



Joe Brice Hilderbrand

MAY 9, 1924 - MAY 13, 2023



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Rader
FUNERAL HOMES
OF LONGVIEW AND HENDERSON

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Joe Brice Hilderbrand

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Surrounded by his loving family and friends, Joe “JB” Brice Hilderbrand, 99, of Henderson, passed away peacefully on May 13, 2023, after a brief illness. His life was the epitome of survival and a true depiction of “The Greatest Generation.”

JB was born on May 9, 1924, to John Bullett and Florence (Simonds) Hilderbrand in Littleton, Colorado. Along with his younger brother, Richard, he witnessed notable events such as the transition from the use of wagons to motorized vehicles, The Dust Bowl, The Great Depression and witnessing the construction of Route 66. He was raised in Avant, Oklahoma where he developed a love for the outdoors and was fond of his childhood dog, “Pug”. One of his claims to fame was his childhood friendship with singer, Patti Page and the coaching stent of Hall of Fame pitcher, Nolan Ryan.

JB was drafted into the Army on July 27, 1943, proudly serving at the rank of “Staff Sargent”. SSgt. Hilderbrand was a highly decorated WWII veteran, earning the Purple Heart for wounds received during a mortar attack near Dampierre-en-Yvelines, France. He was also awarded two Bronze Service Stars and the Bronze Star for Valor in combat. SSgt. Hilderbrand received the Ordre National De LA Legion D’Honneur, France’s highest honorary decoration, for his help in the liberation of France. (3rd Division of the 5th Army). He also received the Medal of Patriotism and the “Warrior Award” in appreciation of his military service, from the Cherokee Nation. Following the most honorable discharge and Purple Heart, the



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debilitating injuries suffered on the battlefield, JB launched his sole career at Phillips Petroleum, (1946-1985) where he held numerous positions. During his time with Phillips Petroleum, he sustained serious injuries due to an industrial explosion. He was a calculated self-taught architect, builder, and industrious man, which led to building and renovating multiple homesteads, as well as ongoing home projects that lasted well into his 90's.

On February 14, 1946 JB married Marjorie "Peggy" Shafer. The two were classmates in Avant, Osage County, Oklahoma. In December 1946, their daughter, Karen Sue Hilderbrand was born in Borger, TX. JB and Peggy were married for 34 years prior to her passing in 1980.

The next chapter in JB's life included the matrimony of Lucia Bonham Hilderbrand, the woman who would love him beyond measure. JB and Lucia were married on July 8, 1992, at Bonham house in Henderson, TX. This marriage merged three more daughters that adored his wit and charm.

In 1985, JB retired and spent his time traveling in his RV to various destinations, watching sports and Wheel of Fortune, became an investment enthusiast, playing golf and cards with friends. He made a multitude of visits to see Brothers in Arms, and family members. He enjoyed his weekly Tuesday morning coffee gatherings with the guys, as well as making his famous breakfast for all that visited. He made sure to eat slowly so he could share his host of stories. His memory and recall never faltered, as he was "sharp as a tack" even at almost 100. Many enjoyed his numerous stories, especially his jokes, and sense of humor.

JB was an original member of Bethel Bible Church, in Henderson. He gained Hero status as a first responder with Alvin volunteer



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Fire Department. He was also a member of the Anzio Beachhead Veterans, 3rd Division Audi Murphy Outpost Number 35, and a member of The Cherokee Nation.

JB was preceded in death by his parents, first wife Peggy, brother Richard Hilderbrand, and grandson Cannon Willard.

He is survived by his wife Lucia, daughter Karen, stepdaughters, Lara Bonham, Rachel (Barry)Willard, Rebecca (Benjamin) Brown. He has 6 grandchildren Shawn Brice Burleson, Jill (Cody) Burleson O'Neill, Lucia Wilson, Carson (Julia) Willard, Kerith (Alex) Willard, Ringo Wilson and 4 great grandchildren: Abby, Morgan, Cooper O'Neill, and Palmer Willard.

The family would like to extend an abundance of gratitude for all that provided JB on going medical care throughout his days, especially Henderson Health and Rehabilitation, UT Health ER Henderson, VA Hospital Shreveport, and UT Tyler.

Services will be held May 16, 2023 at 11:00am at Bethel Bible Church in Henderson, Texas. The full Military Burial will be held May 24, 2023, at 2:30pm, at the DFW National Cemetery in Dallas, Texas. In lieu of flowers, and in honor of his service, the family requests donations be made to a veteran's organization of your choice.





Events


Joe Brice Hilderbrand

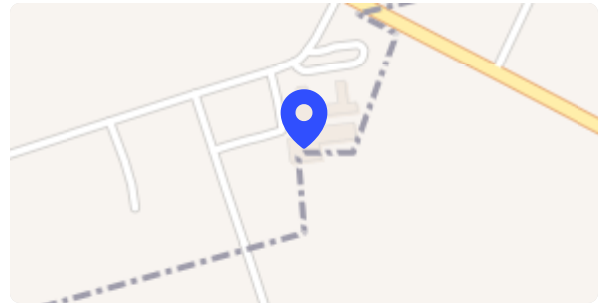
MAY 9, 1924 - MAY 13, 2023

Funeral Service


 **Tuesday**, May 16, 2023

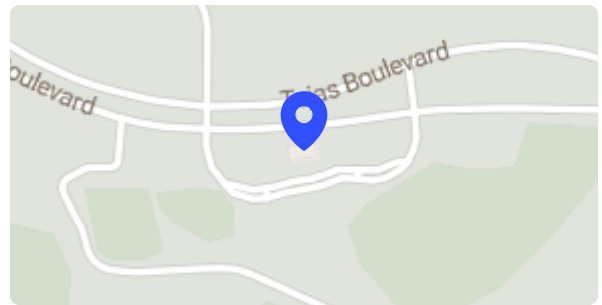
 11:00 AM CT

 **Bethel Bible Church**
2300 E. Main St., Henderson TX 75652



Cemetery Details

 **Dallas Ft. Worth National Cemetery**
2000 Mountain Creek Pkwy., Dallas TX





Tribute Wall

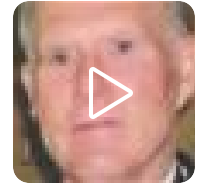
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Rader Funeral Home shared a **Video**.

May 16 at 3:51 AM



Sue Henderson lit a candle in honor of Joe.

May 17 at 12:19 PM



Mark Strittmatter posted:

I'm so sorry for your loss. Sending prayers for the family.

May 17 at 9:44 AM



Bonnie Geddie lit a candle in honor of Joe.

Praying for peace and comfortBonnie Geddie

May 16 at 5:55 PM



Ric lit a candle in honor of Joe.

May 16 at 2:36 PM



Anonymous sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Hilderbrand family.

May 16 at 10:00 AM





Tribute Wall

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CM

Charles Morris lit a candle in honor of Joe.

May 16 at 7:03 AM



DF

David & Mary Fullen lit a candle in honor of Joe.

May 16 at 6:53 AM



AR

Amy Rainwater lit a candle in honor of Joe.

May 16 at 6:51 AM



VF

Valerie Fullen lit a candle in honor of Joe.

May 16 at 6:48 AM



JJ

Janice Jackman posted:

Prayers and thoughts for you and your family at this difficult time.

May 16 at 6:40 AM

SF

Shannon Foster lit a candle in honor of Joe.

Mrs. Lucia, I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts, prayers, and condolences are with you and your family during this difficult time.

May 16 at 5:11 AM





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Judy Johnson lit a candle in honor of Joe.



May 16 at 3:17 AM



Rollo Storey May 16 at 3:52 AM

Thinking of you Lucia and sending all positive thoughts and prayers at this time. Much love to you, Rollo



Judy Johnson May 16 at 3:25 AM

I'm so sorry for your loss. Joe will be truly missed. Praying for you and the family. Love always.



Leslie Blankenship posted:

My husband had the pleasure of visiting with Mr. Hildebrand just a few days ago and he left a lasting impression on him just in the short meeting. Prayers for you and your family during this time.

May 15 at 1:40 PM



Media

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May 16 at 3:51 AM





Memories only last if you share them

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



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