Calvin Clay Boykin, Jr. was born March 1, 1924, to Kensey Lee Boykin of College Station, Texas, and Calvin Clay Boykin, Sr., of Rusk, New Mexico. He attended public schools in Rochelle and Big Spring, Texas, graduating from Big Spring High School in 1942, a year later than his class so he could play football for one more year with his younger brother, Bobby. He enrolled in the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas in 1943, where he graduated with a B.S. degree in Range and Livestock Economics in 1947.

In college, he was a member of the 7th Armored Division in Europe during World War II. He landed on Utah Beach on June 6, 1944. His service saw him through four campaigns in Europe including the Ardennes-Alsace, the participation in the defense of St. Vith, Belgium, with Task Force Jones and in the occupation of Germany. After the war, he returned to A&M.

In 1946, while a student at A&M, he met the love of his life, Rosemary Christian DePasquale, a graduating senior at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. After their marriage in Dickinson, Texas, in 1947, they traveled to Rosemary’s home in College Station for two semesters prior to volunteering for service in 1948.

Cal served as an armored recon car gunner and Section Sergeant with the 814th Tank Destroyer Battalion, attached to the 7th Armored Division in Europe during World War II. He took part in the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944, the Battle of Antwerp in December 1944, and the Battle of the Bulge in January 1945.

After graduating, Cal served for five years as a Range Conservationist with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service in West Texas, then returned to A&M with Rosemary, their son and Clay. In 1956, he earned an M.S. degree in Agricultural Economics from Texas A&M University.

In 1959, Cal accepted a position as the Agricultural Economist with the Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, in Las Cruces, New Mexico. While there, he continued his research in range and livestock economics, transferring with the Economics Research Service to the University of California at Davis in 1963. He continued his research and further studies at the University of California at Berkeley coming from nearby Pleasant Hill. In 1965, Cal was transferred to Texas A&M University, where he continued his research with the Economic Research Service in cooperation with the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station. Since 1963, Cal and Rosemary maintained their home base in College Station.


Cal is the author or co-author of over 100 journal articles, bulletins, book reviews, congressional documents, and miscellaneous publications concerning the economics of livestock and range development. He was a charter member of the Southern Agricultural Economics Association. He was listed in "American Men and Women of Science" in 1977. Periodically, since 1968, Cal studied creative writing through correspondence courses offered by the Independent Study Department of the University of Oklahoma. As a result of these studies he wrote a number of short stories, and in 1989, he completed a WWII based novel, as yet unpublished. In the field of military history, Cal has contributed, at the request of numerous military historians, a number of articles about his World War II experiences. With his tank destroyer battalion’s after action report and historical writings about the 7th Armored Division in hand, plus his letters home during the period in Europe, as well as the personal accounts of the surviving members of the 814th TD, he wrote and published his division history, Go to War. A History of the 814th Tank Destroyer Battalion, 1942-1945, ISBN Publications, College Station, Texas, 1995. The book chronicles the group’s experiences including the Battle of the Bulge, one of the key battles of the Battle of the Bulge. The book is now in its fourth printing. Cal also published a monograph on Gen. Robert Bruce Jones, the Rounder of Camp Hood.

Cal truly believed in letter writing and for many years corresponded with the remainders of the WWII, various authors and historians including Gen. von Manteuffel, commander of the German Panzer Division. Cal served as first vice-president of the Seventh Armored Division Association. He was re-elected First Vice-President at the annual meeting in Nashville, Tennessee only one month ago. He also served in the Tank Destroyer Society and as president of the 814th Tank Destroyer Battalion Association. Cal was the first two-part interview on Tom Turbyville’s “Veterans of the Unknowns” for KAGU. Cal was also interviewed by Bill Janeway for his “Bravo Valley Heroes” appearing in The Eagle. Reading was a favorite pastime of Cal’s. He was rarely without a book in hand and several beside his chair. Most were military histories, philosophies and biographies. He read to his children when they were little. He read the Legend of Sleepy Hollow and Theargue to Liliput in lieu of the more popular children’s books. He completed the Great Books of the Western World course and received rave reviews from his instructor.

Cal was actively involved in the early meetings that led to the need of segregation in the College Station schools. Years later, his testimony also allowed him the opportunity to serve his community as a special assignment counsel with SCORR, a volunteer organization under the U.S. Small Business Administration; as president of the Emerald Forest Homeowners Association in College Station; and as an instructor of “Writing Your Memoirs” for VWAR through the City of College Station Department of Parks and Recreation.

Cal took a special interest in the Veterans Park and Athletic Complex from the early stages of its development. He actively contributed his thoughts and ideas to the Brazos Valley Veterans Memorial and the American Mile at Veterans Park. He befriended Brent Mullins and encouraged the young man in his quest to establish a museum for American G.I.s. Cal also consulted with Brent in the formation of the M-8 tank destroyer similar to the one Cal rode in WWII. Most importantly, Cal began writing his personal memoirs through his service years in WWII. Cal fought many battles in his military career but none equaled the personal battle he faced with chronic lymphatic leukemia, diagnosed in 1989, and Alzheimer's disease. While his battle did not take away his sense of humor, he no longer could maintain his love of reading and writing.

Cal is also survived by his three grandsons: Lance Arvid Peterson and wife Rosemary Cardenas, Thomas Allen Peterson, Jr., and Calvin Peterson; his other family members are Cal’s brother Robert Heath Boykin and his wife Camille of Plano, Texas, and his sister, Mrs. Arthur Gunter, Mrs. Ray Peterson and wife Jennifer of Lubbock, Texas, and Ryan Peterson of Mission, Texas. Cal is also survived by his two children: kang, and husband, David, of Mission, Texas; Elizabeth Boykin of College Station, Texas; Cal Clay Boykin III and wife, Laurie Bell of Austin, Texas; and Brandon Heath Boykin and wife, Katiyaa Marcela of College Station. Cal was also survived by his seven grandchildren: Lance Arvid Peterson and wife Rosemary Cardenas, Thomas Allen, Ava Delaine, and Forrest Calvin: brother; Warren Clay Boykin, Sr., and Calvin Clay Boykin, Jr., and his sister, Mrs. Arthur Gunter, their wife, April of Austin; and Brandon Heath Boykin and wife, Katiyaa Marcela of College Station. Cal is survived by five great great granddaughters and grandsons. The family wishes to express their sincere appreciation to Dr. James F. Cooper, Dr. Terry Jenkins, Dr. Ricardo Gutierrez, Dr. Robert Heath Boykin, the nursing and caregivers of Brazos Valley Hospice, the staff of the Kayce February 2, 2006. She was truly thankful for his care, Rosemary Strickland, and the American G.I. History Museum, located in Branson, Missouri.

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