



John C Whitaker

APR 28, 1912 - FEB 18, 2012



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FUNERAL HOMES
OF LONGVIEW AND HENDERSON

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. John C Whitaker was born in the same log cabin where his mother Addie Paralee Hogan and her siblings were born in the late 1800s in the Bog Community, an area north of Nacogdoches. The date was almost a decade ago, April 28, 1912, just two weeks after the sinking of the Titanic. His father, Charles Richard Whitaker, grew up in Douglas, Texas.

John C was preceded in death by his parents, 5 sisters and 2 brothers; his eldest son John Curtis Whitaker; and his beloved wife of 60 years, Gladys Louise Chaffin Whitaker.

He is survived by his son John Henry Strength and wife Frances Regina who live in Port Aransas; his daughter Mary Jane Stansell and husband Vance who live in San Angelo; his youngest sister Addijo Williams of Longview; and three grandsons: John Charles Strength who lives in New Jersey , and Jason Stansell and Kevin Stansell who both reside in Austin.

Mr. Whitaker lived a long interesting life. Growing up he helped his father on the family farm near Central Heights, attending school primarily on days it was too wet to plow. After graduating with a B.A. from Stephen F. Austin State University he began his career in the educational system as coach, teacher, and principal at Sabine High School. During WWII he served in the U.S. Navy. Returning from the war he became a petroleum landman, but continued his devotion to education by serving on the Longview School Board and working to establish the Paul H. Pruitt School District. In 1959 he became a self-employed promoter and oil producer. Due to his work ethic he remained gainfully self-employed until age 88. He continued to teach whatever he knew to whoever would listen, always eager to give advice and to lend a helping hand to those in need. He proudly created a scholarship fund at UT Tyler LUC to benefit students majoring in education and nursing.

The last 5 years he thoroughly enjoyed his life at Hawkins Creek Assisted Living and



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Memory Care, where he could often be seen holding court on the front porch, playing dominoes in the card room, or flirting with the ladies! Many thanks are sent from the family to the employees at Hawkins Creek who made his last few years so pleasurable. Special recognition also goes to Felicia Moon, his primary caregiver, who kept him active and engaged in life in exchange for his daily doses of charm, humor, and wit--right to the very end.

He will be missed by his many friends and family. He was definitely one of a kind! Cryptside services will be 10 AM Tuesday, February 21, at Rosewood Park Mausoleum, Longview, with Reverend Jonathan Jehorek officiating. Entombment will follow in Rosewood Park Mausoleum. The family will greet friends at Rader Funeral Home, Longview, on Monday, February 20, from 6 to 8 PM.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests bequests be made to one's favorite charity. Continue John Whitaker's generosity by paying it forward!!



Tribute Wall

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Anonymous posted:

----Mary Jane and family I am so sorry that I couldn't attend the celebration of Uncle John's life. Y'all are in my prayers and I've been thinkin' about "Uncle John" all week. He was the remaining "patriark" of the Whitaker family. He was the grandfather that I never had. He was the best storyteller I ever knew. I learned so much of my mother's family history from John C Whitaker. We all admired him so much. He has truly blessed our family. He lived the best 100 years in history and he lived it to the fullest.....with good values and integrity!!! I would give anything to turn the clock back 20 years and sit on the porch and listen to his stories, again. God Bless "Uncle John"!!!!!!###imported-begin##Paul Kessler##imported-end##

February 22 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Dear John and Mary Jane, I have such fond memories of both Gladys and John. Before John went to his retirement village he and Gary became good friends. I would listen to John's stories as Gary would interrupt him by asking the next question before John was finished with the story he was telling at that time. The two of them talking over one another was quite a hoot. The world will be less colorful without John C. Whitaker. Sandi Galoob Sachnowitz###imported-begin##Sandi Galoob Sachnowitz##imported-end##

February 21 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Uncle John lived a long and adventurous life. We are so glad our boys had the opportunity to know him. Our fondest memory is in Port Aransas some years ago.. We are sorry we were unable to be there with the family but we are there in thought and prayer.###imported-begin##Logan and Lisa Lobue##imported-end##

February 20 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

I am truly blessed to have known Mr. John. He was very much a gentleman. My prayers go out to the family.###imported-begin##Fran ##imported-end##

February 20 at 7:00 PM



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Anonymous posted:

Dear sweet Mary Jane and family of John, I will always be thankful of your darling father who stood with my daddy as we all rode horses together...making sure we were safe and happy on our rides together. The two of them would have lots of time standing around to re-live great stories of their hunts and fishing trips and all the special times they spent together as such dear friends. Our mothers, too, were so close. I adored Gladys and John. They always had a big smile for me, were so gracious, and even gave a wedding shower for me. I look so forward to hugging them both in Heaven. I rejoice they are set free from old age to be all that they were when I knew them so well. Much love to you, Linda##imported-begin##Linda Gray McMahon##imported-end##

February 20 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Our deepest sympathy to the family##imported-begin##Steve and Jimmie Lobue##imported-end##

February 19 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Uncle John, "BigJohn", will always be remembered for his wit and for being such a lively character. One never knew what he might do next!! One of his favorite expressions was "Keep on keeping on", and that's exactly what we all will do. Godspeed, Big John. Rest in heavenly peace.##imported-begin##Nancy Ferguson##imported-end##

February 19 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

"One of a kind?" Quite the understatement! I remember riding horses at the farm and learning about the Oil & Gas business....I think I was about 4 years old. Never too young to ride and talk shop. Keep on keepin' on Big John.##imported-begin##W. Lee Casey##imported-end##

February 19 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Rest in peace John. Our life has many pleasant memories and those of you and Gladys are the best.##imported-begin##Wallace and Ella Lee Johnson ##imported-end##

February 19 at 7:00 PM



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Anonymous posted:

Oh what sweet memories I have of John, Gladys and all of the family. I adored John and when I was five or so considered him my "boyfriend". He was just the dearest man. Oh Mary Jane, how I wish I could be there. My love and prayers to you all. I miss your Mom and I will miss him too. They were such a big part of my life. Betsy##imported-begin##Betsy Allan##imported-end##

February 19 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

I met Mr. Whitaker when I was 20yrs. old and he was about 70. What a character. At the time I ran a little landscape company and he was the neighbor to a couple of my best customers. Mind you, John was doing all of his own yard work and home upkeep. He had this huge garden that took up his whole back yard. He lived in a neighborhood that didn't seem too accustomed to having such large gardens much less ones that were owner operated. His constant ribbing and colorful stories initiated what became a valued friendship. Through the years he was always available for impromptu visits and advice. He would whip up some kind of meal or we would go to Luby's for some food while we talked. He always treated me like I was one of his best friends in spite of the 50 yr. difference in our ages. Sad to see him go but, when a man lives to be 100 all of his earliest friends have gone on before him. So, Mr. John Whitaker, thank you for being a friend. Dan Carr##imported-begin##Daniel Carr##imported-end##

February 18 at 7:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring John by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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