



Clarence Reese

December 11, 1933 - March 25, 2012

My Paw Paw

Clarence Reese was born in Durant, Ok, a long time ago, served in the military but didn't talk about it, and always worked hard even when he shouldn't. He was lucky enough to marry the love of his life, Maw Maw, who was the sweetest woman on Earth. They made beautiful children and plenty of them that were raised to have hearts of gold, and so much love for everyone. They were always together and he was hopeless romantic. When I was 11 I asked him to marry me, he said he couldn't because he already had "enough of a woman to handle". They had what everyone wants in this life, such a beautiful love. They still smiled, laughed and flirted. He still would pinch her behind while she cooked and help her with the dishes. You men should have taken notes from him.

I really didn't know Clarence Reese but I know my Paw Paw. Since before I remember, taking a trip to Paw Paw's house was more exciting and fun than anywhere else. We got to run around, play and just be kids because he wouldn't have it any other way. I remember thinking his real legal name must have been Paw Paw because that's what everyone called him. He always took care of me and everyone else. He treated me as his own and I am so thankful. His home was where children's dreams were made of and where we were lucky enough to grow up with him. His broken vehicles were given to us as clubhouses and he'd build the best tree houses and tire swings. He was

happy when his kids were happy. He enjoyed fixing our bikes, our yelling, and kids running through the house as long as our shoes were on our feet. If I came in without shoes he'd hug n tickle me then start popping the knuckles on my toes until I cried then he'd hug me and tell me, "Well keep your shoes on you big baby!" He loved his grandkids and all kids. He was an example of a perfect grandfather and a great man.

Most of us have gone fishing with Paw Paw and somehow sitting quietly on a dock he made us feel safe, strong and special, no matter the brutal truth he may have needed to give us sometimes. He would hug us and tell us he loved us every chance he got. I'll never forget how his beard tickled my neck when he hugged me. I didn't realize until he was gone how much he made all of us the people we are today. I feel like a part of my heart is missing. I know he's on a dock in Heaven with Maw Maw and his kids laughing at us and catching the biggest fish and they'll have it ready for all of us to feast when we get there. Right now, we all just want a few more moments with him but I know it'll be worth the wait.

-And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away- Rev. 21:4