also an avid enthusiast for war history, reading constantly and extensively about it, and he was a founding sponsor of the National Museum of the United States Army and a charter member of the National WWII Museum. He spent a lot of time researching circumstances relating to the death of his brother Wendell by the Japanese in the Philippines during WWII and even met with fellow soldiers and others who had known him.

For several years, Mike volunteered through his church to work at the U.S. Penitentiary in Lompoc, California, serving inmates who wanted to hear religious readings. For his church, he served in many capacities over his lifetime including multiple stints as First Reader, Second Reader, Institutional Committee representative, board member, and President.

He was a master genealogist and produced a Morgan family lineage book with about five thousand names. A favorite pastime of his was reading and writing into Smiley Anders' column of the Baton Rouge Advocate. Mike could be heard chuckling or laughing out loud from his room where he enjoyed many hours reading and writing on his computer.

He was the sixth of eight children and fourth son of Thomas Beauregard Morgan and Alice Adeline Chapman; he was the paternal grandson of Thomas Benton Morgan and Elizabeth Jane Tycer and the maternal grandson of Emmett Lathrop Chapman and Annie Caroline Thomas; he was the great grandson of James J. Morgan and Lavina Durbin.

Chapman was the author and editor of the quarterly MORGAN-CHAPMAN FAMILY NEWSLETTER for almost thirty years; its motto was "In Kinship, Love, and Friendship."

Per his wishes, there were no viewing or funeral services. Chapman's ashes will be inurned at Hillsdale Community Church Cemetery in Hillsdale, Louisiana, where his parents, sister, and other relatives are buried. The Hillsdale Church is where his mother and father first met and where they married.

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Information and photo were copied from the [Legacy](#) web page.

Personal Data

Birth: 13 Feb 1935
Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana, USA
Death: 19 Sep 2018 (aged 83)
Honolulu, Honolulu County, Hawaii, USA

Family Members

- Parents
Thomas Beauregard Morgan, 1891–1951
Alice Adeline Chapman, 1898–1966
- Spouse
Sumie Mizumoto, (m. 1958)
- Siblings
Thomas Edwin Morgan, 1918–2000
Wendell Emmett Morgan, 1921–1943
Betty Ruth Morgan Munn, 1924–2011
Naomi Annie Morgan McGehee, 1927–1998
John Mark Morgan
Delia Margaret Morgan Steinman, 1941–2008
Alice Jane Morgan Scott
- Children
Linda Morgan
Jeannie Morgan
Carol Morgan Barnett

Information copied from the [Ancestry](#) web page.

AAFA Notes:

1. Chapman was not an Alford descendant.