

Aldie honors WWII veteran Franklin Payne

Members of the Aldie Ruritan Club joined in celebrating Franklin Payne's 100th birthday. Franklin has been a member since 1957 and served as Aldie's postmaster for 30 years. Once a flight engineer in the Army Air Corps stationed in Nice, France, Payne began serving at the age of 17 flying all over France and Germany at the close of WWII.

A few years ago Ruritan members accompanied him on a special tour at the Smithsonian, National Air and Space Museum with a close-up of the restoration of a plane similar to the C-47 in which he survived an emergency landing in Europe and which he later repaired and helped fly out of the field in which they had landed.

As Postmaster in Aldie Franklin always seemed to know when President Dwight Eisenhower's motorcade would be going by on his way to see friends in Aldie and would stand out front and wave. He treasures a signed picture of President Eisenhower dedicated to him.

