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July 5, 1996 The Washington Post

William C. Chamberlin, 80, a retired Marine Corps colonel and a former Georgetown University law professor, died after a stroke June 28 at his son's home in El Paso.

A native of Chicago, Col. Chamberlin had lived in Bethesda from 1978 until 1993, when he moved to Texas. He served 31 years in the military and was a combat veteran of World War II and the Korean War. He was a Marine Corps Reserve officer and a professor of economics at Northwestern University when he was called to active duty at the outbreak of World War II.

During the war, he fought in campaigns at Guadalcanal, Saipan, Okinawa and Tarawa, where he was wounded. He received the Navy Cross, the Marine Corps' second-highest award for valor except for the Medal of Honor. His other decorations included two Silver Stars, a Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts.

He was Dartmouth College's 1938 class valedictorian. He received a doctorate in economics from Columbia University and a law degree from Georgetown University.

He lived in the Washington area off and on since the end of World War II. After his retirement from the Marine Corps in 1966, he became assistant dean of the law school at Northwestern University. In 1978, he returned to Washington, where he was a law professor at Georgetown University until his retirement in 1981.

His wife, Beverly Mann Chamberlin, died in 1991.

Survivors include three children, Henry B. Chamberlin of Potomac; Army Lt. Col. William Mann Chamberlin of El Paso and Wendy D. Jean Chamberlin, U.S. ambassador to Laos, of Falls Church; a brother, John Byrnes Chamberlin of Chicago; and eight grandchildren.

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