



James Riley Chennault Sr.

MAY 8, 1915 - FEB 7, 2009



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James Riley Chennault, Sr. born May 8, 1915 passed from this life on February 7, 2009. Born in Kosciusko Mississippi to Jesse & Clennie Bell Chennault, he was the oldest of seven children. In 1939 J.R. as he was known, came to Texas for a month to help build a house for his uncle. He has been a resident of Texas ever since. J.R. served in the Civilian Conservation Corps during the great depression and then joined the National Guard, becoming a part of the 112th Cavalry in May of 1940. He served on the board and was treasurer of the 112th Association until 2008. J.R. served in WWII for three years at New Caledonia, Australia, at the battle on the Driniumor River, Woodlark Island, and Arawe, New Britain. He was discharged July 2, 1945. J.R. returned to Texas starting a job with the Texas Highway Department surveying the work for Central Expressway and I-30E to Rockwall. He worked for the Dallas Police Pound for two and a half years, the Aldophus Hotel for 14 years, where he was in charge of all sound and lighting for the Century Room. He retired after 15 years from the Dallas County Juvenile Dept. J.R. was a Dallas Police Reservist for twenty seven years. JR served as a deacon and Sunday School Superintendent at Bella Vista Christian Church in Garland. He became known as Big Red. Sundays he would hand out bulletins and a stick of Big Red chewing gum. Everywhere he went he gave out sticks of Big Red gum. In 1996 they became members of Valley View Christian Church in Dallas where he continued to serve his Lord faithfully. J.R. is survived by his wife of 64 years Dorothy, daughter Donna Gilmore of Frisco TX. , daughter in law Fran Chennault of Richmond, TX, two brothers David Chennault of Jackson MS. and C.B. Chennault also of Jackson, Two sisters, Mrs. Joan Johnston of Jackson MS and Nannie Mae Harrison of Greenville MS., six grandchildren and six great grand children and many nieces and nephews. J.R. is preceded in death by his son Dr James Riley Chennault, Jr of Victoria TX, son in law Weldon Gilmore of Carrollton, a sister, three brothers and two step brothers. The joy of his life was his wife, children,



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grandchildren, great grandchildren and church family. He was an honest, compassionate man of great character mixed with a mischievous spirit. He never met a stranger and if ever you had a need he would do everything in his power to help you. JR will be greatly missed by his family and many friends. Visitation will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 pm, Monday, February 9, 2009 at Restland Funeral Home. A funeral service will be held 2:00 pm, Tuesday, February 10, 2009 at Valley View Christian Church; 17601 Marsh Lane, Dallas, TX.



Tribute Wall

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JS

Jim Sharp posted:

Riley would come by and visit with a good friend of mine at the office. They went to the same church. Come to find out he was in the 112th. Cavalry with my Dad. So he talked me into coming to one of the unit's reunions. I have been going to them ever since. Riley would also come by the office and visit. We have been missing the visits lately. He always had a smile on his face and was always kidding around. He was very instrumental in my association with the 112th. I have had the chance to meet a lot of men and women that mean the world to me. Riley was one of them. Jim Sharp

August 24 at 12:32 PM

MC

Mike & Phyllis Chennault posted:

Our hearts and prayers are with you at this time.

August 24 at 10:37 AM

JA

Joan Schweikhard Aderholt posted:

It was through Riley's kind heart and generosity that I met him and Donna back in 1961 when I was in the 8th grade. I was waiting at the school bus stop one day when Riley and Donna stopped on their way to see if I'd like a ride. That was the beginning of a very close relationship to the Chennault family over the years, which eventually led to them becoming members of Bella Vista Christian Church. Thank you, Riley, for that first of many rides to school. My sincere sympathy to Dorothy and Donna. Love, Joan

February 6 at 7:00 PM

CM

Cindy Meyer posted:

I had the pleasure of getting to know JR just last summer. I was newly retired and would go out every morning to walk my dog. Most days JR would be sitting on a bench in his front yard. I went over and started talking to him. He was fun to talk to and interesting. He was so kind and had the greatest smile and a kind twinkle in his eyes. I am so lucky that I got to share part of his life. I will miss him very much.

February 6 at 7:00 PM



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Kathy Lanham posted:

He was the kindness man I have ever had the honor of knowing. He will be missed by so many and I know he will always keep a watchful eye on us down here. I will especially miss him shooting at the squirrels and possums in our neighborhood/my yard. He served our country honorably and he will always be remembered as a hero to me and so many others. Please except my deepest condolences.

February 6 at 7:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring James by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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