# Individual Report for Harry Porcher Baya Jr.



| **Individual Summary:** | **Harry Porcher Baya Jr.** |
|---|---|
| Sex: | Male |
| Father: | Harry Porcher Baya Sr. |
| Mother: | Elva Jessie Bending |

| **Individual Facts:** | |
|---|---|
| Birth: | 20 Mar 1911 in Tampa, Florida |
| Military Service: | 24 Jul 1936 |
| Military Service: | 25 Nov 1940 ; Age: 29 |
| Death: | 21 Mar 1993 in Tampa, Florida |
| Burial: | 24 Mar 1993 in Myrtle Hill Cemetery, Tampa, Fla. |
| Address: | 1508 DeSoto Ave., Tampa, Florida |
| Cause Of Death: | skin cancer on neck |
| Height: | 5 ft. 11 in. |
| Weight: | 205 lb. 0 oz. |

| **Shared Facts:** | **Adeline Wigfall Tillman** |
|---|---|
| Single: | 12 Feb 1941 in 1017 S. Rome Ave, (house of Tillman's) Tampa |
| Marriage: | 12 Feb 1942 in 1017 So. Rome Ave. Tampa, Fla. |
| Children: | Sara Starke Baya<br>Rosalie Adeline Baya<br>Emery Edward Baya |

| **Shared Facts:** | **Gregory Rowlett** |
|---|---|
| Marriage: | 27 Feb 1969 in Tampa, Florida Sacred Heart Church |
| Children: | [no children with Gregory Rowlett] |

**Notes:**

Person Notes: Harry was a native and lifelong resident of Tampa, Fla. and a sixth generation Floridian. He graduated from Virginia Military Institute in 1932. He was Battery Commander of the 116th Field Artillery, Fla. National Guard. He entered WWII in 1940 and served in Persia. After the war, he remained in the National Guard as a Battalion Commander. He was a real estate broker, general contractor, and founder of Harry P. Baya Construction Co., builder of homes in Tampa from the 1940's through the 1970's. He served on the Board of Tampa General Hospital and the Chamber of Commerce Committee of 100. He was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Knight's of Columbus, American Legion and the Military Order of Foreign Wars. He was a Member of Kappa Alpha Order, Ye Mystic Krewe of Gasparilla, Merrymakers Club, and the Tampa Yacht & Country Club.

The following was transcribed from the "Baya Family history" prepared by Harry P. Baya Jr. in 1977:
Born in Tampa, grew up at 1508 DeSoto Ave with my brothers and sister - a close and happy family. Prep school at SFMI 4 years, active in all athletics and boating, graduated from VMI during the depression in 1932 with BS in civil engineering and 2nd Lt. in reserves. Joined horse drawn 116th FA NG as a Lt., worked way to Europe on a ship, on return had jobs as manager of Transfer & Stg Co., then loading foreman for US Phosphoric Co., then abstractor and Asst Secy of Tampa Abstract and Title Co., then civil engineer with WPA, took trip to Cuba with sister, built one of first FHA homes, also turned home place around facing the bay, 2009 Bayshore Blvd. (with help of two mules), designed the colonial front and remodeled it. Was a probation officer with Juvenile Court, attended summer camp with NG every summer, also with NG helped quell Election

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**Notes:**

Day riots. Member of KA fraternity, Officers Club, Merrymakers Club, Tampa Yacht & Country Club, Gasparilla Association, Junior Chamber of Commerce, Knights of Columbus. Attended field artillery school at Ft. Sill, Okla. Went on active duty as Capt. "B" Btry. 116th FA. In 1940 on maneuvers commanded 631st Tank Destroyer Bn. Married in Feb 1942. Division moved to Texas. In late 42 was asked for and volunteered for secret mission 1616 H and ended up in Persia, was a Major and Plans & Training Officer for Persian Gulf Command (30,000 troops). After two years flew home (having sailed the seven seas and been around the world) and saw Sara for the first time (1 1/2 years old). Was assigned as prison officer (1800 general prisoners) in a rehabilitation center at Fort Jackson, SC (where Rosalie was born). After 5 years and end of war was Lt. Col. and returned to Tampa, moved in with parents, and started own business as R.E. Bkr. and Gen'l Contractor in Father's office. Built own home at 1508 DeSoto in back of homeplace and started buying land & building & selling. In 1949 Emery was born, Papa died, built Lake Cabin. Founded two corporations , Harry Baya Const. Co. and ABC Homes, and did everything related to development & building, site finding, master planning, surveying, site development, utility installation, street layout and paving, building design & construction, financing , promotion, selling. Built commercial buildings (took trips to Cuba, Bahamas, Canada). Built sister's house in Largo. Was a member of Realtors, Assc. General Contractors of America, Director on Home Builders Association of Greater Tampa, on Board of Tampa General Hospital, member of Chamber of Commerce, Committee of 100, K of C, KA, Tampa Yacht Club, Merrymakers Club. Bn. Cmdr. 116th FA (took battalion to Groveland, quelled race riot), G3 51st Div. Buried Father, brother, sister, aunt and uncle. Had three subdivisions going at one time, three sales offices (selling 75 houses a year some years). Em returned from the Army, moved into the old homeplace and into the office. Took Tillie on 4 months grand tour of England & Europe. Continued to develop and build. Buried mother, buried Tillie. Built garden apartment complex. Retired from reserves with pay after 20 years. Married Gregory Rowlett [Weidman] widow. Her father Dr. Rowlett, a distinguished and honored physician, graduated from U. of F. at Lake City.