

# In Memory of Private LaVaughn Charles VanBrocklin

1920 - 1945

*(United States Army)*

**Age:** 24

**Spouse:** Charlotte Pierce

**Conflict:** World War II

**Country Enlisted In:** United States of America

**Country of Death:** The Philippines

**Relation:** Husband of Maternal 5<sup>th</sup> Cousin 1X Removed



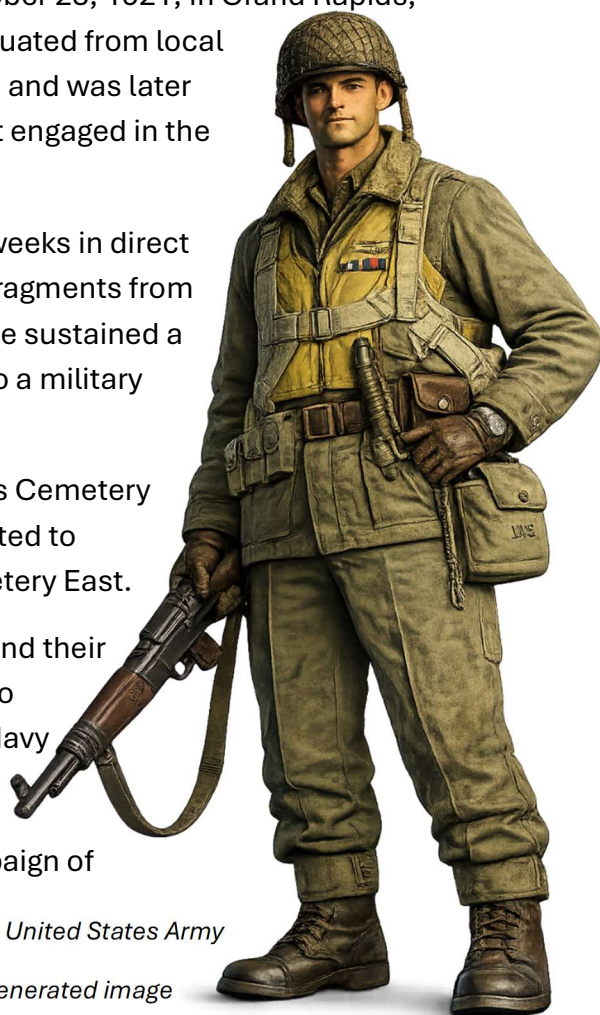
Private LaVaughn Charles VanBrocklin was born on October 23, 1921, in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and was educated in Benzonia, where he graduated from local schools. He entered the United States Army in May 1944 and was later deployed to the Pacific Theatre as part of an infantry unit engaged in the liberation of the Philippine Islands.

After approximately six months overseas, and only two weeks in direct combat, Private VanBrocklin was mortally wounded by fragments from an enemy mortar shell in the Davao area of Mindanao. He sustained a severe wound to his left shoulder and was transported to a military hospital where he died of his injuries on May 11, 1945.

He was initially buried in the United States Armed Forces Cemetery at Talomo, Mindanao. In 1949, his remains were repatriated to Michigan and laid to rest at Crystal Lake Township Cemetery East.

Private VanBrocklin was survived by his wife, Charlotte and their two young sons, LaVaughn Jr. and Glenn. He also had two brothers serving in the forces, one in the United States Navy and another with an infantry unit in the Pacific.

His service formed part of the broader Philippines Campaign of 1944–45, a decisive series of Allied operations



*Private – United States Army*

*AI generated image*

fought across Leyte, Luzon, Mindanao, and surrounding islands in the final push to liberate the Philippines from Japanese occupation. His sacrifice stands as a solemn reminder of the heavy cost borne by young soldiers and the families who awaited their return.

