



Col. M.B. Etheredge

June 7, 1915 - May 20, 2014

Son, Brother, Husband, Educator, Dad, Grandfather, Uncle, Friend, and War Hero...all describe the old soldier that has faded away. Lt. Col. M. B. Etheredge, 98, passed away peacefully on May 15, 2014 in Huntsville, Texas. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Emma Fatheree Etheredge. He is survived by his daughter, Virginia (Ginny) Lee Etheredge Thompson, and her husband, Robert, of Boerne, Texas; two granddaughters, Lynlee Morrison-Ellis and her husband Jerry of Boerne and Lisa Morrison-Whitehead of Austin; and four great-grandchildren, Thomas Etheredge Overend of Boerne, and Salem Whitehead, Drake Whitehead and Saxton Whitehead, all of Austin. He leaves behind his very special friend, Reva Bishop, of Huntsville. He will also be missed by his longtime employee, caretaker and dear friend, Emma Dee Jones, of Huntsville. M.B. was born June 7, 1915, in Weldon, Texas, to Mode Etheredge and Ora Lee Read Etheredge. He graduated from Huntsville High School in 1933. Four years later, he received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Sam Houston Teacher's College, where he was an active member of the Student Council, captain of the track team and president of his senior class. M. B. taught school in Sugarland, Texas from 1937 to 1941. At the age of 26, he became the youngest superintendent of schools in Texas in Brazoria County. In 1942, he enlisted in the U.S. Army as a private to aide his country in the fight for freedom in World War II even though he was exempt from the draft due to his position as an educator. He spent the next four year in the US Army's 3rd Division Infantry. He earned two battlefield promotions

and advanced in rank from second lieutenant to captain in only six days. He was awarded three Silver Star medals for gallantry in action, two Bronze Star medals for heroism and two Purple Hearts, making him one of the most decorated soldiers of the war. Following his military service, M.B. completed his Master of Arts Degree at Sam Houston State Teachers College and received a Peabody Scholarship completing his postgraduate work at the University of Texas in Austin. He then went on to study at South Texas College of Law in Houston, Texas. "The Colonel," as most called him, served three terms in the Texas House of Representatives where he is credited with sponsoring legislation that led to the creation of M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and to the transportation corridor between Houston and Dallas that became Interstate 45. M.B. was a civic leader in his beloved Huntsville, where he served two terms as a board member of the Huntsville Chamber of Commerce and as president of the Huntsville Rotary Club. He was an Associate Professor of Education at Sam Houston State University, chartered the American Bank of Huntsville and the Lake Area Bank of Trinity. M.B. loved his Spring Lake that he developed in 1967. In 2003, M.B. was presented the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor by Governor Rick Perry. He also was a 75-year Mason, Forrest Lodge #19 A.F. & A.M. State representative James Turner said, "Mr. Etheredge has made a positive impact on the lives of many Americans and personifies the definition of a true and loyal American who sets the standard for all citizens to live by. He is an outstanding example to his family and friends, and has been as asset to the many communities, states and nations that he has touched over the years." We salute you, Sir. In an effort to continue both M.B and Emma Etheredge's support of education; the family asks that you consider making a contribution to the M.B. and Emma Etheredge Scholarship fund that is established at their alma mater, Sam Houston State University, the H.E.A.R.T.S. Museum, or the charity of your choice. The family will receive friends Monday, May 19, 2014 from 5:30 to 8:00 PM at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home in Huntsville, Texas. Services will be held Tuesday, May 20, 2014 at 10:00 AM at First Baptist

Church, 1229 Ave J, Huntsville, Texas. Interment will follow service at Adickes Addition of Oakwood Cemetery in Huntsville, Texas. Memorial condolences may be made to the family online at www.shmfh.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Col. M.B. Etheredge*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *Ginny - Bruce and I are so impressed with the amazing person your Dad was. I know he was such an important part of your life. We send our prayers and love to you and Robert. Nancy Jo*

nancy jo callahan - May 27, 2014 at 03:19 PM



“ *What a blessing Colonel Etheredge's friendship has been over the years to both my parents, Dorothy and Alton Burgess, and to my husband and me. You are all in our prayers.*

Connie Burgess Robinson and Duane Robinson - May 19, 2014 at 11:10 PM



“ *Ginny, we were all in awe of both your Dad and your Mom. What a legacy! Precious memories!*

Mark Chalker - May 19, 2014 at 07:33 PM



“ *Ginny,
We were so sorry to hear of your Dad's passing. I'm glad that you got to spend some time with him over the last month. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. May you feel God's comforting love during this difficult time.
The Large and Kastor families*

The Large and Kastor families - May 19, 2014 at 05:05 PM

JJ

“ *M.B. was an amazing man who accomplished so much for his country, community and family. He was an inspiring figure who left an incredible legacy. We thank God he gave our country the gift of M.B.*

Our thoughts and prayers are with your family.

Jake & Mindy Jacobson - May 19, 2014 at 08:55 AM

TO

“ *I am so very sorry to hear of the passing of G-Daddy. Mine and my families thoughts and prayers are with all of you as you go through this time. We truly lost a great man. I will forever be grateful for the time I got to spend with him. He will be missed.*

Todd Overend - May 18, 2014 at 05:20 PM

DT

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you, Ginny and family. Col. Etheredge was such a fine person and Huntsville will not be the same without him. I used to love to see and talk to him at all of the Veterans events. He is a true American hero. He will be greatly missed. May God bless you. Rest in peace, Col. Etheredge.*

Dorothea Tarver - May 17, 2014 at 07:29 PM

VC

“ *Each time I saw Col. Etheredge at a HEARTS Veteran Museum event, he would tell me a story about him and my father, Ralph Davis. What an incredible legacy Col. has left behind and we all have a responsibility to keep his torch going for what he believed in and represented. It was such an honor to know him.*
Vicki Davis Christopher

Vicki Davis Christopher - May 17, 2014 at 09:52 AM



“ *My prayers for our Lord to provide comfort, strength, and understanding during the time for all the family. Col. Ether edge will be missed by many.*

M - May 16, 2014 at 11:04 PM



“ *so sorry to hear of the loss, may you be comforted by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ Ronnie Bracewell*

Ronnie Bracewell - May 16, 2014 at 08:22 PM



“ *So sorry to learn the passing of a great man who gave generously to his community and nation. It was a pleasure to know M.B. as a colleague at SHSU, in his business dealings, and at First Baptist Church. He will be greatly missed in the Huntsville community.*

Joyce & Jimmy Merchant - May 16, 2014 at 04:29 PM



“ *Ginny, sorry for your loss. You are in our prayers.*

Gene Reynolds - May 16, 2014 at 11:15 AM



“ *Ginny...I was so sorry to hear about your dad. It was such a blessing for you to have him for so many years. My thoughts and prayers go out to you*

Mary Beth Van Horn - May 16, 2014 at 09:50 AM

MF

“ We are so sorry for your loss. May God bless your family during this difficult time.

Monetta Mooney Frenza - May 16, 2014 at 09:40 AM

DG

“ My children and I had the pleasure of knowing M.B. (and Emma) through my mother-in-law, Lilla Mae Gray Marshall. M.B. was a wonderful man! It's hard to find the words to describe such a person and it was an honor to know him. My son (Chris) spent many days at M.B.'s fishing, learning all the tricks from M.B. My prayers are with you and my all the memories give you love and strength at this time.

Dixie Gray - May 16, 2014 at 08:50 AM

JE

“ Another of America's greatest generation has passed away. Until his passing today, he was America's most decorated living World War II veteran. About his military service, he said simply, "Buddy, I just had to go, I had responsibilities you know." Here's my favorite Uncle M.B. story: He invited my wife Candy, and our kids Jenny and Johnny, to go for a car ride with him in Huntsville, Texas. He stopped his car in the middle of a busy four-lane boulevard, got out, and grinned at me. I thought the old guy was losing it. I said, "Uncle M.B., you're gonna get a ticket for stopping in the middle of the street." He looked at me and replied, "Now, Johnny, just who the hell do you think is gonna give Col. M.B. Etheredge a ticket in the middle of Col. M.B. Etheredge Boulevard!" That's when I noticed the street sign. I last saw Uncle M.B. about a year ago, at my father's funeral. As "Taps" was being played, he rose from his wheelchair to salute my dad's flag-draped coffin, one old soldier to another. It's a sight I'll never forget.

Johnny Etheredge - May 15, 2014 at 10:37 PM

NJ

“ *What a joy it was to know this great man! He was born in Weldon, Texas, outside of Lovelady and made us all so proud of him. Rest in Peace, Col. E. YOU have always us so proud!!!! Norma Dell Jones of Lovelady (formerly SHSU Alumni Director)*

Norma Dell Jones - May 15, 2014 at 10:27 PM

MK

“ *Col. Etheredge was our hero. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. GOD BLESS!!!*

Milton and Peggy Kroesche - May 15, 2014 at 09:09 PM

TF

“ *Col. Etheredge certainly lived a full life. It has been obvious that his health was failing the last few years. He will be missed. I will miss his sweet smiling face at the HEARTS Veterans Museum events. His remarkable history was not sweet or smiling, but heroic and brave. My parents and I were priviledged to have known him. I knew Mrs. Emma in high school long before I ever met him and I remember the statement he made to my parents as they were walking hand in hand. He told them he wished he could still walk hand in hand with Emma. Reva, you may not have been Emma (and he was not Leonard), but you sure were a good friend to him during your times of loss. God's blessings to you and to his family. Col. Etheredge certainly left his mark in Walker County, the world and as a true American.*

Trudy Fuchs - May 15, 2014 at 08:24 PM

JF

“ Jenny, I'm so sorry for your loss, but I know that you are at peace with his long life finally climaxed by reunion with his precious Emma and relief from pain and illness. He was such a powerful influence on so many people. I wish I had spent more time with him. I pray that his memorial will be a fitting tribute to him and Emma and bring glory to God.
James (J. B.)

James Featherston - May 15, 2014 at 04:28 PM

CT

“ SORRY FOR YOU LOSE WE BOTH THOUGHT A LOT OF YOUR FATHER GOD BLESS

CHARLES & BETTY TACKETT - May 15, 2014 at 04:08 PM

JJ

“ Art and I are so very sorry for the loss of Col. Etheredge. Our prayers are with the family during this difficult time.

Jeannine Jacoby - May 15, 2014 at 02:48 PM

GG

“ The passing of a true American hero. Col. Etheredge will be remembered as a friend as well. God's blessings to the family.

Greg Gathright - May 15, 2014 at 01:14 PM

MF

“ We are sorry for your loss. You are in our prayers.

Mellicent Sikes Wiley & Family - May 15, 2014 at 12:59 PM