



Jack Dempsey Riggan

October 28, 1920 - December 28, 2014

Raymondville, TX

Jack Dempsey Riggan, 94, returned to the Lord our Father on Sunday, December 28, 2014 at Harlingen, Texas. He was born on October 28, 1920 in Smithville, MS, son of James Howard and Etta (Addington) Riggan. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Lorene Bradley Riggan; brothers, Audrey (Alida), Bryon and Lester Riggan; and sisters, Letha Duncan, Gertha Frasier and Omarie Nimerick.

He is survived by his son James (Kay) Riggan of Raymondville and grandsons, Timothy Dale Riggan of Palm Beach Gardens, FL and Anthony Wayne Riggan of Sugarland, TX; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Jack moved to Willacy County with his family at the age of 4 and resided in the Rio Grande Valley for over 90 years. He attended public schools in Willamar, San Perlita, and Raymondville. Jack and Lorene were married in La Feria on December 7, 1940. After serving in the Seabees during World War II, Jack returned to the valley and worked with Delta Lake Irrigation District until moving to Rio Farms. In 1954 he moved to Raymondville and operated a farm there until he retired in 1982. He served as director of the Raymondville Co-op Board and was a founding member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Raymondville.

Although a full-time farmer, he found time for the hobbies of hunting, fishing, and treasure hunting from South Padre Island to Arizona. He earned his private pilot's license in 1947 and was a member of the Confederate Air Force when it was located in Harlingen, TX.

Jack and Lorene enjoyed summer vacations in their travel trailer during the years after his retirement. They traveled to Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico many times, occasionally with other couples from the area. They also made many new friends in the places they visited.

Jack remained active as long as he was able, preferring an active lifestyle rather than sedentary past-times of retirement; he continued to fly his L-16B as long as he was able to see and hear well enough to fly safely. Driving from his home east of Raymondville to Whataburger and Watson's Drug Store were favorite daily rituals until 2012 when he took up residence at Canterbury Gardens, an independent living center in Harlingen. During the last few months, he was a resident at the Navarette family home in Harlingen. Jack's family wishes to thank the staff of Canterbury Gardens and providers Ruby and Paul Navarette for their care.

Graveside services will be held on Friday, January 2, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at the Raymondville Memorial Cemetery, along with military honors presented by the American Legion Post 390 and VFW Post 6719.

In lieu of flowers, charitable gifts may be made to the First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 367, Raymondville, TX 78580 or a charity of your choice.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Duddlesten Funeral Home, 604 W. Hidalgo, Raymondville, TX.

Events

DEC **Visitation** 09:00AM - 08:00PM

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Duddlesten Funeral Home

604 W Hidalgo Avenue, Raymondville, TX, US, 78580

Comments



“ We never met in person but we shared by phone and mail. We always talked of being first cousins. My older siblings always told of their visits with Jack and how much they enjoyed the visits with him

Bernice (Addington)Roberts

Bernice C Roberts - December 30, 2014 at 05:46 PM



“ Jack and I talked several times on the phone and he told me of his love for flying. He told great stories and we often talked about family connection. He was my second cousin. God needed a good pilot.

Willard L. Addington

Willard L. Addington - December 30, 2014 at 10:01 PM



“ Sorry to hear about your loss. Jack was a fine gentleman.
Daniel Lefner and Family

Daniel Lefner - January 02, 2015 at 06:09 PM