



John Lee Roberts

December 27, 1915 - March 12, 2020

John Lee Roberts (1915-2020) peacefully passed into the presence of his Lord on the morning of March 12, 2020 at the Heritage Creek Assisted Living in San Antonio, Texas. Born on December 27, 1915 in Houston, Texas to John Lynch Roberts and Rena (Hackenjos) Roberts, Mr. Roberts moved by train with his parents (and their horse and buggy) to San Antonio in the early 1900's. Living a full life of 104 years, Mr. Roberts displayed an optimistic outlook on life that was exemplified in his abiding Christian faith, his love of family, his enjoyment of music, his infectious humor, and his sincere belief in other people.

He graduated from Brackenridge High School and later married another Brackenridge graduate Joan May (Thompson) Roberts. Married for sixty-six years, Mr. and Mrs. Roberts had four children, 10 grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren. A printer by trade, Mr. Roberts worked at the Clegg Company in downtown San Antonio, printed military maps for the Army Corps of Engineers at Fort Sam Houston and for the Defense Mapping Service at Randolph Air Force Base, taught printing at Lanier High School, and owned and managed the Western Printing Company for a period of years.

Mr. Roberts served his country in World War II as a Corporal in the United States Army Air Corps. He was deployed to the Pacific theater and worked as a printer on Tinian Island. He attended the Taylor Tabernacle Church, where he led a youth band, and later Castle Hills First Baptist Church. Playing the banjo was an early interest in his life, and he loved to play in musical combos at anytime and anywhere. Besides performing in churches, he founded the River City Jazz Band and could be heard playing in local hotels, senior centers such as Bob Ross, and events throughout San Antonio. His humor was demonstrated by his active participation in the clown unit of the San Antonio Shriners. He meticulously portrayed the character of Charlie Chaplin and could be found marching as Charlie during the San Antonio Fiesta Day parade activities. As well, Mr. Roberts served as Worshipful Master of Prospect Hill Lodge A.F.& A. M.

One particular example of his selflessness and his willingness to help others might be a

unique event that involved him in saving the life of another person who was drowning in the San Antonio River. As printed in the San Antonio Express and News on June 11, 1958, John L. Roberts was working at the Clegg Company when “he heard other workers yelling that a body was floating by, so he crawled from the shop window down a drain pipe to a ledge and jumped to the river bank. He then jumped in the water fully clothed, and pulled Mrs. Elizabeth Kerr, out and started applying artificial respiration. ‘I do not deserve any particular credit.’ Roberts declared late Tuesday. ‘It was the good Lord who saved that woman.’ “

Mr. Roberts is preceded in death by his parents and his beloved wife. He is survived by his four children: Joan Lee Kuhl (David), Janice May Lovelady, John Noel Roberts, and Joel Mark Roberts (Dianna); and ten grandchildren: Joy Kuhl, Travis Kuhl (Sara), Darren Kuhl (Becki), Amber Grapevine (Jacob), Heather Eads (James), Jason Roberts, Jeremiah Roberts (Allison), Jerry Roberts (Valerie), Joshua Roberts, and Justin Roberts (Courtney). A memorial service will take place at Mission Park North Cemetery Chapel, 20900 IH-10 West, S.A., TX 78257 at 11:00 am on Saturday, March 21, 2020. Due to current health concerns, attendees may note that the large chapel is spacious enough to accommodate cautious seating. As well, those less comfortable with a chapel service may elect to attend the gravesite service at approximately 12:00 pm.

Comments



“ We were saddened to see that our long-time neighbor and friend, John, had passed away after a long, beautiful life of 104 years. We were across-the-street neighbors of John and Joan and family for 37 years on Pinebrook. Although we both worked and weren't home all day and had parent and other obligations on the weekends, we still enjoyed visiting on various occasions. John was always a happy go lucky guy and willing to lend a helping hand, if needed. He and Bob shared tools and helping hands with tree trimming or ham radio antenna work and maintenance. He was always mentioning when and where he was playing music in case we could attend. We are sure he is excited to be reunited with Joan and playing his banjo in Heaven. May God rest his soul. Our deepest sympathy and love is sent to his children and families.

Bob and Cynthia Guyon

Bob and Cynthia Guyon - March 22 at 12:06 AM



“ So happy to have had the opportunity to sing a few tunes with John Roberts! Here are some photos of a visit with John at the Madison a few years ago. (A good time was had by all!)

My deepest sympathies to family and friends John will be missed.
Jeanette Stehr-Green (Leo Green's daughter)
Port Angeles, WA



Jeanette Stehr-Green - March 20 at 04:20 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of John Lee Roberts.



March 19 at 12:46 PM



“ What a privilege to experience the Christian values of "fairness" and "trust" in my father. I will never forget, Dad, you admonishing me to "uphold and pass along an untarnished family name." Thank you for being a wonderful and supportive father!
Love, John Noel

John Noel Roberts - March 18 at 11:24 AM



“ Dad was always smiling and happy. He hummed a song all the time. This was His secret to being happy and living so long. 104 Blessed Years Telling jokes and playing his Banjo with his band brought him and others a lot of joy. Friends, family, strangers always left smiling because he had a knack of knowing how to make others feel comfortable and important. Lovingly, Joan Lee

Joan Kuhl - March 16 at 10:03 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Joan Kuhl - March 16 at 09:55 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Joan Kuhl - March 16 at 09:54 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Joan Kuhl - March 16 at 09:53 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Lee Roberts.



March 16 at 02:27 PM