



William Joseph Neal, Jr.

October 11, 1923 - November 15, 2018

BURLESON - William J. "Bill" Neal, Jr., 95, a WWII Veteran, was carried to the arms of Jesus on Nov. 15, 2018.

A true example of the "greatest generation," he sacrificed for his country, family and friends his entire life without a word. He was strong in character, kind, respected and admired. Love and faithfulness defined him.

Bill was born in Newsome, Oct. 11, 1923, to Ruby Lamb Neal and William J. Neal, Sr. He was the third of three children, the only son and known as "Honey Boy" to his dad.

Because of his dad, the only Depot Agent for the railroad running through Newsome, Bill developed a love for trains that lasted throughout his lifetime. He also loved music and was part of a band growing up. Somewhere along the way, he also picked up photography, and would later drive his children crazy making them pose and wave for the camera on every possible occasion, but also leaving behind photographic treasures.

In 1943, at the age of 19, he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps, serving in the South Pacific with the 390th Bombardment Squadron, earning the rank of Corporal, one Silver Star and 2 Bronze Stars by the war's end. After the war, Bill worked at Rick's Funeral Home and attended Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas. One day while he was eating in a local cafe, a beautiful young nurse walked in the door and stole his heart. He and Jerry Dail married on Sept. 7, 1949. In 1950 Bill graduated with a BBA Degree in Management and the first of two daughters, Teri, was born. In 1952, he went to work for Lone Star Cement Corporation, later known as Lone Star Industries. Several years later their second daughter, Cheryl, was born. In 1955, the Neal family moved from Lubbock to Abilene Texas and in 1961 to Fort Worth where Bill would retire from Lone Star after almost 34 years. During their years in Fort Worth, he attended Travis Avenue Baptist Church, and later he and Jerry attended McKinney Memorial Bible Church.

In 1992, after continued pressure from his daughters, Bill wrote a book detailing his life growing up in small town America before and during the Great Depression. This captivating narrative, rich with family history and American life in the 1920s and 1930s revealed yet another hidden talent: a gift for writing that became another priceless treasure.

Survivors: Wife, Jerry; daughters, Teri and Cheryl; son-in-law, David Birdwell;

grandchildren, Andrew Birdwell and Michele Birdwell, Ashley Frey and Josh Frey; great-grandchildren, Addison, Isaac and Caleb Frey, and Parker Birdwell; his dearest friend, Bill Barkley; and many others who love him, including devoted caregivers who have supported the family and cared for Bill and Jerry: Angela Wynn, Rebecca Laughlin, Connie Edwards, Bobby Shipman, James Colbert, Judi Kester, Robbie Sneed, Kimberly Rasor, and Margie Jackson.

Comments



“ Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of William Joseph Neal, Jr..



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