

August 27, 2007

DURDIN

Leon Franklin Durdin, passed away on July 23, 2007. He was born in Emoryfield on March 18, 1926 to William Franklin and Sarah Elizabeth Fitzgerald Durdin.

As a youngster he and his brother Cecil sang and played their guitars on a regular basis on KSAM radio in Huntsville.

He joined the U.S. Army where he was stationed in Washington State before being transferred to Korea during World War II.

On August 23, 1947 he married Dorothy Means. Although they were not blessed with children, they were like second parents to many nieces and nephews.

He was a member of Local 450 in Houston, where he was employed in the heavy equipment operations field mainly for Linbeck Construction. He was an active member of the Missionary Church of God in Houston for 41 years. He and Dorothy retired to their farm in Oakhurst in 1991 where he became a member of the Oakhurst Full Gospel Church and was an active board member.

He is preceded in death by his parents; sisters, Mineola, Bessie, Effie, Zelma, Lelar, Walter and Georgia; one brother Cecil Ray.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Dorothy Durdin; brother, Alfred M. Durdin also of Oakhurst. Alfred, who married Dorothy's sister, Margaret Inez had three children, Sandra, David and Connie who have always felt they were blessed with two sets of parents, biological and adoptive. He is also survived by in-laws Pete and Louise Means, Jack and Gisela Means, I.B. and Dixie Means, Irene Means, Annie Means and Bertha Wright; host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews; and a multitude of friends. He was a loving husband, substitute father, substitute grandfather and beloved uncle, brother and brother-in-law. He possessed a wacky sense of humor and often had people in stitches at his witticism, or as the family might say, "Leonisms." In the one area he remained serious, was his quiet walk with the Lord. He lived as he believed a Christian should, and led by example. He never had an unkind word about anyone and treated everyone equally. He was a true gentleman, fair and just with a very tender heart. Funeral services were held on July 26 at the Oakhurst Full Gospel Church under the direction of Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home. Interment followed at Mr. Capers Cemetery.

Those wishing to leave memorial condolences for the family may do so at www.shmfh.com.