



Col. John Royden Burks

January 27, 1923 - November 2, 2017

BURKS, John Royden, Colonel, U.S. Army (Retired), Pauls Valley, Ok., (94), passed away on November 2, 2017 in Pauls Valley, Oklahoma. His parents were Royden Elliott and Dulce Cecile (Harper) Burks. He was born on January 27th, 1923 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. One of Oklahoma's most decorated combat veterans, Burks completed combat tours in WWII, Korea and Vietnam, during his over 30 years of military service. From enlistment as a Private in 1942 to retirement as a Regular Army Colonel in 1976, Burks served in successive positions of responsibility in both staff and command. Among his many awards and decorations, he was three times awarded the Legion of Merit. He flew forty missions as a gunner on B-24's in the Pacific in WWII and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and seven awards of the Air Medal. During the Korean and Vietnam wars, he was awarded four additional Air Medals, the Bronze Star, The Joint Services Commendation Medal, Three awards of the Army Commendation Medal and the Army General Staff Identification Badge for Pentagon service between the wars and the Vietnamese Honor Medal for distinguished service in the Republic of Vietnam. Additionally, while serving as The Army Senior Advisor to the State of Oklahoma during the Boren administration, he was awarded the Oklahoma Distinguished Service Medal. Colonel Burks was recognized by his peers at Fort Sill and placed in the Field Artillery Hall of Fame in 1972. Colonel Burks participated in twelve major campaigns, earning twelve battle stars for his combat involvement during three wars. Burks met and married his beloved

wife, Rose Marie in 1949 upon graduation from Officer Candidate School in Fort Riley, Kansas. Rose preceded him in death on October 31, 2007. She was his mainstay and inspiration throughout his many challenging assignments. Their four children, daughter Alexa Marie and husband R. Benton Maples, Dumas, TX, Judy Lynn and husband Gary K. Sisney, Winsor, CO, daughter, Liess Ann "Sam" and husband Mike Anderson of Oklahoma City, son, John Royden, Jr., and wife Lisa Marie of Pauls Valley, OK, 11 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren survive. In the period following his retirement, Burks returned to Garvin County to serve in a wide variety of community positions of responsibility; as President of the Pauls Valley Kiwanis Club, President of the Pauls Valley Chamber of Commerce, Vice President of First National Bank, President of the Pauls Valley Industrial Development Association, Chairman of the Pauls Valley Industrial Development Corporation, Chairman of the Pauls Valley Planning and Zoning Commission, Chairman of the Pauls Valley Airport Authority, President of the Pauls Valley United Fund and Senior Warden of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church.

A celebration of his life will be held 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 7, 2017 at the First Presbyterian Church in Pauls Valley, Oklahoma. Interment with full Honors will be in the Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia on February 8, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. Services are under the direction of Wooster Funeral Home. You may send a condolence to the family at www.woosterfuneralhomes.com.

He loved his country and his family. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be made to the charity of their choice.

Cemetery Details

Arlington National Cemetery

Washington DC

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 6. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Wooster Funeral Home and Cremation Services (Pauls Valley)

1601 South Chickasaw

Pauls Valley, OK 73075

(405) 238-7574

woosterfuneralhome@sbcglobal.net

Service

NOV 7. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church

320 N. Walnut

Pauls Valley, OK

Visitation

NOV 7. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

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Tribute Wall



“ *Wooster Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Col. John Royden Burks*



Wooster Funeral Home & Cremation Services - November 06, 2017 at 12:42 PM



“ *Col. John Royden Burks*

November 12, 2022 at 02:44 AM



“ *I am so sad to hear of Colonel Burks passing. He and Rose were great friends of ours. I cherish my memories of when my daughter and I lived next door to them. Whenever we spoke on the phone, our greeting was always "hey neighbor". I'll miss our phone calls but am happy he's reunited with his beloved Rose. Rest in peace "neighbor". We love you!*

Mary Lynn - November 08, 2017 at 05:19 PM



Thank you Mary Lynn

Sam Anderson - November 10, 2017 at 12:16 PM

ME

“ From the nick names to the fun times, and the slang names for certain days of the week. A distinguished yet humble Military Colonel became one of my dearest friends. For this I am forever grateful.

Melanie - November 07, 2017 at 09:29 PM



And we will be forever grateful for your wonderful care the past 10 years. Thank you Mel! LYM

Sam Anderson - November 10, 2017 at 12:21 PM

NE

“ What a great man. So glad we new each other. Shared great respect, love an admiration. We all "love you more". John and Cindy Burks and family.

nephew - November 07, 2017 at 10:24 AM



Thank you Cindy and John - LYM!

Sam Anderson - November 10, 2017 at 12:24 PM

HP

“ Colonel Burks, thank you for your distinguished service to America and Pauls Valley. God Bless you and your family. HM and Betty Pannell



HM & Betty Pannell - November 06, 2017 at 07:51 PM

DL

“ Lynn, Lex, John & Sam,

To say I was saddened to hear of the passing of your father is inaccurate. The loss of a giant among men more accurately describes the feeling. It also brought flooding back memories of not only your father, but a long list of events you need to hear. Our family's histories were generously blessed by their early and continuous association.

In 1958, my family moved from Tulsa to Wynnewood, no small change of culture. We were made immediately welcome by your grandparents Banny & Roy. They had been friends of my parents from their early Tulsa days and generously gave us a sense of belonging even before the moving trucks had emptied. It was in that corner house, where your grandfather enjoyed not only cigars, but recounting his early days with your grandmother, including his early ownership of the Wynnewood refinery, and many other stories I'm sure he shared with you.

That was the same house where I first met a young army officer and his beautiful bride as they were passing through to yet another duty station, with a pair of small young girls, one with beautiful eyes, the other with world-class dimples. Johnny, as I recall, was in three-cornered pants. I was awed by the awards and ribbons he had already amassed, even without knowing what they all meant. It was plain he was an exceptional person and a warrior. To say he was gracious, even to me, shows his patience with even the most unpleasant situations. I would see that many times over the many years since then. He was always unfailingly polite.

I also remember the appearance of each of you individually over the years, both at Banny's and down at the "Slew-foot Broke it Oar" cabin on Caney Creek they thankfully opened to us during those hot summer days before air conditioning, where all was right with the world when we could "go jump in the lake." Your Grandmother would pass many hours with a fishing pole down at the fishing dock

while telling stories of her early days with your Grandfather Roy. Running back and forth between the cabin and the lake with sisters and 'cousins' seemed as if all was well with the world and would never change.

Holidays were always blessed by Burks and Louy gatherings, both in Wynnewood, and later in Tulsa at your Aunt Irene's, just around the corner from where I grew up. How could anybody forget Dulce's slang-jang?

When your dad finally hung up his sword and returned to Paul Valley, I sensed the world was suddenly a better place with both he and your Mother in attendance. After building their new home below the hill, I particularly remember your Mother's insistence on starting digging their swimming pool even though both your Dad & I mentioned the impending summer storms looming overhead. You Dad's recounting of hearing the walls of the newly-dug pool falling into an ever-deepening mud pit while he and your Mother lay awake that night was revealing in that he never lost his patience or composure at the setback. He taught me the term 'equanimity' even before i knew what it meant.

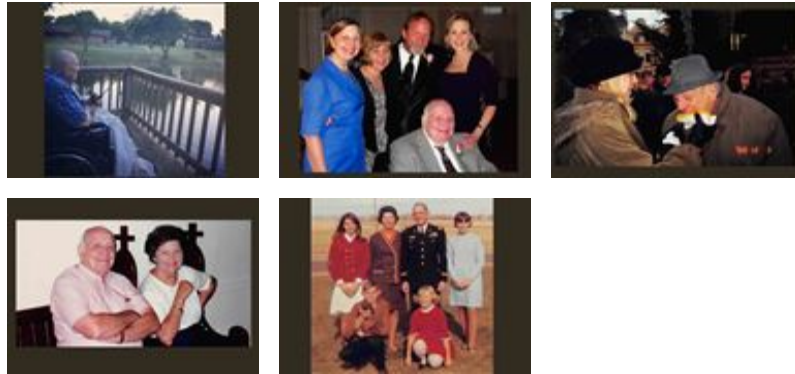
I remember his first real estate sale once he got his real estate license - It was to himself! He laughed about it when he asked me to review the boundary, in a self-deprecating manner he always had ready. While he was involved with the bank I had many occasions to do business with him over the next several years, as well as during his service to the City in one of his many functions. Throughout them all, I can safely say, as can those whomever crossed paths with him, that he was always, in the truest and deepest meaning of the term, an officer and a gentleman.

Surveyors cannot conduct their work without having an established benchmark from which to begin. A benchmark that is true, has integrity, and is reliable. It is a point from which all others who follow can rely upon. Your Father was and is the best benchmark anyone can take off from. I share your loss and love you all!

David Louy - November 06, 2017 at 12:06 PM



“ 29 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Wooster Funeral Home & Cremation Services - November 06, 2017 at 11:28 AM

WA

“ *I had the opportunity to work with Co. Burks concerning Real Estate. He was an outstanding gentleman. I know he will be truly missed. My thoughts and prayers to the family.*



Waymolene Abel - November 05, 2017 at 01:23 PM

HB

“ To the family of Col. John Royden Burks I was so sorry to hear of your loss, you have been blessed to have him with you for so long. My Sympathy, love and Prayers are with ou all, you will all have many happy memories to share with each other in the future. God Bless you all.

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. People come into our lives for a reason, a season or a lifetime. Embrace all equally!

Harold Bradley - November 05, 2017 at 11:20 AM