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Funerals and death notices

RAYMOND CARL RAINWATER

ROBERT LEE - R.C. "Taos" Rainwater, 79, died Sunday, May 11, 1997, at 7:30 p.m. at his home in Robert Lee after an eight-year battle with cancer.

Service will be at his church, Pecan Baptist Church in Robert Lee at 10 a.m. Wednesday. Military graveside service will be at 3 p.m. in Hillside Memorial Gardens in Snyder. Arrangements are by Shaffer Funeral Home in Robert Lee.

He was born in Dandridge, Tenn., on Nov. 10, 1917, and moved to Ennis Creek near Snyder in 1930. He married Bessie Norrid in Carlsbad, N.M., in 1947. R.C. and Bessie raised their family in Snyder where he retired from Johnstons Testers in 1971 due to poor health. In 1975, they retired at Lake Spence.

He was a very proud American and veteran of World War II. He was inducted into the Texas Army at Brownwood in 1942. R.C. made the historic landing at Salerno, Italy, when the U.S. invaded Europe in September 1943. During the war, he was decorated with the Silver Star, Bronze Star and Purple Heart and numerous ribbons.

R.C. will always be remembered for his wit and sense of humor and his positive attitude about all the pain he endured throughout his life. But, he never complained. He was shot in the lung at Anzio, Italy, hospitalized for six weeks from third degree burns in an oil rig fire in 1953, and endured eight major surgeries since 1971.

In 1987, R.C. realized that God had a plan which lead to his baptism while recovering from throat surgery at St. John's Hospital. Three years later he and other members of the Lost Chords Club of San Angelo, served as honorary co-chairmen of the Tom Green County Great American Smoke Out. He spoke to more than 1,000 elementary children as an American Cancer Society volunteer.

Survivors include his wife, Bessie, of Robert Lee; one son, Kenneth Wade and his wife, Sherry, of Hobbs, N.M.; two daughters, Jean

Hamilton of Robert Lee and Odessa, and Patsy Maddux and her husband, Ron, of San Angelo. His grandchildren include Johnny Wade of Ruidoso, N.M., Craig Wade of Abilene, Deanne Hamilton of Odessa, Joie Hamilton of Houston, Robin Wade of Corpus Christi, Chelsea Maddux of San Angelo, Lori Sofinowski of Beaumont and Trey Upton of Kerrville. He is survived by two great-grandchildren, Eric and Ryan Wade of Minot, N.D. He is also survived by special friends, Delton Shirley of Odessa, Sheila Butler of Odessa, Bob Thayer of Houston, Myra Wade of San Angelo and members of the 36th Division, The Lost Chords and Pecan Baptist Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Tinsley and Luther Ray Rainwater; one grandchild, Royce Wade; and a special nephew, Skeet Whatley.

The family would like to acknowledge the compassion and care throughout the years from Susan Reeves, WTR speech therapist; Dr. Michael Cornell, Dr. Brian Humphreys, Dr. Johnny French, Dr. Denver Marsh and Dr. John Coughlin and the staff at Professional Medical.

The family will be receiving friends at Bayview Estates in Robert Lee and then at Willow Park Inn in Snyder following the graveside service. Memorials may be made to West Texas Rehabilitation Center, the American Cancer Society, Pecan Baptist Church Fund or a favorite charity.

The family would like to share a special prayer that made a great impact on God's special angel in 1987:

A Prayer for a Laryngectomee

“O Heavenly Father I thank you for your sweet gift of speech, the second such gift to me in my lifetime, and for your help through so many others during my recent and terrible silence. Never let me forget the anguish nor the despair suffered by me while speechless, for only in remembering can I tenderly assist those who unfortunately will come after me. Teach me to do so with clear understanding, a gentle compassion, a deep humility, and with much patience.”

Anonymous

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