

## Robert H. Alcorn

( - 18 Sep 1957)

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**Alcorn, Robert H.** On Wednesday, September 18, 1957, at Drexel Hill, Pa., Robert H. Alcorn, beloved husband of Marie Alcorn, father of Miss Rena C. Alcorn of Washington, DC. Friends may call at the Lee Funeral Home, 4th st. and Mass. ave. n.e., after 10 a.m. Sunday, September 22. Services will be held at the Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church, 4th st. and Independence ave. s.e., on Monday, September 23, at 2 p.m. Interment Congressional Cemetery.

*Washington Post, September 21, 1957*

### **R.H. Alcorn, Fought for CS Benefits**

Robert H. Alcorn, who devoted his life to improving retirement benefits for Federal employees, died at the age of 85 Wednesday in the Delaware County Hospital, Drexel Hill, Pa.

Mr. Alcorn was "just about 95 percent responsible" for the passage of the Civil Service Retirement Act of 1920, according to Frank J. Wilson, president of the National Association of Retired Civil Employees.

"Every civil service retiree owes him an eternal debt of gratitude," Wilson said yesterday.

Born on a Roanoke County, Va., farm, Mr. Alcorn first worked in railroad shops, then was employed by the U.S. Naval Gun Factory here in 1910. He soon became the leader of a group of Gun Factory workers interested in the retirement problem.

In alliance with similar committees from other government agencies, they formed the Joint Conference on Retirement that pushed the Retirement Act through Congress.

Shortly afterward, Mr. Alcorn left the civil service and became the legislative representative of the Federation of Civil Service Employees.

He also was chairman of the Joint Conference on Retirement set up by the AFL locals representing Federal workers here. And he held office in the National Association of Retired Civil Employees.

He retired in 1944. Since then he was living with a niece, Mrs. Robert J. Gallagher, in Yeadon, Pa., and spending his winters in Florida.

Mr. Alcorn leaves his wife, Marie, and a daughter, Rena Alcorn, 201 8th st. n.e.