



Joseph O. Ruiz

May 16, 1926 - January 17, 2012

Joseph O. Ruiz, son of the late John and Theresa (Caillouett) Ruiz, was born May 16, 1926 in Iberville Parish, Louisiana where he grew up and attended school.

At the age of 18, Joe entered the United States Navy and served his country faithfully in World War II. He was honorably discharged February 12, 1946. After leaving the Navy, Joe began working for a seismograph crew in the oil industry in Texas and North Dakota and did so for 14 years.

In 1949, Joe met the love of his life, Meredith L. Wood and they were united in marriage on October 27, 1951. They were blessed of the Lord with 60 years together. Joe leaves to cherish his memory his loving wife Meredith; his three children: Joseph Ruiz, Jr. (Carla) of Richmond, VA, Jana Cleveland (Lawrence) of Stoutland, MO; and Judi Leander (Dale) of Tulsa, OK; Eight grandchildren: Nathan Ruiz (Lynette), Joseph, Margaret and Meredith Cleveland; Wesley, Amy, Daniel and Bradley Leander; his sister-in-law: Ann Ruiz of Plaquemine, LA; several nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

In 1962, Joe went into the Fire Extinguisher business and the family moved to Plainview, Texas. Joe spent the next 43 years there and was active in the community and church. In 1975 he started a Men's Prayer Breakfast. In the fall of 2009 he started a Men's prayer breakfast in Richland. He also served

for eight years as the president of the Full Gospel Men's Fellowship in Plainview. He served as Scout Master for 16 years and one last year as an advisor for the Boy Scouts. Eight young men earned the Eagle Scout award during Joe's sixteen year tenure. He also worked in Drug Prevention efforts with the Hale County Sheriff's Department.

In 2005, Joe and Meredith moved to the Richland area to be nearer to their children and grandchildren. Joe believed in the Great Commission and could be found passing out cards and telling his story of faith. It was always his regret that he never invited Jesus into his heart until he was 44 years old. He was baptized into Christ at that time and continued to have an excited commitment to serve the Lord in gratitude. His desire today would be to see others make the commitment he failed to make before he was 44.

Joe was carried home by the angels on Tuesday evening, January 17, 2012 at his home. He will be sadly missed and fondly remembered but he is at home with his Savior and waiting anxiously for everyone who has invited Jesus into their heart to join him.

In addition to his parents, Joe was preceded in death by one granddaughter: Meredith Anne Cleveland and three siblings: John and Raymond Ruiz and Theresa Morales.

Funeral services were held at 11:00 A.M., Saturday, January 21, 2012 in the First Baptist Church of Richland with Pastor Bob Lilly officiating. Pianist Marleen Brown played as congregational hymns were led by Mike Freeman that included "Jesus Is the Sweetest Name I Know", "Something About that Name", "I Will Sing of My Redeemer" and "Softly and Tenderly". Several friends shared their fond memories of Joe. Serving as escorts were Nathan Ruiz, Wesley Leander, Bradley Leander, Joseph Cleveland, Daniel Leander and Eric Moore. Burial followed with Military Honors provided by the Missouri

Honors Team. Services were under the direction of Memorial Chapel of Richland.

Previous Events

Service

JAN 21. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church - Richland
101 N. Pine Street
Richland, MO

Tribute Wall



“ Joseph O. Ruiz

January 28, 2023 at 06:53 AM



“ Willyb Posted on Still looks doiecilus. Just make sure no one sees the “before” pic and none would be the wiser. ;-0)##imported-begin##Nong##imported-end##

February 08, 2012 at 03:43 PM



“ We have so many fond memories of Joe. Of all the people we have met in our life, THIS MAN, was truly a MAN of God. I can only imagine what it was like when Joe closed his eyes on this side of eternity - only to awaken in THAT great CITY! Our prayers are with Meredith and the family. Absent from the Body- Present with the LORD! What a life well lived in service to others.##imported-begin##David Allenson Family##imported-end##

February 02, 2012 at 11:39 PM



“ I have so many fond memories of Joe. Of all the people I have met in my life, THIS MAN, was truly a MAN of God. I can only imagine what it was like when Joe closed his eyes on this side of eternity - only to awaken in THAT great CITY! Our prayers are with Meredith and the family. Absent from the Body- Present with the LORD! What a life well lived in service to others.##imported-begin##David Allenspn Family##imported-end##

February 02, 2012 at 11:35 PM



“ Great man I enjoyed Joe and family as I grew up God is good God Bless to family would love to see you all and Joe and Meredith 's Grand Children , Charles Buchanan###imported-begin##Charles Buchanan###imported-end##

January 30, 2012 at 02:09 PM



“ Joe's smile and infectious laugh is a sweet memory I have of him showing his bird dogs to my sons and their school. He was fervant in his prayers for anyone who asked. My condolences to Meredith. You showed me much kindness while I shared a church home with you. I still have a beautiful antique blue bowl that you gave me after I admired it. May God bless you and your family in this time of loss.
Sincerely,
Marci Owens
Plainview Texas###imported-begin##Marci Owens###imported-end##

January 29, 2012 at 04:36 PM



“ I knew Judi at PHS.###imported-begin##Kimberly Finney Lackey###imported-end##

January 29, 2012 at 03:20 PM



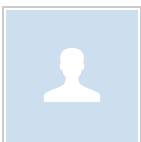
“ Dear Meredith,
We were so saddened to hear of the death of Joe. We think of you both often and miss your friendship and companionship in the years past. We send you our prayers and hope that you are doing well along with all your family and friends. We send our love and prayers.
Larry and Sharon Perkins###imported-begin###Larry & Sharon Perkins###imported-end##

January 29, 2012 at 11:33 AM



“ Meredith and Family,
We heard the news while in Texas. We have been praying, and will continue to pray for you. I can't tell you how much Joe's (and your) friendship, encouragement, and prayers have meant to me over the years. He was truly remarkable, and we know he is enjoying his new home. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you now.###imported-begin###Martin and Georgia White###imported-end##

January 23, 2012 at 11:08 PM



“ Our sincere sympathy to your family. He was a very pleasant person and a fine gentleman.###imported-begin###Duane & Helen Pemberton###imported-end##

January 21, 2012 at 07:00 PM



“ Thinking of you.###imported-begin###Bonnie Hooker###imported-end##

January 20, 2012 at 06:31 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you.##imported-begin##Steve Baranowski Family##imported-end##

January 20, 2012 at 04:11 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Joe's passing....our loss is Heaven's gain....our prayers are with you & your family at this time....##imported-begin##DAVID & SUSAN HALL##imported-end##

January 20, 2012 at 11:22 AM



“ We are so sorry for your loss. We were so blessed to have known Joe. He was a good and Godly man. We know his in heaven celebrating with his Lord and Savior!.##imported-begin##Bobby & Cindy Medina and girls##imported-end##

January 20, 2012 at 09:34 AM



“ Our prayers are with you all, we love you so much and stand with you in this amazing transformation of Joe to his Heavenly Fathers presence and with it the accompanying tremendous loss of his beautiful fellowship.

Please know we are here for you. We loved Joe so much and the beautiful Spirit of the Lord that he brought with him every where he went will be so deeply missed.

I know that it was just a crossing of a threshold for Joe, for he was always arm and arm with the Lord and in his conversation, praise and presence all the day long.

I am so happy for him and yet grieve deeply for you all and us who remain.

What a truly wonderful and yet painful conflict to have at a time like this and one which sincerely defines the true passing of a beautiful Saint of the Lord.

I am so thankful to Jesus for Joe's, testimony, incredible Christian fellowship and his truly beautiful friendship.

He, himself, and his life, are and were such a beautiful invitation to anyone who would desire to know the Lord and to other Christians who sought to walk with the Lord in Love and Peace and Beauty. His testimonies in word and in life are so powerful and precious.

Please know we are here for you in any need.

*All our love,
Brian Bennett###imported-begin##Brian C. Bennett###imported-end##*

January 19, 2012 at 03:49 PM



“ Sorry for your loss.##imported-begin##Matt and Sara Evans##imported-end##

January 19, 2012 at 02:16 PM



“ Ms. Meredith and family,

Know that our family will be keeping you in our thoughts and prayers. May the good Lord keep you in his loving arms and give you strength.

*Lots of Love,
Boyd, Donna and AJ##imported-begin##Boyd, Donna & AJ Hendrix##imported-end##*

January 19, 2012 at 01:35 PM



“ Meredith, Our prayers are with you and the family. Jerry and I thought a lot of Joe. It will be different not seeing him drive around the ponds frog hunting. Jerry and Carol Gideon##imported-begin##Carol Gideon##imported-end##

January 19, 2012 at 10:35 AM



“ We are so sorry for the loss of Joe. He was such an inspiration to many people, and will continue to be even now. I always remember how he would say he "was all prayed up". A phrase we say now because of him. Another phrase we say is "what would Joe do?", and if anyone knew Joe, you know what he would do....pray. He will always hold a special place in our hearts. He was a true blessing to know. May The Lord comfort you at this time.##imported-begin##Bill and Kathy Karr##imported-end##

January 19, 2012 at 09:44 AM



“ Words could never describe what a blessing Joe & Merideth were in my life. I am truly a better person for having known Joe. There was not a better encourager or supporter than he was. I will forever remember the hunting trips and get togethers and all the food and fellowship that we shared and last but not least the admiration of a true man of God. May God hold you in the palm of his hand through your time of loss.##imported-begin##Gabriel Ray Gonzales##imported-end##

January 18, 2012 at 06:26 PM



“ Joe will be greatly missed! May your family find peace and comfort in the arms of God during this difficult time. God be with you.....##imported-begin##Jonathan & Melissa Stradt and family##imported-end##

January 18, 2012 at 03:03 PM