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SMIDDY, ROBERT

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SMIDDY, Dr. Robert L., age 91, of Palm Harbor, Fla., died in his home on October 7, 2014. He was born in Knoxville, Tenn. Smiddy and his wife moved to Palm Harbor in 2012. He received a B.S. Degree in Business Administration from the University of Tennessee, in Knoxville; a Master's Degree in Christian Education from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; and an honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from the University of the Cumberlands, Williamsburg, Ky. He served as Minister of Education and Administration in Southern Baptist church for 45 years. Among the churches he served were First Baptist Church, Roanoke, Va.; First Baptist Church, Decatur, Ga.; College Park Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla.; Tower Grove Baptist Church, St. Louis, Mo.; Bon Air Baptist Church, Richmond, Va.; and the Dover Baptist Association, Glen Allen, Va. In 1987, he was voted as Distinguished Christian Educator of the Year by the Virginia Baptist Christian Education Association. He was a certified member of The National Association of Church Business Administration. Dr. Smiddy served in the United States Army during World War II (1943 to 1946) in combat in Germany and Czechoslovakia and in occupation duty in Japan. He was awarded a Bronze Star and numerous other medals. He is survived by his wife of 71 years, Blanche Lovette Smiddy of Palm Harbor, Fla.; a daughter, Carol Smiddy of Clearwater, Fla.; a son, Bob Smiddy Jr. of Palm Harbor, Fla.; a son, Tom Smiddy and his wife, Sherri, of Clearwater, Fla.; a grandson, Andrew Robert Smiddy of Palm Harbor, Fla.; and a brother, Dr. Joe C. Smiddy and his wife, Reba, of Wise, Va. He has numerous nephews and nieces throughout the country. The family will receive friends at the Palm Harbor United Methodist Church, 1551 Belcher Rd., Palm Harbor, Fla., on Thursday, October 16, 2014, at 12 noon, with a service following at 1 p.m. Burial service will be held at Florida National Cemetery on Friday, October 17, 2014, at 11:30 a.m. Flowers may be sent to Palm Harbor United Methodist Church or a donation may be made in the Memory of Robert L. Smiddy to: Honor Flight of West Central Florida, P.O. Box 55661, St. Petersburg, Fla. 33732. Please sign his guestbook at www.veteransfuneralcare.com.

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