



Luther G. Prunty

January 11, 1912 - January 8, 2015

Luther Glenn Prunty, a rancher, WWII Lost Battalion Survivor, a storyteller, a doting father and grandfather, died January 9, 2015, three days shy of his 103rd birthday.

Born to Robert M. and Bertha Jane (Gustin) Prunty, on January 11, 1912, he arrived in the family's East Jack County log cabin during a snowstorm. He was the youngest son of five children.

Luther attended a one-room schoolhouse in Prairie Branch and was the first of his family to graduate from Jacksboro High School, Class of 1932. After graduation, he hitchhiked to Muleshoe, Texas, then a tiny town, where he worked for two years as a cowboy for The Mashed O Ranch, cementing his ambition to be a cattleman.

A favorite story was the time he was roping a calf in an impromptu rodeo, and a flailing leg ripped a gaping hole in his pants, baring all. Will Rogers, the radio commentary and comedian, who was a frequent visitor to the Mashed O, saw the incident, assessed the situation and threw a blanket around him. He then gave the young cowboy \$5 to buy a new pair of jeans. Luther never forgot the kindness and remained a lifelong fan.

Luther is perhaps best remembered for his service during World War II as a

member of the Lost Battalion, the Army's 131st Division Field Artillery captured by the Japanese in Java just days after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Luther worked as a slave laborer for the Japanese building the Death Railways through the jungle. When he was liberated 3 ½ years later at the war's end, he weighed 95 pounds and could not walk. He was devoted to his fellow survivors for the rest of his life. He earned two purple hearts but later said he forgave the Japanese. He was entertained with other POWs by President Harry Truman in the White House in gratitude for his service.

When he was released from Walter Reed Hospital, he returned to Jack County and resumed the life of a rancher. On June 1, 1947, he married the love of his life, Dorothy Dodson Prunty, had two daughters, and was elected Jack County Tax Collector and Assessor and later appointed County Auditor. Next to this family, Luther loved quarter horses and bird dogs, and enjoyed telling the tale of a favorite bird dog that was so desirable, he was offered \$1000 for the dog. "I didn't even have to think about it," he said. "I just said no."

Luther loved Jack County and Jacksboro and spent the rest of his life as an active member of the community, belonging to First Methodist Church, Lions Club, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Disabled American Veterans, the Lost Battalion Association, and the Sheriff's Posse.

He was the kind of father who showed up for band and choir concerts, for graduations, for family reunions, and for Girl Scout cookie sales. He disliked being away from the ranch, but left two weeks each summer to take the family camping at different national parks throughout the U.S.

He took pride in his cattle and cattle breeding and pecan tree grafting. For many years, he grew his own vegetables. As a youth, he was a popular square dance caller.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Dorothy Prunty, his daughters Gail Bialas and her husband Mike of Plano and Marsha Canright and her husband, David, of Galveston; his granddaughters, Elizabeth Hull and her husband Brian of Clarksville, Arkansas, and Lindsay Canright of Galveston. Survivors also include his three great grandchildren, Kaden, Evan, and Breagan Hull, all of Clarksville. Also surviving are his much-loved nieces, Phyllis Young Schulman, Allyson Young Dunagan and Wynelle Wagnon, and nephews, Mack Lewis and Bobby Prunty, and their families..

There will be a visitation on Friday January 16, 2015 from 6-7 pm at Coker Funeral Home in Jacksboro. Funeral services will be on Saturday, January 17, at Jacksboro First Methodist Church at 2 p.m. followed by interment with full military honors at Cundiff Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to

First United Methodist Church

406 N. Main

Jacksboro, Tx. 76458

or

Concerned Citizens

400 E. Pine

Jacksboro, Tx. 76458

Cemetery Details

Cundiff Cemetery

3600 FM 1810
Jacksboro, TX 76458

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 16. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Coker Funeral Home
152 State Hwy 148
Jacksboro, TX 76458
(940) 567-3778
info@cokerfuneral.com

Service

JAN 17. 2:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
406 North Main Street
Jacksboro, TX 76458

Tribute Wall



“ *Loretta Martinez lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty* ”



Loretta Martinez - February 08, 2025 at 10:01 AM



“ *Luther G. Prunty* ”

October 09, 2023 at 04:16 AM



“ *Luther G. Prunty* ”

January 28, 2023 at 12:10 PM



“ *Harley Glenn Prunty lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty* ”



Harley Glenn Prunty - July 03, 2015 at 02:56 PM



“ *Gail: I came upon your Dad's obit through Dale. It is hard to lose a parent at whatever age. I hope his memory will be a source of consolation to you in the coming days and months. -victor* ”

Victor Kralisz - January 17, 2015 at 06:35 PM

WA

“ *Wanda Abrams lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty*



Wanda Abrams - January 16, 2015 at 05:27 PM

TF

“ *The T. J. and Rene Spencer Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Luther G. Prunty.*



The T. J. and Rene Spencer Family - January 16, 2015 at 11:24 AM

JW

“ *Judy Jackson Wolfe lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty*



Judy Jackson Wolfe - January 14, 2015 at 08:44 PM

AD

“ *Allyson, Ed, and Ashlea Dunagan purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Luther G. Prunty.*



Allyson, Ed, and Ashlea Dunagan - January 14, 2015 at 06:29 PM

DG

“ *America has lost another hero...
I am truly honored to have had the privilege to meet this man and shake his hand. One of the most down to earth men I've ever met...always had a smile on his face and stories to tell. They just don't make them like this anymore....our thoughts and prayers are with the family.*
David Gleason (son of William Gleason)

David Gleason - January 14, 2015 at 04:53 PM

BW

“ *Brenda White lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty*



Brenda White - January 14, 2015 at 04:16 PM

SB

“ *Sharon Brimhall sent a virtual gift in memory of Luther G. Prunty*



Sharon Brimhall - January 14, 2015 at 10:22 AM

SB

What a remarkable, wonderful man....considered him the "Patriarch" of the Lost Battalion. He will be greatly missed, but thankful to have known him. Our thoughts and prayers are with the whole Prunty family....with Love, Sharon Brimhall & Harry Sims

Sharon Brimhall - January 14, 2015 at 10:28 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Luther G. Prunty.



January 14, 2015 at 10:03 AM



“ Ron And Nancy Colbert lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty



Ron and Nancy Colbert - January 13, 2015 at 04:09 PM



“ Faye Lewis lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty



Faye Lewis - January 12, 2015 at 04:52 PM



“ Butch & Brenda Fuller lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty



Butch & Brenda Fuller - January 12, 2015 at 01:04 PM

SM

“ Steve Martin lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty



Steve Martin - January 11, 2015 at 08:29 PM

SM

I pumped the wells on his ranch in the 1970's for the W. T. Waggoner Est. What a good man.

Steve Martin - January 11, 2015 at 08:33 PM

JL

“ Jayla Swafford Love lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty



Jayla Swafford Love - January 11, 2015 at 06:35 PM

JL

As a small child and growing up on Archer, always had fond memories of Luther, definitely his chapters in his life will always have many memories. Great person and always willing to lend a hand. Prayers for your families at this time!!

Jayla Swafford Love - January 11, 2015 at 06:39 PM

RW

“ Ronnie&Barbara Wade lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty



Ronnie&Barbara Wade - January 11, 2015 at 06:16 PM

RG

“ *Ronnie And Betty Gustin lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty*



Ronnie and Betty Gustin - January 11, 2015 at 09:46 AM

RG

“ *Ronnie and I have such good memories of Luther. Ronnie has told me many memories and stories. Luther took us to his fishing pond, where you could see the fish swimming. We got in a boat he had and caught enough to eat. He cleaned and cooked them and we ate them. Dorothy was on a trip and we missed seeing her , but knew she was seeing the world.
Marsha and Gayle , we are so sorry. We know you two took such good care of him. Please give Dorothy a hug .*

Ronnie and Betty Gustin - January 11, 2015 at 09:46 AM

EH

“ *Edie Heuss lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty*



Edie Heuss - January 11, 2015 at 08:11 AM

NY

“ *Neta Jo Curtner Yates lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty*



Neta Jo Curtner Yates - January 10, 2015 at 07:38 PM

TP

“ *Tracie Pippin lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty*



Tracie Pippin - January 10, 2015 at 09:29 AM

JJ

“ *Jimmy & Bill Ann Jones lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty*



Jimmy & Bill Ann Jones - January 10, 2015 at 08:02 AM

GP

“ *Greg & Redonna Pulis lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty*



Greg & Redonna Pulis - January 10, 2015 at 08:01 AM

GP

“ Greg & Redonna Pulis lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty



Greg & Redonna Pulis - January 10, 2015 at 08:00 AM

CC

“ Carolyn Corder lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty



Carolyn Corder - January 10, 2015 at 07:39 AM

MM

“ Mary Massengale lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty



Mary Massengale - January 10, 2015 at 12:36 AM

PH

“ Paula Ross Harley lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty



Paula Ross Harley - January 09, 2015 at 11:32 PM

JC

“ *Jimmie/Lelia Vene Cozart lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty*



jimmie/Lelia Vene Cozart - January 09, 2015 at 09:36 PM

DS

“ *David and I are so very sad to hear that we have lost Luther at this time. He is such a great part of our Lost Battalion family and our prayers are with: Dorothy, Gail and Mike and their family, and Marsha and her family. Our memories of Lost Battalion reunions, get-togethers at Wayne and Ozella's, and times that we visited Luther at his home will always be treasured. His service to our country was immense and will forever be appreciated. He was an asset for our country and our community and our church. We will always miss him and we will always remember him as the great man who he was.*

*Our Deep Condolences,
David and Beverly Solomon*

David and Beverly Solomon - January 09, 2015 at 06:21 PM

NC

“ *Nina Smith Clark lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty*



Nina Smith Clark - January 09, 2015 at 03:12 PM

JM

“ *Judy & Bill McRoberts lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty*



Judy & Bill McRoberts - January 09, 2015 at 02:19 PM

TH

“ *Tj Hart lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty*



Tj Hart - January 09, 2015 at 12:06 PM

SS

“ *Sunny And Deborah Hale Strain lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty*



Sunny and Deborah Hale Strain - January 09, 2015 at 10:50 AM

JK

“ *Jim & Gayla Kinder lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty*



Jim & Gayla Kinder - January 09, 2015 at 10:46 AM

PK

“ Penny Nail King lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty



Penny Nail King - January 09, 2015 at 10:07 AM

NG

“ Neoma Gwaltney lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty



Neoma Gwaltney - January 09, 2015 at 09:04 AM

LW

“ Mr. Prunty was a wonderful man; I treasured knowing him and his family and always enjoyed visiting with them when possible. I admired him greatly, and he gave much to make our country a better place. He will greatly be missed. May God be with all the family.

Lilly May West

Lilly May West - January 09, 2015 at 06:23 AM

GF

“ George Fulbright lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty



george fulbright - January 09, 2015 at 04:23 AM

LJ

“ With Luther's passing,it seems like a page closng on my dad as well. He represented his Lost Battalion Brothers so well. Finally, they can all rest in peace together. Our love and condolences are with you all. Ken and Lanora Joslin and Family

Lanora Joslin - January 08, 2015 at 11:36 PM

LG

“ Lucy Guest lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty



lucy guest - January 08, 2015 at 10:47 PM

WN

“ Wesley Norvill lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty



Wesley Norvill - January 08, 2015 at 10:34 PM

CN

“ *Cristina Norvill lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty*



Cristina Norvill - January 08, 2015 at 10:33 PM

Amy
Nail
Murphy

“ *Amy Nail Murphy lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty*



Amy Nail Murphy - January 08, 2015 at 09:15 PM

LI

“ *LindaHeathcoat lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty*



LindaHeathcoat - January 08, 2015 at 08:52 PM

MC

“ *Martha Craft Clement lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty*



Martha Craft Clement - January 08, 2015 at 07:54 PM

DH

“ *David And Carole Hobdy lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty*



David And Carole Hobdy - January 08, 2015 at 07:17 PM

MC

“ *Margaret Hendricks Collins lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty*



Margaret Hendricks Collins - January 08, 2015 at 04:57 PM

PH

“ *Paula Conner Hall lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty*



Paula Conner Hall - January 08, 2015 at 04:05 PM

RM

“ *Richard & Linda McFarland lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty*



Richard & Linda McFarland - January 08, 2015 at 03:42 PM

PF

“ Pat & Phyllis Foreman lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty



Pat & Phyllis Foreman - January 08, 2015 at 02:52 PM

JC

“ J.R. And Lee Ann Cansler lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty



J.R. and Lee Ann Cansler - January 08, 2015 at 02:46 PM

JM

“ John & Debbie Mitchell lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty



John & Debbie Mitchell - January 08, 2015 at 02:37 PM

LL

“ LINDY LUCUS lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty



LINDY LUCUS - January 08, 2015 at 02:32 PM

RS

“ Rick & Carolyn Smith lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty



Rick & Carolyn Smith - January 08, 2015 at 02:02 PM

DB

“ Debbye Berry sent a virtual gift in memory of Luther G. Prunty



Debbye Berry - January 08, 2015 at 12:59 PM

JK

“ Jim & Gayla Kinder lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty



Jim & Gayla Kinder - January 08, 2015 at 11:29 AM

DC

“ Dionne Collins lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty



Dionne Collins - January 08, 2015 at 11:11 AM

JW

“ James And Jannie West lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty



James and Jannie West - January 08, 2015 at 10:52 AM

BD

“ Bobby DAmron lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty



Bobby DAmron - January 08, 2015 at 10:30 AM

RC

“ Rita & Larry Culwell lit a candle in memory of Luther G. Prunty



Rita & Larry Culwell - January 08, 2015 at 08:41 AM