



Harold Garner Bradley

July 17, 1924 - September 15, 2023

Harold Garner Bradley was born on July 17, 1924, in Elmore City, Oklahoma to Ira and Zelaner Shaw Bradley. He ended his journey with us on September 15, 2023, at the age of 99. Harold married Kathleen Irene Cobble in March of 1944. They were married 58 years. Harold and his wife made a home in Pauls Valley from 1948 to 1997. She preceded him in death on December 15, 2002. Harold lost a son, Phillip Harold Bradley, on April 29, 1979. Also, preceding Harold in death were his parents, 2 brothers (Billy and Toby Bradley), and a sister, Ilena Cagle. After graduating in 1942, Mr. Bradley served his country during World War II. He was drafted into the Army in February of 1943. He was assigned to a new tank battalion that was being formed at Fort Knox, Kentucky. The tank battalion was named the 740th. Harold was the last known living Combat tank commander left of the 740th Battalion.

The 740th tank Battalion was called to combat in December of 1944. His unit fought in the

Battle of the Bulge, as well, as other battles such as the Rhineland, Ardennes and central

Europe. His combat decorations include, Silver Star, Purple Heart, Battalion Presidential Unit

Citation with one Oak leaf cluster, three battle stars, the Belgium Fourragere and the good

conduct medal. In 2020, Mr. Bradley received one of France's highest military awards, the

Legion of Honor. Harold was wounded in the EAME Theater on April 16, 1945, but continued to

fight until the war was over. He was discharged in December of 1945. If you would like to hear

more about his time in WWII, you can go to YouTube and search for these links: 1. A Day with

Harold Bradley-WWII Veteran. 2. Harold Bradley-740th Tank Battalion. 3. Harold Bradley and

Larka Dilbeck Interview. 4. WWII Veteran Harold Bradley "Protectors Portal" (Podcast)

After returning to the states, Harold was baptized in 1946 at the First Christian Church in Pauls

Valley, Oklahoma and he has been a member for 63 years even though he moved in 1997 to live

with his daughter and son-in-law in League City, TX. Harold and Kathleen moved because they

needed to be close to Kathleen's doctors, but doing so gave them more time to spend with the

family. He was a 50-year member of the Masonic Lodge, a 50-year member of the Order of the

Eastern Star and served as a Worthy Patron and Associate Patron and he is still a member of the

American Legion in Pauls Valley until 2024. Harold worked 37 years for the

Pauls Valley Daily

Democrat as a reporter, editor and photographer. He believed that there was too much negativity in the news world each day, so he decided to go to the high school when he could to find the time and seek out the positive stories, take photos and share them with the community. Every student knew him as Mr. B. and loved him. He retired in July of 1986 so he could take care of Kathleen who was suffering with RA. He walked every day all the way to Wacker Park and back to stay healthy for Kathleen. He, also, decided he needed a hobby and discovered a love for wood working projects. He started making wooden decorations for each holiday. He was so proud that he received a top prize for his Christmas ornament display in Pauls Valley. He even continued in Texas in his daughter and son-in-law's front yard. The neighborhood, especially the kids, loved them and looked forward every year to seeing his wonderful Christmas decorations.

Mr. Bradley is survived by a daughter Connie and husband Mike Goodwin, League City, TX; Four Grandchildren, Erik and wife Rebecca Bradley, Tulsa, OK.; Ryan and wife Rayna Bradley, Fedor, TX.; Amy and husband Cliff O'Banion, Farmington, NM.; Phillip and wife Lauren Goodwin, Cypress, Tx. Harold had 9 great grandchildren. Colson "CJ" Bradley, Trenton

Bradley, Charles

Bradley, Jess Bradley, Reagan Bradley, Jordyn O'Banion, Erin Sanborn,
Carter Goodwin, and
Connor Goodwin.

There will be 2 services held for our beloved Harold Bradley, the first service will be held on Sunday, October 22 at 6:00 p.m. in the Harold Bradley Memorial Park (the park that was named in his honor) in League City Texas. He has requested that we take him home to be placed next to his wife in Pauls

Valley. The memorial will be held at the Wooster Funeral Home in Pauls Valley, OK and that will

be held on Veterans Day, November 11, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. A visitation with the family will be

held prior to the service at 9:00 a.m.

A private family inurnment of ashes will follow the services.

Previous Events

Family Visitation with Friends

NOV 11. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Wooster Funeral Home and Cremation Services (Pauls Valley)
1601 South Chickasaw
Pauls Valley, OK

Memorial Service

NOV 11. 11:00 AM (CT)

Wooster Funeral Home Chapel
1601 S. Chickasaw
Pauls Valley, Ok

Tribute Wall

RS

“ *Our dear Mr. B.....friend, neighbor, felt like family. Pat and I are so honored to have known him and blessed that our three teenage daughters spent their entire lives being touched by all of his goodness. Rest in peace Mr. B! You are much loved and missed* ❤️

Rhonda Stanley - October 27, 2023 at 10:03 AM

RB

“ I shared a bit of this in a comment already, but wanted to share here.

He was a great man, always with a smile and a story to share. It's hard for me to put into words or describe what knowing him has meant to me. I loved and cared for this man, called him grandpa for the last 26 years and he treated me as a granddaughter from the start.

The first time I met him and grandma (Kathleen) was when Erik took me to meet them in Paul's Valley in 1996. He was so excited to show me around town and of course the family photo albums and there was a bunch. Seems he was all about pictures and sharing them. Even his Country Weekly magazine collection was more of a scrapbook really. And let me tell you his scrapbook collection is something else.

The last visit we shared was just a few months ago and we gathered around him, some of us sitting at his feet. He started with the stories, wearing a smile of course and even told us about his basketball days. His grandsons even chuckled a bit considering his height deficiency. Grandpa always had a pep in his step and ready to do a little dance action. At our last visit he even got up to do a little spin with his walker.

So thankful that I not only was blessed with the time I had with him, but also that my boys got to know their great grandpa.

*Will forever cherish the memories,
His granddaughter, Rebecca*

Rebecca Bradley - September 20, 2023 at 02:37 PM

MG

*Thanks for sharing Rebecca, you are truly special.
Mike*

Mike Goodwin - September 20, 2023 at 04:07 PM

PS

It's difficult to know where to begin. When we moved next to Connie and Mike Goodwin, we already knew them through the school system since Connie was the choir teacher at the intermediate school. My son was in the choir as well as athletics, and my daughter became a friend of Amy's since they are the same age. Harold and Kathleen Bradley were a joy to get to know when they moved here from Oklahoma. They always had time for being around the kids and enjoying them. Once our children were grown, we enjoyed seeing Harold on his walks and loved talking to him. He always had a kind word. When our grandson started school, he was the same age as several others who waited for the bus each morning, so it got to be a good way to start their day when the kids got to greet Harold each morning while waiting for their bus. Harold took an interest in the kids' activities and there were always lively discussions all around. The kids loved spending time with Harold and hearing about his experiences. You could tell he cared about the kids as much as they cared about him.

Each holiday was special since Harold enjoyed putting the decorations in the yard for each one. The carousel was very special at Christmas. I think it took him two to three days to get all of them on display.

My husband enjoyed comparing notes with Harold since they both liked woodworking. My husband was in the Air Force in Viet Nam so he and Harold had a few stories to tell each other about their service years.

It's hard to put into words how much Harold will be missed, but my family and I feel blessed for having known him.

Prayers and condolences to the whole family,

The Suggs Family,

Pat Suggs (Dick), Aidan Suggs, Jessica Suggs, Jason, Cassandra and Trevor Suggs

Patricia Suggs - October 01, 2023 at 05:58 PM

TF

“ My father, grandmother and I were honored to meet Harold on one of the 740th Battalion trips in 2011 through Europe. From the first moment we met him and said hello, I knew he was a great man and full of love.

My grandfather had served with Harold and he had passed a few years before, we wanted to go on this trip and retrace some of the steps these brave men faced. Meeting Harold and hearing his stories was such a bonus to our trip. It was like being with royalty and everyone he met and came across will tell you the same! He had a love for his family like no other and just beamed when he spoke of them.

One evening we were heading into a restaurant and Harold stumbled over the threshold and I happened to be right there and put my arms out. He joked with me the whole rest of the trip that I had saved his life and I was his hero.

No Mr. Bradley, YOU are the true American hero and I am blessed to have met you. My life is better because of our time together. My grandmother has since passed, but I would keep my father up to date on Harold through his Facebook posts which I loved to see.

Godspeed my dear friend, with love, Will and Tamah French

Tamah French - September 20, 2023 at 12:55 PM

MG

Thank you for sharing and your kind words Tamah. He lived with Connie and I for his last 26 years and I loved him from the start.
Mike Goodwin-son in law

Mike Goodwin - September 20, 2023 at 04:11 PM

MR

“ *Harold was one the best men I've ever met. His love for life and pure goodness was inspiring to all that knew him.* ”



Marshall Ryan - September 19, 2023 at 11:14 AM

MG

Thank you for your comments Marshall. Harold was one of a kind and I am proud to be married to his daughter Connie for 52 years this December. He lived with us for his last 25 years.

Mike Goodwin

Mike Goodwin - September 20, 2023 at 08:24 AM

AO

“ I know a lot of people remember Harold Bradley as a War Hero, a Purple Heart recipient, and a member of the 740th Tank Battalion in the Battle of the Bulge. While, yes, this was a super big part of his life, and he would tell his story to anyone, and everyone, this is not how I remember him. I remember him as an extremely hard worker, a loving Papa, a devoted husband, and a wonderful father and son. I loved spending the summers in Pauls Valley! I remember long summer days helping with the garden and animals on the farm, going to his work at the Pauls Valley paper and seeing him work, him bringing home the huge rolls of paper, for me to color and draw on, pizza nights in town, fireworks at the end of the street on the 4th, getting pecans out of his trees out front. I remember homemade meals and the best rolls you could ever imagine. The fried okra was always a treat. They always called lunch dinner and dinner supper... I could never wrap my head around this. He and my Nana got me into watching soap operas early on, as they never missed an episode. Everything would stop around the Bradley house and everyone would watch *Young and the Restless*. When we got older, we didn't go as often, but we still saw them as much as we could. He and my Nana moved to TX right around the time I got married, he was there to help with everything wedding-related and even helped move my husband and me when it came time after Cliff graduated boot camp. He loved his yard decorations and would decorate for every Holiday, but he went all out on Christmas. He made and painted all his decorations and put so much of himself into his displays. It was hard to convince him when this became too much of a chore. It broke his heart that he could no longer share this with everyone. Harold Bradley was truly one of a kind. He had the biggest heart and patience of gold. He never met a stranger and was always willing to give a hand when needed. He never complained a day in his life, and he truly loved his family, friends, and neighbors. He will be greatly missed by all, but I am so thankful my girls got to know this amazing man, their great-grandpa, and that we had him in our lives for so long.

Amy O'Banion - September 19, 2023 at 10:28 AM

MG

Thanks Amy for sharing your beautiful feelings about your Papa. You sum up his life with such wonderful thoughts and feelings that we all remember. Your Mom and I are so proud of you any your family and to have you as our daughter.

Dad

Mike Goodwin - September 20, 2023 at 08:32 AM

LL

What a great honor to have known Harold. He was a great friend to my dad Jack Loyd. I remember how my dad would talk about Harold as a friend and a veteran. He would volunteer with my dad to serve other veterans who were disabled. He was a respected citizen of Pauls Valley. We have lost a great man.

Lynn Loyd - September 20, 2023 at 10:14 AM

RB

Amy, I'd like to say my thanks for you sharing your words about grandpa. I haven't had him in my life near as long as you had, but you described him perfectly. He always had a smile and a story to share. I too, am so thankful and blessed for the time I had with him as well as my boys getting time with their great-grandpa. The last time we visited which was just a few months ago, we gathered around, some sitting just at his feet as he told his stories and shared of the time when he played basketball. Which the boys thought a little funny considering his height.

I called him Grandpa for the last 26 years and will forever cherish the memories.

Rebecca Bradley - September 20, 2023 at 01:16 PM

JW

I can't remember when I didn't know Harold and Kathleen. My Mother was friends with Kathleen. Phil and I were classmates (Class of '66) and our Grandmothers were friends. I had a part time job at the PVDD when I was in high school and Harold and I use to visit on Saturday mornings. He was such a kind man and a true story teller. I could listen to him for hours. You were truley blessed to have had him as the family patriarch for so many years. My thoughts and prayers are with your entire family. Judy Irwin-Weaver

Judith I Weaver - September 23, 2023 at 02:09 AM