



## John Henry Fuchs, Jr

February 10, 2011

John Henry Fuchs, Jr. Born in Houston, TX to Gertrude Wagner Fuchs and John H. Fuchs, Sr. on February 3, 1924 and passed away on February 5, 2011 after complications from open heart surgery. On October 19th, 1947 he married Stella Preston whom he had met at a welcome home party for returning WWII POW's. They were loving companions until her death on May 21, 2003. He graduated from Reagan High School in 1942 and attended Texas Tech until he joined the Army Air Corp to train on B-17 aircraft. On his and the navigator's first mission - with an experienced crew, they were shot down over Germany where they spent two weeks in hiding until their capture. He spent his twenty-first birthday on a rail car between prison camps and a total of eight months as a POW, until the war ended. He returned home, met Stella, courted and married her and had daughter, Stella G. (Trudy) Fuchs and son, John H. Fuchs, III, who married the "painless daughter" Nancy, who all survive him. He is also survived by his niece, Rita Donaldson, several cousins and Nancy's family. He has no grandchildren, but had a few grandcats and granddogs that he loved. John made friends easily and loved to visit with them. He worked in the geophysical industry that manufactured geophones for oil exploration, eventually becoming Senior Vice President. He enjoyed his homing pigeons from childhood and, after moving to Huntsville in 1967, found a new passion with his cows. He and Stella enjoyed country living and travelling and "going riding". For many years after the war ended, he suffered from undiagnosed Post Traumatic Stress. About sixteen years ago, a neighbor

girl invited him to speak about his experience at her school. That is when he became involved in the early years of what has become the HEARTS Veterans Museum in Huntsville. We found a new family in the veterans and their families. The more he talked about his experiences, the easier it became for him. He finally began to feel like a hero, although he felt humbled by the experiences of other veterans. John enjoyed the notoriety and friends that came from his association with the museum family. He is survived by his loving friends, as well as his family. Memorial donations may be made to HEARTS Veterans Museum of Texas, 463 State Highway 75 N, Huntsville, Texas 77320 or at their website: [www.heartsmuseum.com](http://www.heartsmuseum.com) . Serving as pallbearers is Sam Houston State University, ROTC. Serving as honorary pallbearers are Hal Conwell, M.D., Jerry Harding, Jim I. Woods, Jay Richardson, Ernie M. Hall, Milton Kroesche, Clint Mcrae, John Sowell, Roy Loyless, B.J. Shotwell, Jeff Blount, Bill Pearson, Norbert Brocken, Patrick Pry, Mark Stephenson, Erich Krumm, Cliff Olson, Ron Pappas, Jon Harrison, Frank Liu, Denton Florian and the beloved veterans at the HEARTS Veterans Museum. Services for John will be held Thursday, February 10, 2011, 2:00 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church in Huntsville, Texas with Pastor Travis Pittock officiating. Graveside service will follow with military honors at Bath Cemetery in Huntsville. Family will receive friends Wednesday, February 9, 2011, 5:00-8:00 p.m. at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home in Huntsville. Those wishing to leave memorial condolences for the family may do so at [www.shmfh.com](http://www.shmfh.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *John Henry Fuchs, Jr*

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November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *Trudy,  
I am so sorry for your loss. I know how close you were with your dad and how difficult this must be for you and your family. I lost my dad in August 2008, but his memories (and his guidance) will be with me always. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you.*

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**Mary Wood** - March 09, 2011 at 03:24 PM



“ *Trudy, John, and Nancy we are sadden by your loss. I am sorry that I will not make it but you are in my thoughts. Debbie Wasut, Carolyn, Marvin and Stacie Breneman.*

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**Debbie Wasut** - February 10, 2011 at 05:09 PM

NB

“ *Trudy and family, we are so sorry to hear of John's passing. We knew him and Stella from the feed store in New Waverly where they came after eating at the Waverly House Restaurant and visited with me and Norris. In fact I am one who really got Stella hooked up with the Emu people. They both were a delite to know and have around. I know without a doubt yes, this place has lost a very special person to soo many people that he has touched the lives of and made a great everlasting difference and a great soldier at heart to so many veterans.*

*yes, he will be missed by many . Our condolences to you and the rest of the family. May God Bless each one of you during this time and times to come.*

*Norris & Clara Bailey*

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**Norris & Clara Bailey** - February 10, 2011 at 02:47 PM

LB

“ *I didn't have the opportunity to meet Mr. Fuch in person, but I had the pleasure of speaking to him in November 2010. He called me at Scott Johnson Elementary School, where I teach, to let me know he would not be able to attend the Veterans Day Program that I was coordinating due to his upcoming surgery. We chatted for about 10 minutes, and it was such an honor to speak to him. In those 10 minutes, I knew that I was speaking to a kind, gentle, courageous, honorable, and humble man. We made plans to meet and have him come to school to speak to the children about his experiences when he recovered, and I'm so sorry that I will not get the chance to meet this special man. I only spoke to him for a short time, but I want you to know that he has been in my mind and heart since that conversation in November. He definitely had an impact on my life, and I feel blessed to have spoken to such a brave man. Just as he was a brave warrior for us here on Earth, he is now God's warrior in Heaven. May God bless you and your family with peace and comfort during this difficult time.*

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**Lynne Benavides** - February 09, 2011 at 10:26 PM

JM

“ Dear Trudy and family, just wanted you to know that I am thinking of you in the loss of your dad. . . and vividly remembering the loss of my own over fifteen years ago. We are never ready for that final goodbye to those you have touched out lives so deeply. Thankfully, our faith reminds us that this parting is only for a little while---we will see them again!

No doubt that pictures and storeis---both funny and sad---will let your heart being the healing process. Over time, those sweet memories will be a comfort and a reminder that your gentle dad is still near in spirit. His contribution to teaching this younger generation about commitments to God and country is a fitting legacy. His generation is aptly named for all the right reasons. I will miss him . . . for he was one of the good guys!

Janet McMillan

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**Janet McMillan** - February 09, 2011 at 07:43 PM

LB

“ Trudy, Bubba & Nancy, Our hearts hurt for you with this loss. We know from your updates that ya'll did all that you could for your Dad. He fought a good fight but God must have needed this brave soldier a little more than ya'll needed him right now. It's great that he will be with his beloved wife now tho he wil be missed greatly by those who knew him & those of us who didn't. We pray for you all to accept God's strength to help you thru this sad time. Love to you all, Linda & Braker

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**Linda & Braker** - February 09, 2011 at 05:32 PM

DT

“ *Trudy,*

*We were saddened to hear of your father's passing. He was such a kind and gentle person, the world was a better place because of him, and his service to his country. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.*

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**Della & John Tallent** - February 09, 2011 at 05:30 PM

BH

“ *Trudy and family,*

*Just want to say how sorry I am of your Fathers passing. Your Dad was such a sweet man and I am fortunate to have met him.*

*Billie*

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**Billie Harding** - February 09, 2011 at 01:20 PM

EW

“ I first met John in 2002-2003, when I interviewed him for the Library of Congress' Veteran's Interview Program. His was a compelling story; an aircrewman in the 385th Bomb Group, 8th U.S.A.A.F; shot down over Germany on his first mission; evaded capture in the woods somewhere around Frankfort for eleven days before captured; spent the next eight months in, first Stalag Luft IV in Poland; transferred to Stalag Luft 1, Barth, Germany; liberated by Soviet forces along in April, 1945. To tell of his total experience would reveal a very "close brush with history."

He was informed by a Wehrmacht interviewing officer that the surname "Fuchs," translated to "Fox" in German. So, I always knew him as John Fox.

We kept in touch and got together on occasion. I pretty quickly pegged him as about the best humanity has to offer. I know he will be missed by all.

Sincerely

Edward (Ed)B. Williams

Coldspring, TX

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Edward B. Williams - February 09, 2011 at 12:41 PM

LS

“ *This world is a sadder place without his presence. I will miss J.H. with all my heart and soul. He hired me as his secretary when I was straight out of Sam Houston State and he was the best boss I EVER had! He became so much more than that over the years and there was not a day that went by that I did not think of him; he was just that sort of person who affects you so deeply. He and Stella treated my family as a part of their own and I always felt so close to them. My son, Matthew, was very personally affected by him as they shared a military bond. We had planned to go to the museum in Huntsville when the weather was warmer and he had promised to help Matt with a matter connected with his military service. I know of no other person in this world who was so generous. I do not know all of his conversation with Matt when Matthew was graduating from University of Houston, but I know that my son was so thankful to talk to someone that understood him so well. Of course, Matt shares a special connection with Trudy also.*

*All I know is there was no other man in the world just like J.H. Fuchs and I will miss talking with him.*

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**Lauren Svatek** - February 09, 2011 at 11:48 AM

MB

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you all during this time. I know that he will be dearly missed by you all and the HEARTS military family. My family and I thank him and appreciate him for his service to our country. May God bless you and comfort you during this time of loss.*

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**Melissa Kimbrough Beardsley** - February 09, 2011 at 10:25 AM

HE

“ We were saddened by the loss of your Dad. We know that he has gone on to his new life. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family left behind. God knows all about it. Hermann, Pat & Hermie Eichhorn

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**Hermann & Pat Eichhorn** - February 08, 2011 at 11:05 PM

LP

“ Please accept our sincere sympathies in the loss of your very dear and special loved one. Our prayers and thoughts are extended to your entire family. Heaven awaits a wonderful man.

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**Lelah/Jack Petersen** - February 08, 2011 at 08:02 PM

AJ

“ Art and I are saddened by the death of John. Our prayers are with the family at this time. John will be missed at the H.E.A.R.T.S. museum by all of his military family. He served his country well.

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**Arthur & Jeannine Jacoby** - February 08, 2011 at 07:13 PM

CT

“ J.H. was a friend to all of us. His and Stella's love for each other was a wonderful sight to see. She adored him and he adored her. We especially loved his stories about his POW days. Trudy, John and Nancy, our hearts go out to you in your loss. He will always remain in our hearts. Sincerely, Joie & Charlie

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**Charlie & Joie Taylor** - February 08, 2011 at 04:54 PM

KP

“ Trudy, Our love and prayers go out to you and your family. We are so sad and heart broken at the loss of your precious Dad. We will miss John more than I can say. I don't think I could ever go back to the Airshow again with out John. He loved signing his autograph and telling about his POW days. He will always be a part of HEARTS Museum but we will miss him so. God bless you Trudy and all your Family. Keith and Geraldine

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**Keith & Geraldine Persoon** - February 08, 2011 at 03:22 PM

JB

“ Trudy and the Fuchs Family,  
I am so sorry for the passing of your dad. I know how much a part of your life he was and he knew that he had the best daughter ever. His love for you & all your wonderful memories will help you through the days ahead. Please know that you & your family are in our thoughts and prayers. God Bless and take care, dear friend!!  
Jamie & Don Brinegar

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**Jamie Brinegar** - February 08, 2011 at 10:37 AM

VC

“ What a privilege it was to sit with Trudy and John at the Pearl Harbor Day supper at H.E.A.R.T.S. musuem this past December. John will be missed. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.  
Vicki Davis Christopher

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**Vicki Davis Christopher** - February 08, 2011 at 09:51 AM

HH

“ Thinking of you Trudy, John and Nancy on the loss of Your Father. May the wonderful memories of your Father's love be with you and comfort you at this time. Trusting in God's Promises comfort for your sorrow, courage for each day, strength to face this journey. His word to light your way, His peace to fill your heart, although you may not understand, and his love to hold you gently as the hollow of His Hand. May the peace God's promise offers help to ease your grief today, and may he always be beside you as you go along life's way. Our friendship goes back for many years, and he will be missed. I am always here for each of you.

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**Helen Harding** - February 07, 2011 at 10:46 PM

DF

“ JH and Stella Fuchs were the kindest, gentlest, and most generous people I have ever had the privilege of knowing. Friends for 35 some-odd years, the void we now face in their absence is deep. Trudy and Bubba, please know of our love for your family and our prayers for your comfort and peace.  
Denton and Mary Lou Florian

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**Denton Eugene Florian** - February 07, 2011 at 06:46 PM

TL

“ We are sorry to hear about your loss. Please accept our sincere condolences and all of our sympathy. He will be missed.

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**Teresa & Michael Lawson** - February 07, 2011 at 01:49 PM

GK

“ *Trudy, my sincere condolences go to you and your family. You all have made some tough and brave decisions recently and I'm so proud of you.*

*My very best,  
George*

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**George Klinke** - February 07, 2011 at 01:43 PM

SL

“ *Trudy,*

*We are saddened by your loss. Please know that we are thinking about you and your family during this sad time. I hope that it brings comfort to you knowing that your Dad has been reunited with your Mom in heaven. Love you!!*

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**Stacey & Lance** - February 07, 2011 at 01:15 PM

JG

“ *Trudy and Family;*

*You have our sympathy. Your father had a long life well lived even with his share of trials.*

*Even so, it's hard to see a parent go.*

*Judy & Joe Gusick*

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**Judy (Klinke) Gusick** - February 07, 2011 at 12:52 PM

MK

“ Dear Trudy and Bubba, Our thoughts and prayers go out to you all at this sad time. He was truly a friend to all of us and he will be greatly missed. I will miss those long conversations with him solving the world problems and most certainly those trips to get shrimp every year. If we can help in any way, please do not hesitate to call us. Love, Peggy and Milton

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**Milton & Peggy Kroesche** - February 07, 2011 at 11:34 AM

FE

“ Trudy, John and Nancy...During the many years we have known your father we cannot recall a time when we were not greeted by each of you with a smile and a sense of humor while visiting your home. Hearing him tell of his experiences during WWII would always amaze us and cause Lise and I to admire and respect him more and more. You know how Lise and I love to laugh and have fun. We always knew when we visited your home we would leave with a smile on our face resulting from our visit with you and your family. We will truly miss John.  
I'll bet your mom is so happy to be reunited with her (As she would always call him) BOYFRIEND. He lives on in heaven and within each of you.

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**Fred & Lise Estill** - February 07, 2011 at 10:47 AM

JS

“ Dear John, Nancy and Trudy, so sorry for your loss. Your father is resting in God's loving arms now but will remain your hearts forever. My deepest sympathy to you and all who knew Mr. Fuchs.

God Bless!

Joan Schultz

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**Joan Schultz** - February 07, 2011 at 10:28 AM

WA

“ With great sadness and a heavy heart I want to extend the condolences of all those Military Men and Women who knew John Fuchs, Jr. I served with this fine man on the Mayor's Veteran's Advisory Board. John stood proud and staturesque among all those who knew him. What an incredible and honorable gentleman. We have loss a great man that represented a great part of this country's history. God Bless John Fuchs, Jr. and may God grant him a special place in heaven.

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**Wayne Keen President Military Officers Association of America** - February 07, 2011 at 10:03 AM

BW

“ Trudy, John & Nancy: Our entire family is deeply saddend at the loss of your wonderful father. Our children are grown now but still talk about going to your dad and mom's house to fish with only "bread" on the hook! You have been blessed to have such a wonderful mother and father. We love you and are praying for you.

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**Bob & Mellicent Wiley & Bobby II, Heather & Jason, Heath, Justin & Joanna Wiley** - February 07, 2011 at 08:52 AM

AR

“ We are deeply sorry for your loss of a truly wonderful father and a hero. Although we did not know him well, he was a hero in our eyes with his stories of WWII experiences. May you find consolation in the knowledge that he is now enjoying his heavenly rewards and may Our Lord give you the strength to carry on in the difficult days ahead.

*Our sympathy to you and the family.*

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**Adeline & Maynard Ripper** - February 06, 2011 at 09:13 PM

BE

“ Trudy,

*I am so sorry for your loss. I know your dad meant the world to you. I hope you take comfort in knowing, he is with God. If you need anything just email me. Your Friend Bev*

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**Beverly** - February 06, 2011 at 04:43 PM

SM

“ John, Nancy and Trudy, so sorry for your loss...Even though we never met him and your mom, we heard a lot about both of them....he had a wonderful full life and a very loving family, even though he will be missed...He will be in your hearts for ever.....Rest In Peace Mr. John Fuchs.....The Mueller Family...Tommy, Susan and Brendan

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**Susan & Tommy Mueller** - February 06, 2011 at 03:33 PM

JR

“ I'm will truly miss John and his smile. What a wonderful man. I enjoyed every moment I spent with him. My prayers are with the family.

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**James Ross** - February 06, 2011 at 02:19 PM

HR

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. He was such a friendly and funny guy. I remember his stories he used to tell at the museum. I will miss him.

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**Heather Robinett** - February 06, 2011 at 12:15 PM

DB

“ You have our deepest sympathy over the loss of your wonderful father. He was a remarkable person whose departure from this earth will leave a significant void. We can all take comfort in the knowledge that he is not suffering and that he is now enjoying the company of his Maker.

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**Dan & Donna Beto** - February 05, 2011 at 04:06 PM

BD

“ Dear Trudy and Bubba and relatives of JH Fuchs

*We are very sorry to hear that your Dad and our dear friend has passed away, please be strong and accept our sincere condolences and all our sympathy is with all of you. I know words will not do too much at this time, but remember when it hurts to look back and you are scared to go forward, just look beside you and your best friends will be there for you. Let us know if we can help you in anyway.*

*Today is a very sad day for us, and certainly a great loss to all who knew him, may God give you the courage and strength to keep you going through this very tough time.*

*The world has lost a great man for whom we had great respect. He will remain in our memories forever and we are very proud to have known him for so many years. He will be missed and he deserves a medal of honor.*

*Greetings, but very sad....*

*Ben and Paula Derkink from The Netherlands*

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**Ben & Paula Derkink** - February 05, 2011 at 03:35 PM