



James Carroll Benton

August 7, 1929 - December 6, 2017

James Carroll "Jim Bob" Benton, of Menard, TX, passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2017 at the age of 88. Jim Bob was born on August 7, 1929, on Elm Creek in Menard County, to Floyd and Nettie Benton. He was the eighth in line, of nine children, in a ranching family. He attended Sul Ross State University in 1948 before being drafted by the US Army for the Korean War. After two years of active duty and earning a Purple Heart, he returned to Sul Ross in Alpine, TX where he then met LaVerne in 1952. They married a year later on September 19, 1953. Jim Bob loved family and had three children, LaNeisha, Vicki, and Jim Bob "Button." He worked for McCullough Tool Company in the oil field as a logging engineer, servicing all over west Texas and New Mexico. He moved back to Menard in 1966 with his family, and did a little of everything, from being a carpenter, general contractor, pumper, a little league coach, a 4-H leader, and boot and saddle shop owner. He was an avid outdoor enthusiast, namely in ranching, hunting, fishing, and camping. Most importantly, though, he was a great husband, father and grandfather. He passed on his love of the outdoors to his children and grandchildren, where they spent the better part of a decade camping and fishing every summer with Grandpa. He taught them how to gut and skin deer, run trot lines, clean fish and cook it all over a campfire. He made the best fried catfish, hot rolls, and turkey and dressing you could ever eat, and told the truest of "true stories" you would ever hear.

Jim Bob was preceded in death by his parents, Floyd and Nettie Benton; five brothers, Jack, Curtis, Lawrence, Vance, and Ray Benton; and one sister, Peggy Decker. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, LaVerne Snyder Benton, and two sisters, Norma Murray and Joan Crowell; his three children, LaNeisha Benton Riggan (Victor), of Kerrville, TX; Vicki Benton Roth (Gary), of Bristow, OK; and JimBob "Button" Benton (Sonia), of Huffman, TX; seven grandchildren, Vincent Riggan, Devon Riggan Oechsle (Jason), Brett Roth (Asia), Meagan Roth, Tyler Benton, Brooke Benton Maloney (Zach), Crystal Benton Foster (Derrick); and great-granddaughter, Eliana Joy Oechsle. There are also many nieces, nephews and friends.