



## Thomas "Russell" Edens

April 7, 1921 - December 21, 2020

Thomas "Russell" Edens passed away December 21, 2020.

A 3:00 p.m. graveside service will be held Tuesday, December 29, 2020 at Green Hill Cemetery in Greensboro.

Russell was born to the late Ginnie Russell and Thomas Olin Edens on April 7, 1921 in Rosemary, NC. He attended UNC Chapel Hill and proudly graduated May 1942, then enlisted in the Army heading straight to China to serve his country in WWII. He served in the China Burma India Theater and was awarded the Bronze Star medal. He returned home in 1946 and was appointed City Manager of Lumberton, NC. In September of 1947 he married Sara Frances Allen, his wife now for 73 years, and they relocated to Greensboro. Russell worked at Jefferson Standard Life for 37 years as a Senior Mortgage Loan Specialist. Russell and his wife were very much into history, especially the Civil War, and could entertain you for hours talking about important people and battles. He was an enthusiastic and accomplished woodworker who collected and restored old furniture by hand using the tools and techniques of the era. The Edens were also very well known in the community, especially hosting large Nights Out dinners annually for police and firefighters. After retiring, Russell volunteered in finance and budgeting with the City of Greensboro Police Department. He was an active member of VFW Post #2087 and First Presbyterian Church.

He is survived by his wife Sara, nephew Glen Allen and wife, Renee, and grandnephew Jackson of CA.

Forbis and Dick North Elm Street Chapel is assisting the Edens family.

# Events

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**DEC** **Graveside Service** 03:00PM  
**29**

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Green Hill Cemetery

901 Wharton Street, Greensboro, NC, US, 27401

# Comments

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“ I am saddened to learn of Russell's passing, and feel for Sara as she grieves his loss. They were a loving couple who experienced a wonderful marriage spanning seven decades. Russell had many great qualities as a man. Throughout his life he consistently displayed solid character and integrity, wisdom and courage; especially during the time of his WWII military service. It's hard to talk about Russell, and not talk about Sara. They were a pair - always together. I first met the Edens in the early 1980's when I was starting my career as a young Greensboro police officer. For a number of years; in the days preceding the Christmas holiday, Russell and Sara would open their home to serve a delicious, homemade Christmas dinner to all on-duty police personnel. They did this on two separate dates in December in order to catch the majority of those working different shift rotations. For twelve straight hours on each of these days, Russell and Sara served countless meals to their "police children". Never having children of their own, they always considered us their adopted family. The Greensboro Police Department has always felt loved, cared for and supported by the Edens. I feel very fortunate to have spent precious time with Russell over the past thirty-plus years. Most memorable was his teaching me the importance of showing kindness to all. I will miss my frequent visits with him in the Edens' home. Praying for you Sara.

Jim Scifres

Jim Scifres - February 03 at 02:43 PM

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“ Russell was a fine man who contributed countless hours of service to the Greensboro Police. His work as a volunteer focused on the business affairs of the department and it was not unusual to see him weekly handling the mounds of paperwork necessary to keep police services available when they were needed. He did this quietly and without complaint well into his very senior years. Russell and Sara supported the GPD through the years by hosting a floating Christmas reception at their home, scheduled on different evenings to include as many on-duty members as possible. Those events, and their National Night Out efforts over years were examples of at times unnoticed, but very significant things people can do to make their community better. I was fortunate to experience their support while serving as a member of the GPD.

David Wray

David Wray - December 29, 2020 at 12:43 PM

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“ I worked with Russell at the Mortgage Load Dept of Jefferson Standard for many years, and have fond memories of working with him. I was fortunate to see some of his wood projects.

**Daniel Horley** - December 27, 2020 at 09:53 PM