

James Ashley Alexander | 1931-2016

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James Ashley Alexander, 84, of Decatur, died Saturday, June 11, 2016, in Weatherford.

Graveside service will be held in Harrison, Ark., at a later date.

James was born Nov. 9, 1931, in Refugio to James and Alma (Highsaw) Alexander. He married Edna L. Jackson April 13, 1975, in Harrison.

He proudly served his country in the United States Army, 1st Calvary, obtaining the rank of sergeant. He was the recipient of the Presidential Distinguished Unit Citation and a Purple Heart during the Korean War, and while stationed in Japan, he participated in the All Far East Track Meet, placing third in the 1500 meters.

James attended Central Bible College in Springfield, Mo., and was a former Assembly of God minister. While employed with Tyson Foods during the 1980s, he organized what would grow into the single largest USSSA sanctioned softball tournament in the United States. An avid gardener, he raised prize-winning roses and enjoyed a well-kept lawn.

James was preceded in death by his wife, Edna.

He is survived by his sons, Richard Alexander of Mesquite, Charles Alexander and wife, Nancy, of Montague, Mich. and Gary Alexander and wife, Donna, of Decatur; daughters Ruth Grant and husband, Ron, of Moorestown, N.J. and Deborah Johnson and husband, James, of Fort Worth; grandchildren Jonathan Morse and wife, Jessica, Jeremy Morse and wife, Patricia, Erik Alexander and Michael Grant; great-grandchildren Corwin, Jonas, Josiah, Aria and Jeremiah; and other family members and friends.