



Johnny Corbett

April 13, 1927 - February 7, 2013

John B. Corbett, fondly known as "Johnny", of El Campo passed away on February 7, 2013 at the age of 85. He was born on April 13, 1927 to the late Lloyd, Sr. and Maude O'Brian Corbett in Louisville, Kentucky. He owned and operated the Duckblind Restaurant and Day Light Donut Shop. John was a Veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and served in World War II. He was a member of the American Legion for 59 years, serving at many funerals in the honor guard, retired member of the El Campo Volunteer Fire Dept. of 33 years where he had served as vice-president, was a 26 year member of the Rotary Club of El Campo, a charter member of the Knights of Columbus 249 where had served as past Grand Knight and District Deputy, and member of the Fourth Degree KC's. He was active for many years with Boy Scouts and had received the Silver Beaver Award. In 1996, Johnnie Corbett was recognized by the El Campo Chamber of Commerce as the Citizen of the year for his many years of community service.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Betty Gramer Corbett; daughters Diane Bard and husband Wayne, Mary Kay Price and husband Ron, and Claudia Raun and husband Richard, all of El Campo; son Brad Corbett of Austin; grandchildren Christy and Katie Bard, Shawn Bard and wife LaTisha, Scott Price and wife Lindsey, Nathan Raun and wife Leslie, Truitt Raun and wife Theresa, and Madsen Raun and fiancée Hannah Haedge; six great-grandchildren; brother James C. Corbett of Ft. Worth; sisters Mary Frances

Buettgen of Mt. Prospect, IL, and Patricia C. Fowler of Houston.

He was preceded in death by his parents, great-granddaughter Faith Bard, and brother Lloyd Corbett, Jr.

Visitation will be 1 pm – 4 pm Sunday at St. Philip Catholic Church with a KC Rosary being recited at 2 pm. Funeral Mass will be 10 am Monday, February 11, 2013, at St. Philip the Apostle with Rev. Gary Janak officiating and Rev. Albert Yankey, Rev. Frank Lenz and Rev. Michael Lyons con-celebrating. Graveside services will follow at Holy Cross Mausoleum with Military Honors under the auspices of the American Legion.

Donations in memory John Corbett may be made to St. Philip School, St. Philip Church or to the civic organization of choice.

Tribute Wall

LF

“ I remember mr. Corbett as santa clause. I really enjoyed going to see him ever year. he left a great impression on me. everyone will miss you greatly, but we will see you again very soon.

Love, Lancel King

Lancel - richmond, TX - friend - February 19, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TT

“ Mr. Corbett will be truly missed as he was a jolly good fellow. We all loved him. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time of sorrow. May God bless you all.

Tommy & Monica Bram - El Campo, TX - February 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ I worked with Johnny at Dunbar Foods in 1970 while attending WCJC where I met Diane. Johnny was great to work with, left a lasting impression on me.
Condolences to all the family. May God ease your hearts during this difficult time.

Donna Kutac Janak - Lake Jackson, TX - friend - February 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ Blessings to all the family of Mr. Corbett, may you be comforted by all the wonderful stories and memories that have been shared. Johnny was always a kind, gentle man and brought a smile to my face and my children .
Have Faith, to guide you through your loss,
Hope, that people may can live and learn through such a great man,
Peace, to surround you with comfort,
and Love, for one another and all who knew him.
Our deepest Sympathy,
Diana and Wayne Zabodyn and Family

Diana Zabodyn - El Campo, TX - friend - February 13, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TN

“ Mr. Corbett, as my 5 children called him, was a jovial, friendly, loving man. I treasure his memory as he was the only Santa we knew. His picture is all over my home at Christmas even in 2012, as the long ago good boys and girl in our house sat on his lap with their wishes The pictures make us all smile as did he. He always knew their names and all about them and their parents. As one of our children said about him today..." He was the REAL Santa! and I am sad".
He also was a visitor to Methodist Child Care for years. I was Director there for 25 years and his "helpers" firefighters always fit our little ones into the busy schedule. He even visited our nurseries.

Johnny was a wonderful, community minded, unselfish fellow. I know his family misses him terribly. You have our sympathy.

Charles and I treasure his contribution to our happiness and it is because we knew him.

Tana & Charles King - Corinth (formerly EC), TX - friends and former neighbors
- February 12, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ I will miss Mr. Corbett ... his laugh, his friendliness
Especially around the Christmas holidays... where he was "Santa"
Not sure anyone can fill those shoes (and suit) the way he could.

My love and prayers are with you all.

Kenneth

Kenneth Bard - Pflugerville, TX - near family - February 12, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ There was no kinder human being than Johnny Corbett, and he will
be so greatly missed by all who knew him. I always looked forward
to seeing him when he and my dad would travel to College Station
for the fireman training school each summer. I will remember those
fun times the rest of my life.

My deepest sympathies go out to all the Corbett family.

Annelle Collins Hajovsky - College Station, TX - Friend - February 12, 2013 at
12:00 AM

RF

“ Claudia, Richard, Mary Kay and Ron, you and your family are in my
thoughts and prayers. Mr. Corbett (Johnny) was a wonderful person
and will be missed by all. I remember my mom always talking about
how much she enjoyed visiting with him and your mom. Sorry for
your loss. Love, Ricky Rohde

Ricky Rohde - Charleston, SC - Family Friend - February 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ *The El Campo community has lost one of the great ones. What a total "Citizen" and genuinely good man. My sincere condolences to his family. Brad and Claudia, my good friends, you are in our prayers.*

Chris Frederickson - Houston, TX - Friend - February 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ *El Campo has lost an icon while Heaven has gained another jovial Santa.
On numerous visits to my old home town I often come in contact with Johnny. He always had a smile on his face and kind words while racing to his next volunteer function.
My sincere condolences go out to the entire family. Your father was a true example of faith and lived his life to its' fullest.
On a personal note to Brad-"you were a very lucky guy to have your Dad as your mentor".
May the angels in Heaven surround the whole family with love and hugs during this difficult time.
Love,
Marilyn Kainer Guidry*

Marilyn Guidry - Austin, TX - Friend - February 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ *Johnny and Mrs. Corbett lived behind Tana, myself and 5 children. What a great neighbor and a friend to all the little people in El Campo for many years. In fact he was the only Santa that 4 of my childre knew and loved until the Santa secret was let out of the bag! I agree on having another Santa in Heaven, but I envision that Johnny is up there, handing out donuts and telling all the rest what firetruck they needed to ride on. God Bless you Johnny and rest in peach. Charles King*

Charles - Corinth, TX - Friend - February 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DU

“ *Mary Kay & Ronnie -
My thoughts are with you and your family. May light perpetual shine
upon his sould and all those who have gone before him and may
peace be with you.*

Delbert W. Palmer - Washington, DC - Ron Price's Uncle - February 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ *What a sad day it was when we moved from El Campo and no
longer had the wonderful pigs in a blanket to look forward to each
weekend. Mr. Corbett always had a smile for everyone and always
made everyone's day brighter.
His children and grandchildren also carried that specialness to
everyone they met. It was a great example for my family to know the
family and teach his grandchildren.*

Judy and James Glueck and family

Judy Glueck and Family - Canyon, TX - Teacher at Saint Phillip School -
February 10, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ *So many special memories of Mr. Corbett...from letting my
kindergarten class tour Daylight Donuts, a very faithful Santa for
Myatt and Hutchins Elementaries, the friendliest parishioner in
church each week that always had a special quarter for my boys
when they were young. What a beautiful legacy of faith and family
that he and Mrs. Corbett have created. He will be missed! Our
deepest sympathy to all you!*

Laura Pustejovsky - El Campo, TX - Friend - February 10, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ Randy and I send loving thoughts to you and your family. You are in our prayers..

Beverly Johnson Cline - West Columbia, TX - friend of Diane's from high scho
- February 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DF

“ My sincere sympathy is with the entire family of Johnny, He was a wonderful Christian man who lived life with humor and kindness. My niece and I have fond memories on going on a tour to Branson in 1996 with him and Betty. What a fun time--never a dull moment with Johnny in the group.

May perpetual light shine upon him and may he rest in peace.

Dorothy Baros - El Campo, TX - Friend - February 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CT

“ The twinkle in his bright shining eyes has become the twinkle of a bright shining star in heaven.

"Thank you so much, Johnny. You did real good. God bless you!"

I do believe that of all the many ways we remember Johnny, it will be at Mass that I will miss him most. He was such a strong pillar and example of faith.

Johnny is so deeply loved by so many. I think it's because he loved everyone so much. His beautiful heart and faith is strongly reflected in his family. That is the best legacy to leave.

Love to each of you, my friends.

Ceci Triska - February 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM

GF

“ Bill and I are very saddened to hear of Johnny's death and your loss. We have many great memories, too many to name, of that nice, caring, loving husband, father and grandfather. Your family was blessed to have him for these many years.. God bless all of you and we know Johnny is, at His side. We extend our deepest sympathy.

Gloria and Bill Dowden - Shreveport, LA - Longtime friends - February 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CT

“ Had a great time with Mr. Corbett one day long ago (1971 I think). When he owned the A.J.Foyt Kawasaki dealership he and I drove to Houston to pick up my new bike. On the way we took a detour and drove around the oval on the old Houston Race Track on South Main. As a teenager I thought it was way cool even though we were doing 90 in his van. The bonus came when we stopped by A. J. Foyt's Chevrolet dealership on Post Oak. We ended up having lunch with A. J. Foyt himself. It was a great day that I have always remembered. Rest in peace Mr. Corbett.

Coy Ramsey - Houston via Garwood, TX - Knew when I was a teenager - February 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ Oh I am so very sad to hear that the real Santa has gone to heaven. I can still hear that hearty laugh and remember all the fun times and teasing that went on in the loving Corbett house! So so many great memories and I know that everyone in heaven are already sitting around him waiting for him to liven the place up. Love you all

Leslie Hansen Schroder - Sour lake, TX - Friend - February 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DN

“ *Our deepest sympathy is extended to all family members. We will miss Uncle John's laughter and smile. He was always a favorite!*

Donna (Cranek) Straily - Choctaw, OK - Niece - February 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ *To all the Corbetts my deepest sympathy. I loved Johnny and remember all the years I'd known him. He was a great guy and I know you will all miss him.*

Hello to Betty, Diane, Mary Kay, Claudia and Brad.

*Love
Judy*

Judy Haynes Bures - Santa Rosa, CA - Friend - February 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

GS

“ *Diane, I am so sorry for you and your family's loss. They will always be with you in spirit. I pray for all of your family. God Bless*

Gary Hensley - Houston, TX - Friend from school - February 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RT

“ *A great man and friend to all. He will be missed. God Bless the family. My prayers are with you.*

Robert Anderson - Elcampo, TX - February 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

NF

“ To Diane and Family, and Mary Kay and Family, our thoughts and prayers are with you during this very difficult time. May your Dad rest in peace. Dad asks about you all the time.

Nancy Mach Brooks and Arnold Mach - El Campo, TX - Friend - February 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ I know that Wayne and Johnny will be running the fire department in heaven.
Lot's of love to the family.

Shirley

Shirley Popp - Louise, TX - friend - February 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ The wonderful memories I have of Mr. Corbett aka Santa will live on in all of our hearts. My prayers are with his family and friends who will miss his smile and kind words he shared with so many. What a blessing you were Mr. Corbett!

Jill Thigpen Hudgins - Wharton, TX - February 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

FF

“ Our thoughts and prayers go to Johnny Corbett's family and friends. He was a very talented and giving man. He was an exceptional entertainer as he brought many smiles and laughter to children and adults, and as a friend he showed us how to be a better Christian by caring for others. He will forever be in our hearts!

Frank & Billie Becak, and Rainbow the Clown - El Campo, TX - Friend - February 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ Dear Diana and family,

My prayers are with you and your family today as you say good bye to your daddy. I will always remember your dad as a kind, caring man that was also lots of fun. He will always be "Santa" to our family.

My the Peace of the Lord be with you all during this time.

Catherine (Butcie) Dettling Vacek - Austin, TX - friend - February 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ On a night not so long ago, when Brad was glowing in the dark, Paw-Paw put his hairy forearms on my face. I Loved that man and he was one of the funniest people I've ever known. May God rest his soul.

Kevin Marks

New Braunfels, Tx.

Kevin Marks - New Braunfels, TX - Friend of family - February 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ Our deepest sympathy goes out to you at this very sorrowful time. Our entire family knew and loved Johnny for many years. He was a good Christian and he had a way of genuinely caring about each person he met. Perhaps the world would be a better place if there were more "Santas", and El Campo was certainly better for having had him for so many years.

My fondest memories of him were his personal visits to our home around Christmastime. Because of him, two little boys knew that "yes there really was a Santa Claus", something that each child should believe for as long as they can.

Thank you to your entire family for sharing him with our family and the entire community.

God Bless You,
Larry and Carol Wied

Carol Wied - El Campo, TX - Friend - February 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ Johnny was one of the most warm and caring people I have known. He always had a smile and greeting for everyone he came in contact with. The fire department Christmas parties will always be so special to us as 'Santa' held our children in his lap and listened to their wishes. Then to have 'Santa' hold our grandchildren years later--it just does not get any better than that! Our family sends prayers and love to the Corbett family. God bless you.

Kathleen Appling - Ingram , TX - Friend - February 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

VF

“ Our community has lost a wonderful man and a friend to many. He touched many lives and was truly one of a kind. Oh the stories that will be shared over the next few weeks as we reminisce. In this time of sorrow, there will be much laughter. He lived an amazing life and his kindness will carry on through his children and friends. Johnny understood the meaning of "Pay it forward" more than anyone I knew. Thank you Corbett family for sharing him with all of us. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Vicki Roberts - El Campo, TX - Friend - February 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ Johnny has touched my life and the lives of my children and made us better people by knowing him. You will be greatly missed. Rest in peace Saint Nick

Bobby Popp family - Louise, TX - A good friend - February 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ Ken and I were so sorry to hear the sad news tonight. Johnny was such a caring person and will always be missed. I will always remember his smile and laughter he shared with everyone. May he rest in peace now. Our prayers are sent to you and the family.

Love,
Linda & Ken Kram

Linda Kram - El Campo, TX - Friend - February 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CG

“ Love you and miss you PawPaw! I am proud to have been your first grandchild and the first to call you PawPaw :) Thank you for all the many years of great memories! All of us grand kids thought we were pretty special to have Santa as our PawPaw! You always had a laugh and a smile for each us. We loved it when you were in your recliner and would have us sit on your leg so you could rock back to swing your leg in the air so we could "ride the horsey" with PawPaw! You never knew a stranger and everyone was welcome as far as you were concerned. You showed us the meaning of family and we always enjoyed Sunday dinner at Nana and PawPaw's house! Thank you for being our PawPaw and now our Angel in Heaven!! LOVE YOU!

Christy Bard - New Braunfels, TX - Granddaughter - February 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ "Johnny" was Santa for both of our kids growing up. He always had a smile on his face and you just felt better being around him. Earth will miss him but heaven is in for a big treat. May your memories become your most valuable treasures. God Bless, Dawn & Duane Schroedter

Dawn & Duane Schroedter - El Campo, TX - admirer - February 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ Our deepest sympathy to the family, Johnny left behind so many fond memories for me and my family when he owned daylight donuts, thanks Johnny for the wonderful memories!

The Wayne King Family - El campo, TX - Friend - February 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

EF

“ Our deepest sympathy on the death of this wonderful man. He will always be a memory to all the children that he had sit on his lap as "Santa Claus" . He touched so many lives, and it was an honor knowing him. .May God Bless each and everyone of you...
Elaine Mach Cook

Elaine and Chuck Cook - Lawton, OK - friend - February 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ *Mr. Corbett will truly be missed. There is no other Santa around to compare to my favorite Santa ever. He has always meant a lot to me, I wish my kids could of known this very special man.*

Brenda (Witcher) Strelec - Edna, TX - Family friend - February 08, 2013 at 12:00 AM