



Henry W. Beckham Jr.

August 7, 1923 - December 25, 2018

Henry W. Beckham, Jr., was born on August 7, 1923, and raised in Waxahachie, TX, and passed away on December 25, 2018, at the age of 95 in Rockwall, TX. His parents were Henry Wilson Beckham, Sr., and Lucy Mae (Binkley) Beckham. Mr. Beckham proudly served his country as a WWII Veteran, in the US Army Air Force during WWII and worked as Vice President in the Construction Industry, until his retirement. Soon after retirement and prior to moving to Hilltop Lakes Resort City, Henry, his wife and daughter, Adonna, opened a ladies retail clothing store in Las Colinas, TX, named appropriately, Adonna's, as Adonna was already working in the fashion industry as a sales consultant for another specialty store and had a large customer base. He lived at Hilltop Lakes Resort City, TX, until 2004, when he moved to Rockwall. Mr. Beckham loved world history and would talk at length with others. His family and friends will always remember his favorite quote, "Save, save, save!" At a young age, Henry knew he didn't want to pick cotton for a living the rest of his life and also knew that education was an integral part in accomplishing a successful career. After graduating from Waxahachie High School in 1941, he went back to his high school to do post graduate work until he knew what he really wanted to do. While WWII was escalating and young men were being drafted into the military, Henry went to serve his country in the United States Army Air Force from January '43, through February '46. After returning from serving his country, Henry made a decision to enroll in Texas A&M University in June 1946, and after completing a five-year course in only three years and three months, he graduated in August 1949, with a B.S. Degree in Architectural Construction. Henry also made another major decision in his life, to marry his beloved wife, Dorothy Mae, in July 1946, who has since passed, but were married 61 ½ years. They soon had their first child, while he was attending college, July 1947 (Note: Henry still has in his scrapbook, the original hospital receipt @ St. Joseph's Hospital in Bryan, TX... for three days, mother and baby... \$39.10... Just one of many collectibles in his "Henry Beckham Museum" in his home.).

After graduating from college in 1949, Henry soon landed a job with J.J. Fritch General Contractors, Inc. During his tenure with the company, he was quickly promoted to Vice President and Chief Estimator and stayed on with the company until 1961, until accepting

a position with Prewitt & McFaul Masonry Contractors, Inc., as their Vice President and General Manager from 1961 through 1983. His final position from 1983, before retiring in 1988, was with Star Masonry, Inc., as President and General Manager.

Henry is survived by his sons: Jay Beckham of Rockwall and Henry Beckham, III, of Flower Mound, TX; daughter: Adonna Walters of Fate, TX; grandchildren: Henry Beckham, IV, Victoria Beckham, Wendy Bremer and Amber Stauffer; great grandchildren: Riley, Dalton, Garrett and Elizabeth; and great-great grandchildren: Ansley, Easton and Alleah; along with a host of loving relatives and dear friends. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife: Dorothy Mae Beckham; and granddaughter: Caroline Leslie.

One of Henry's cherished accomplishments is he currently held the record for the person with the longest standing, continuous valid driver's license, in the state of Texas. See - go to (<https://www.youtube.com> Henry Beckham Texas driver's license) - since 1937, till his death. The story goes that in those days, they were giving away driver's licenses to all the adults. His father went into the Waxahachie Courthouse one day for business and that particular day, the DPS was set up in the courthouse, giving away driver's licenses. Upon his father receiving his driver's license, he remarked, "What about my son... he drives my pickup truck?" The man said, "Okay, well let's give him one, too." At that time, Henry was only 14 years old. To this day, Henry still has his original driver's license from 1937.

The family will receive friends Wednesday evening, January 2, 2019, at The Gathering at Rest Haven Funeral Home – Rockwall Location from 6:00 to 8:00pm. Funeral services will be held 10:00am Thursday, January 3, 2019, at Reflections (Chapel) at Rest Haven Funeral Home – Rockwall Location. Interment will follow at 1:15pm at DFW National Cemetery, 2000 Mountain Creek Parkway, Dallas, 75221. Memorials in Henry's name may be made to Children International at PO Box 219055, Kansas City, MO 64121, or online at www.children.org/make-a-difference/donate.

ORGANIZATIONS

- Past President, Assoc. Masonry Contractors of Texas, 1979
- Past President, Masonry Contractors Assoc. of DFW, 1975 & 1978
- Past Board of Directors Member, Dallas County Construction Employers Assoc. 1965-1980

NOTABLE MASONRY DFW PROJECTS

- Kennedy Assassination Site Historical Monument – Dealey Plaza, Dallas, TX
- Six Flags Over Texas – Arlington, TX
- Seven Seas Marine Sea World – Arlington, TX
- Boy Scouts of America Nat'l. Headquarters – (Las Colinas) Irving, TX
- Owens Corning Fiberglass Plant, Waxahachie, TX
- Bulk Mail Facility, Dallas, TX
- Bryan Adams High School, Dallas, TX
- Additions to Parkland & Presbyterian Hospitals, Dallas, TX
- Many other commercial buildings... schools, post offices, SWBT offices, VA Hospital, Bonham, TX, shopping centers, high rise office buildings, churches, office & warehouse facilities

Cemetery

DFW National Cemetery

2000 Mountain Creek Pkwy
Dallas, TX, 75211

Events

JAN 2 **Gathering** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

The Gathering at Rest Haven Funeral Home - Rockwall Location

2500 State Highway 66 East, Rockwall, TX, US, 75087

JAN 3 **Funeral Service** 10:00AM

Reflections at Rest Haven Funeral Home - Rockwall Location

2500 State Highway 66 East, Rockwall, TX, US, 75087

JAN 3 **Graveside Service** 01:15PM

DFW National Cemetery

2000 Mountain Creek Pkwy, Dallas, TX, US, 75211

Comments



“ An external video has been added.



Rest Haven Funeral Homes and Memorial Park - January 02 at 01:44 PM



“ What a wonderful tribute to a great man! What a joy to watch and reminisce. Thank you, Rest Haven.

Cory Sandlin
Boca Raton, FL

Cory Sandlin - January 02 at 08:33 PM



“ I was sorry to read about HW's death. My very sincere condolences to the family. I had not realized it had been so long since I talked to him. He was a dear cousin and friend, as were all his siblings. Always enjoyed going to their house when I was a kid. I wish I had known about his passing, although I could not come as I don't drive out of town anymore due to bad eyesight. Love to all and God bless you,
Cousin Bettiejo Lance

bettiejo lance - April 09 at 05:10 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Henry W. Beckham Jr..



January 04 at 12:20 PM



“ Henry was like a father to me. I worked for the Beckhams. I took care of Dottie and I loved them both so very much. He will be missed in my life as well in others, as he never meet a stranger. I know he was a great man and he is with our Father in His presence and with his beloved wife, Dottie. I can't wait till we meet again. Karen Stanford of Hilltop Lakes, Texas

Karen Stanford - January 02 at 03:33 PM



“ Thank you Karen for your kind and caring words about our father. Both our parents loved you and considered you family. Wishing you and your family only blessings today and everyday!

Loving hugs,
Adonna, Jay & Rusty

Adonna Walters - April 07 at 11:32 AM



“ I have many fond memories of Henry Beckham. Having known him for nearly 45 years, I had many opportunities to get to know him and see firsthand what a man of great character he was. While visiting with his daughter, Adonna, who is my dear friend, about a year ago, Henry shared with me his love of history showing his amazing collection of historical memorabilia. He had a passion for history and a love for his country that he shared with great pride. I loved playing "The Tennessee Waltz" on the piano for him. He loved music and sharing conversation. I will miss you, Henry. You are loved by many.

Cory Sandlin
Boca Raton, FL

Cory Sandlin - December 29, 2018 at 10:04 PM



“ I am deeply sorry to hear of Mr. Beckham's passing. What a precious man who enjoyed telling his stories! I loved hearing about the history he would tell and I know everyone who met him did as well! I am honored to have known him and to serve him so many years of the Meals On Wheels program. May you all feel the love and peace at this time! Many blessings, Maureen Cook, MOWSS

Maureen - December 26, 2018 at 11:04 AM



“ I treasure the time I spent with Mr. Beckham! Such a beautiful, kind man--full of wisdom and fun information. I know he impacted so many people. Praying for the Lord's comfort for the family during this time.

Lauren Ross

