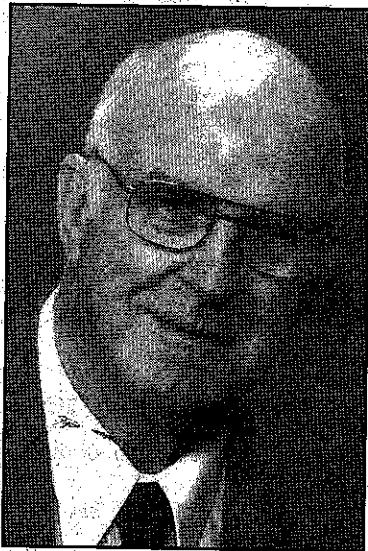


## Merle Dee Bates

Jan. 20, 1931 - Sept. 16, 2020



Record 10-1-2020

Merle Dee Bates of Fort Worth, TX, and formerly of Deep River went to be with the Lord Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2020. Merle went through Heaven's gates hand in hand with his deceased wife, Ruth Jean Bates.

Merle was the son of Benjamin Cecil and Bessie Leona Bates, born in Gibson on Jan. 20, 1931.

After graduating from Deep River High School in 1950, Merle joined the U.S. Army and was stationed in Germany. Eventually, he ventured back to farming in Deep River, where he met and then married Jean Bates on Jan. 30, 1956.

After a few years farming, they moved to Fort Worth, TX where Merle was employed by GD/Lockheed Martin until retiring in 1993. Merle and Jean traveled the country together for 21 years after his retirement for leisure and family visits.

Merle was preceded in death by his parents; 12 siblings, Eugene, Ron, Gerald, Ned, Tom, John, Agnes, Margaret, Dorothy, Marlene, Verla, and Charlene; and his granddaughter, Michelle Harmon.

Survivors: Sons, Larry Garrett (Karen) and Michael Garrett; siblings, Donnie Bates of Keswick and Paul Bates of What Cheer; five grandchildren, Lee Garrett (Maggie), LeAnn Nuzum (Frost), Melissa DeeAnn Nelson (Pete), Jason Garrett and Amy Kariotis (Peter); 10 great-grandchildren, Jordan Harmon (Emily), Cody Nuzum (Alex), Storm Nuzum, Coltón Nuzum, Kenna Little (Reed), Keeli Harmon, Brooklynn Nelson, Ryder Garrett, Eleni Kariotis and Brinklee Nelson; two great-great-grandchildren, Evelyn Harmon and Parker Nuzum; along with special neighbors, Stanley and Betty Krenek and Mike and Judy Allen.