

H.C.C. Thursday - February 3, 2005

Augusta

he served as a Medical Technician from 1944 into 1945. For his service in the war, Dr. Kennedy received the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal and Bronze Star.

After the war in 1946, Dr. Kennedy returned home to Grapeland, re-entered Sam Houston State University and completed his Bachelor of Science Degree. While attending school, Dr. Kennedy met Joanne Dickey of Crockett, and they were married on December 21, 1947. Dr. Kennedy and Joanne moved to Dallas, where he attended Baylor College of Dentistry, receiving his Doctor of Dental Surgery in 1952. After graduation, he, Joanne and daughter Beth moved to Grapeland, and Dr. Kennedy began his dental practice in the building between what was then Kennedy Brother Store and Herod's Grocery. Dr. Kennedy was a true artisan, making dentures by hand for his patients until his retirement in 1988.

After retirement, Dr. Kennedy and Joanne built a home near Augusta, where he spent his time reading, listening to his favorite jazz tunes, watching football on TV, traveling, tending his fruit trees, and taking care of his property. In 2002, Dr. Kennedy and Joanne moved to Lufkin to be near their son John Thomas and his family.

Over the years, Dr. Kennedy was involved in many activities. Dr. Kennedy was a member of the Delta Sigma Delta Dental Fraternity and the Texas Dental Association. Dr. Kennedy also served for four years on the Grapeland School Board, served as Commander of VFW Post 5870, and was a member of Masonic Lodge#473.

Dr. Kennedy was a devoted son, husband and father, and he served his dental patients well. "Dr. John" or "Doc," as many patients and friends called him. Dr. Kennedy will be greatly missed and remembered with much love and ad-

miration.

Survivors include his devoted wife of 57 years, Joanne; son and daughter-in-law John and Connie Kennedy; daughter Beth Kennedy and friend Paul Beddingfield, of Houston; daughter and son-in-law June and Mike Benestante, of Houston; grandchildren Jack Kennedy, Joanna, Michael and Abby Benestante; two brothers Sam Kennedy and wife Gloria, of Grapeland and James Kennedy and wife Mary, of Augusta; one niece; five nephews; and several great nieces and nephews.

Preceded in death by his parents John Kennedy Sr. and Bess Burton Howard Kennedy.

Graveside services were held Wednesday, February 2, at 10:00 a.m. at Augusta Cemetery with the Reverend Jim Ainsworth officiating.

Pallbearers were Stanley Skidmore, Ben Childress, Dick Murchison, Porter Herod and Ray Whitaker, all of Grapeland.

In lieu of flowers, for those desiring, memorial contributions may be made to Hospice in the Pines, Lufkin, TX. or the Augusta Cemetery Association.

DR. JOHN W. KENNEDY

Dr. John W. Kennedy, age 79 of Lufkin, passed away surrounded by his family at his home Monday, January 31, 2005. Dr. Kennedy was born March 10, 1925 in Grapeland to John Kennedy Sr. and Bess Burton Howard Kennedy. Dr. Kennedy was a long-time Grapeland dentist.

Dr. Kennedy grew up in Grapeland and graduated Grapeland High School in 1942, where he played center on the football team. After graduation, he attended Sam Houston State University in Huntsville for one year before drafted into the army in 1943. In 1944, he was sent to Siapan in the Western Pacific, where