



**JOHN WESLEY THOMPSON**

August 30, 1921 - May 21, 2017

JOHN WESLEY THOMPSON, 95 of Bastrop, Texas, was called home by our Lord on Sunday, May 21, 2017. John was born on August 30, 1921 in Madisonville, Texas to Andrew Jacob and Gaynell Pilgrim Thompson. John was preceded in death by his parents; son John Russell "Rusty" Thompson; daughter Nadine Cecelia Thompson; brothers Andrew J. Thompson, Jr, Louie L. Thompson; and sister-in-law Nova Jean Thompson. John is survived by his devoted wife of 75 1/2 years Etta Ruth Thompson; two sons Jerry Rayford Thompson and wife Bonnie (of San Antonio, Texas), James Richard "Ricky" Thompson (of Yoakum, Texas); daughter Joetta Ann "Jodie" Faske and husband Steven (of Bastrop Texas); brother Gerald Kenneth Thompson and wife Elaine (of Tarboro, North Carolina); as well as his many beloved grandchildren, great grandchildren, great-great grandchildren, nieces, nephews and many friends.

John served as a Staff Sergeant, US Army, 42nd Infantry Rainbow Division. John was part of the brave men who fought many battles on the European shores during World War II. Out of a battalion of 1100 men John was one of the 134 who made it back home. John and the other brave 133 men making it home received a Presidential Citation. John was also awarded 12 medals and ribbons for his outstanding service to our country. His most valuable award was the Bronze Star, awarded for an act of exceptional bravery. John never talked about what happened in the war. He was always very humbled and maintained he was only doing his duty as a soldier just like so many other soldiers doing the same. The very few times John mentioned his wartime service he said, "It was Etta's devotion, love and faith that gave me the courage to stay alive and come back home safe." John was discharged from the US Army on November 22, 1945, his and Etta's 4th wedding anniversary. After a short visit with family he returned to San Antonio, Texas to work for the Kerrville Bus Company. After six years, he resigned and went to work for the Southern Pacific Transport Company. In 1981 the company merged with Pacific Motor Transport where he retired as Lead Mechanic in September 1983 after completing 33 years of service. Upon retirement John and Etta moved to their small Texas ranch "Little Cedar" in Ledbetter, Texas. John was a

true Texas cowboy who loved his country life, keeping busy building many things, hosting many barbeques and parties with family and friends, raising and tending to his goats, feeding the deer, keeping his and Etta's home and land in tip top shape. In April 2002 due to health issues John and Etta sold "Little Cedar" and moved to La Vista Retirement Complex in San Marcos, Texas where they lived until 2010. They then moved to McKenna Village Assisted Living in New Braunfels, Texas where they lived until moving to Argent Court Assisted Living in Bastrop, Texas December 2012.

John was a very loving and devoted husband and father to Etta Ruth and his children. His love for his wife, children, grandchildren and family surpassed everything else. He was a gentle man who made many personal sacrifices for those he loved and his fellow man.

Funeral service will be 11:00am, with public viewing beginning at 10:00am, followed by a light lunch, Wednesday, May 31, 2017, Bulverde United Methodist Church, 28300 US 281, San Antonio, Texas. Interment will be 2:00pm with full military honors at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers a memorial donation may be made in John's honor to the Wounded Warrior Project, Disabled Veterans National Association or the American Cancer Society.