



John Foley

August 28, 1922 - March 3, 2015

Dateline: Alice, Tx.

John William Foley, 92, of Alice, Texas, passed away on March 3, 2015. A celebration of life service will be held at the First Baptist Church of Alice, Texas, on Saturday, March 14, 2015 at 10am. Graveside services will follow at 2pm at the George West, Texas cemetery. John was preceded in death by his wife, Doris Jeanette Freasier Foley, parents Lee Daniel Foley and Augusta Hirst Foley, sisters Frankie Martin, Ida Schiro and Virginia Nelson, and brother Aubrey Lee Foley. He is survived by his children, Cheryle Anne Gaines of League City, Texas and two sons, Garner Lee Foley of Waring, Texas, and William Keith Foley of El Paso, Texas. He is also survived by seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. John was a proud Texan. He was born on August 28, 1922 in Taft, Texas, where he spent his early years, before moving with his family back to the original Foley family home near Orangedale, Texas. This is where his grandfather eventually settled after the Civil War reconstruction period. John attended Beeville High School. With the outbreak of WWII, John joined the United States Marine Corps and attended basic training in San Diego, California. Immediately thereafter, he boarded a troop ship and sailed across the Pacific to Auckland, New Zealand. He continued his combat training at Papakura, New Zealand for an additional six months with thousands of other US Marines, in preparation for the Pacific island invasion operations. John's first battle action was at Guadalcanal, in the fierce conflict to finish off the Japanese occupiers. He subsequently

participated in three major beach landings, each under heavy enemy fire, in some of the fiercest combat of the Pacific War, including the battles of Bougainville, Guam and Iwo Jima, while serving in the 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines of the 3rd Marine Division. For his bravery in battle at Iwo Jima, he was awarded a Silver Star, Purple Heart, and Letter of Commendation by the Secretary of the Navy. John's Division was expected to participate in the invasion of mainland Japan, but fortunately the war ended. At the end of the war he was sent to Seattle, Washington, where he recovered from his wounds, was discharged and returned to Texas. He and his wife, Jeanette, remained active in the Texas Chapter, 3rd Marine Division Association for many years. John was always proud of being a Marine.

After the War, he began working in the drilling business as a "roughneck" in the oilfields of South Texas. Through hard work and long hours he worked his way up to become a driller and tool pusher for such early companies as Dillard and Waltermeyer and Morris Cannon. In 1960 he moved his family to Alice, Texas, where he became Assistant Drilling Superintendent for Field Drilling Company. In time he became General Drilling Superintendent for Field, which by the 70's had become the largest land drilling company owned and based in South Texas. He also was an owner-operator of inland marine service barges. John was always very proud of the oilfield and being a part of it. After his retirement from Field Drilling Company in 1979, he achieved his lifelong dream of buying a ranch west of Tilden, Texas and running cattle. John was an avid deer hunter. John and Jeanette loved to travel to Mexico and did so many times. They toured the Caribbean, Canada, and many USA locations. On one trip in the early 1980's, they visited the South Pacific island of Guam, where he was able to wade on to the same beach upon which he had landed during the war and had received bullet wounds from enemy fire. John will always be remembered by his friends and loved ones as part of the "greatest generation" and one of the "proud and few."

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the South Texas Children's Home, PO BOX 759, Beeville, Texas 78104-0759

Services entrusted to Roberson Funeral Home.

Tribute Wall

LC

“ I met John in Oct 1954 when he worked for Baker Tool Co and I worked for Allen and Morris Drilling Co .In Duval, Co . Texas If I ever had a brother it would have been John most humble man I ever met .Could not forget him ,Later my Company sold out and wow! I am working for John and Fields Drlg Co. John all ways did or said some thing to pick you up just like a big brother .I know the world will miss him just like his family count me in to .John is with The Lord and I can see Jesus say well done my faithful servant and as soon as John gets off him knees He will ask what can I do to help .Never for get see you soon Lloyd Cannon

Lloyd Cannon - March 12, 2015 at 08:05 PM

MF

“ Sending love and prayers to all of you at this difficult time.

The McWhorter Family

McWhorter Family - March 10, 2015 at 04:56 PM

RN

“ Uncle Johnny was the last of the five children to go to join the other four. As sad as I am to see his passing, I feel great comfort and happiness that they are all together again with Paw Paw and Grannie. It was a true honor to not only know Uncle Johnny but be part of the family. His kind words were never hard to find and his love and Country and Family was an inspiration the we can all cherish.. I have tears in my eyes knowing that it's the final goodbye for now but joy in my heart knowing that we will be together again and will be able to share the rest of eternity as part of God's "Foley" family. May you rest in peace Uncle Johnny.
Rocky

rocky d. nelson - March 09, 2015 at 09:15 AM

AM

“ While attending Texas A&I University as a foreign student, Mr. John Foley’s son Keith Foley took me to visit his home in Alice, TX on one weekend where I had a pleasure of meeting his Dad. I found him very pleasant, friendly and family oriented. His discussion regarding oil business and other things were so interesting and informative that I will never forget. He definitely was one of the nicest person I met in my life. My sincere thoughts and prayers for him and family-Abraham Merchant

Abraham Merchant - March 08, 2015 at 12:59 PM

DA

“ keith, the bible said for avery things we can give glory to GOD .
Ephesians 5:20

GOD be with your family
Dangi

Dangi - March 07, 2015 at 08:11 AM

KF

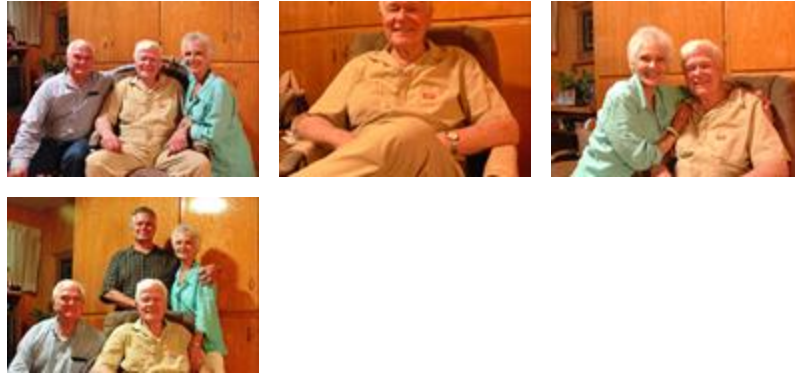
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Keith Foley - March 06, 2015 at 03:24 PM

KF

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Keith Foley - March 06, 2015 at 03:16 PM

AC

Me. Foley was a very well respect man. My Farher worked for Fields Drig. Co. For 20 years and I also worked for my Dad, any time Mr. Foley came on location, he was always well dressed and was a great man to talk to . God Bless You Sir, RIP and may God Keep His Healing Hands on the Family!

Allen Calloway - March 14, 2015 at 09:23 PM