

Jack Henry Longbotham | 1930-2015

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Dr. Jack Henry Longbotham

Dr. Jack Henry Longbotham, 85, of Clyde, died Sunday, Nov. 29, 2015, in Brownwood.

Funeral was Dec. 4 at the First Baptist Church in Fort Davis with burial at Hillcrest Cemetery in Fort Davis.

Jack was born June 5, 1930, in Snyder to Bernard Sr. and Connie Longbotham. He married Elisabeth Prude Sept. 10, 1955, at Prude Ranch in Fort Davis. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science from Texas Tech University in 1952, and a master's degree from Sul Ross University in 1957.

Jack was a county Extension agent in El Paso before moving back to Snyder and beginning his career in education. He was high school counselor at Snyder High School before deciding to further his education and pursue a doctorate degree from Texas A&M.

He moved his family to College Station when his youngest child was 18 months old. In 1968, he received his PhD from Texas A&M.

While attending A&M, he was a member of the college rodeo team, director for the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association and an assistant professor. Following his time at Texas A&M, he moved his family to Georgetown and worked for the Texas Education Agency in Austin for several years. He then moved to higher education and began teaching at Southwestern University in Georgetown.

In 1971, the family moved to Clyde after he accepted a position at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene. While at HSU, he served as professor and dean of the education department for 28 years.

Jack was a veteran of the Korean War and served in the United States Navy. He held memberships in the American Quarter Horse Association, Texas Hereford Association and Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Associations. He was a lifetime member of the American Hereford Association.

Jack loved the Lord and served Him faithfully throughout his 85 years. Jack was a loving father – patient, gentle and kind. He loved each of his four children completely and equally. He had 19 grandchildren and was interested in each one of their lives.

Jack's keen sense of humor was enjoyed by those who knew him well and loved him. He was a wise rancher and enjoyed his cows and horses very much. He also enjoyed spending time on his Brown County ranch in Zephyr and his farm in Snyder in Scurry County. "Dr. Jack" enjoyed watching his children grow up showing steers, competing in rodeos and showing horses.

He was preceded in death by his twin brother, John Robert (Bob) of Snyder at the age of 15; his parents, Bernard Sr. and Connie Longbotham of Snyder; sister Geraldine Longbotham Bowers of Midland; brothers Bernard Longbotham Jr., Charles Longbotham and Billy Longbotham, all of Snyder; and his son, Jeffrey Paul Longbotham of Midland.

Jack is survived by his wife, Elisabeth Prude (Libo) Longbotham; children Jack Longbotham Jr. of Abilene, Beth Longbotham High of Victoria and Becky Longbotham Rodriguez of Bridgeport; as well as 19 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.