



Cleburne I. Wendel

July 1, 1924 - June 12, 2011

Cleburne I. Wendel of LaMarque, formerly of El Campo, passed away June 12, 2011 at the age of 86. He was born July 1, 1924 in Seguin to Leo and Rosa Vetter Wendel. He was retired from Entex as office manager after 39 years.

He was a U.S. Army Master Sergeant and a veteran of World War II, having served in the Second Armored Division as a light tank commander. He participated in battles in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany and was a Purple Heart recipient. Mr. Wendel was recalled to active duty during the Korean Conflict. He was a member and past Post Commander of American Legion Craig-Harriss Post 251 in El Campo and he was a member of the Knights of Columbus M.J. Babin Council 5236 in LaMarque.

Mr. Wendel belonged to and formerly served on the Board of Governors for the Second Armored Division Association – Hell on Wheels. He was an active member of the Queen of Peace Church in LaMarque, often volunteering his artistic capabilities. During his working years, he was a Rotary Club International member.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, LaVerne Schmidt Wendel of LaMarque; son, Tommy Wendel and wife Paula of Horseshoe Bay; daughter, Debbie Wendel Britt of Missouri City; grandchildren, Lauren Wendel of Austin, Justin

Wendel and wife Jennifer of Southlake, Stephen Britt of Raleigh, NC and Kaylynn Britt of College Station; great-grandson, Parker Ryan Wendel of Southlake; nephew, Robert Kaiser of Victoria; niece, Sandye Ermis and husband Ed of Woodsboro; great-niece, Amy Condry and husband Kendall of Katy and great-niece, Vanessa Ermis of San Antonio.

He was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Leona Frels of Port Lavaca.

Visitation begins at 1 p.m. Wednesday, June 15 with the family receiving friends from 4 to 7 p.m. at Triska Funeral Home, with rosary following at 7 p.m.. Funeral Mass is Thursday, June 16 at 10 a.m. with visitation from 9 to 10 a.m. at St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church, 304 W. Church St., El Campo with Rev. Albert Yankey officiating.

Graveside services will follow at Holy Cross Memorial Park with full military honors under the auspices of the American Legion Post 251. A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, June 17 at Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church, 1200 Cedar at Laurel, LaMarque.

Serving as pallbearers are Jimmie Triska, John Buchanan, Don Thompson, Jim Van Hoozer, David Andreas, Craig Howell, Jeremy Triska and Rick Gabriel, all hunting friends on the Lazy E Ranch.

Honorary pallbearers are Jose O. Lopez and W.K. Leonard of LaMarque.

The family wishes to thank the staff of Right at Home and Ashton Parke Care Center for the loving care given to Cleburne.

Memorial donations in Cleburne I. Wendel's memory may be made to the following charities: St. Philip Church Building Fund, Our Lady Queen of Peace

Church Roof Repair Fund or Alzheimer's Foundation of America.