

## WILLIAM LUNSFORD 'BILL' GRIGGS

---

**1919-2009**

Decatur: William Lunsford 'Bill' Griggs, 90, died on Thursday, October 15, 2009 in Bridgeport.



Bill was born in Decatur, Texas on April 30, 1919 to Dan and Myrtle (Workman) Griggs. He was the youngest of four children. He attended Decatur High School from 1935-1939 where he was an outstanding athlete in football and track. He was a three-year captain of the Decatur Eagle football team. He continued his athletic pursuits in football at Decatur Baptist College and upon completion entered World War II. He served his country for four years in Company E, 176th Engineers where he received the rank of Master Sergeant along with numerous medals and commendations.

Bill returned to Decatur after the war and married Lavada Lee Gage, a Decatur school teacher from the Sycamore community. They had one child, Melinda, who was 'her daddy's girl'. They enjoyed many years of family sporting activities. Bill was always an active member of booster clubs and service organizations. He served as President of the Nimitz High School Booster Club, the Irving Girls Softball Association and was instrumental in building the Southwest Park Girls softball fields in Irving,

Texas, where he and his family lived for more than 30 years.

Bill worked in the oil and gas industry for his entire career. He worked for Shell Oil Company for 10 years before retiring from Texaco after another 37 years of service as the plant manager of the Dallas plant. Upon retirement he returned to his home of Decatur and was a long time member of the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Decatur Athletic Booster and Central Fellowship Church. Bill always had a smile on his face, a firm handshake and a positive word of encouragement for everyone he met. He enjoyed hunting, working on his farm, raising cattle, traveling with his wife, visiting with friends, Eagle sports and his two grandsons.

Survivors include his wife of 63 years, Lavada Griggs; daughter, Melinda Kaye Reeves and husband Jack of Decatur; grandsons, Josh William and Jase Ryan Reeves; sister-in-law, Roberta Buchanan of Decatur; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of friends.;

Bill is preceded in death by a sister, Lavane Griggs; two brothers, C.W. 'Dud' and Jim Griggs.

Funeral service was held at 10 a.m. Monday, Oct. 19th at the Coker-Funeral Home Chapel with Monte Tuttle officiating. Interment followed service in Oaklawn Cemetery.

*Coker-Hawkins Funeral Home  
405 E. Main • Decatur, Tx.*

*Published in The Bridgeport Index and The Chico Texan, Thursday, October 22, 2009*