



## John Edward Jackson

October 19, 1931 - January 13, 2019

John Ed Jackson took his journey to his spiritual home in the early hours on Sunday, January 13. He passed away at the Menard Manor with his wife Betty by his side. Graveside services will be held at 11:00 am on Thursday, January 17. Visitation will be at Heritage Funeral Home on Wednesday evening from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

John Ed was born to John Jackson and Elva Jackson Deats in Menard on October 19, 1931. He attended school in Menard through third grade before moving to Eldorado. He returned to Menard as a junior and graduated in 1949.

He was a member of the First United Methodist Church, the American Legion Post 378, life member of the National Rifle Association and the Texas State Rifle Association, and the Menard Jaycees. He was also a veteran of the U.S. Army.

John Ed married Betty McCain Jackson on August 31, 1969. They had four children. Keith and Jody Jackson of Menard, Katherine Jackson (deceased), Barcy and Allen Cordrey of Grove City, Ohio, and Don and Lisa Jackson of Kerrville, Texas.

Five grandchildren and eleven greatgrandchildren completed his family: Beth Ann and Leon Williams of Brady, Bobbie Lynn Jackson of Rochelle, Brittany and Brad Palmer of Lovington, New Mexico, Brook Jackson of Odessa, and Sam Jackson of Kerrville. The greatgrandchildren are Jimmy, Bobby, and Lilly Williams; Ollie and River Jackson; Layla, Landon, Leland, Braxton, and

Raelynn Palmer; and Troy Jackson.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a daughter Katherine Jackson, and a double cousin Donald B. Jackson.

John Ed's first career was as a truck driver. He was called the Kid by the men he drove with, and all through his life these men were his heroes. He hauled hay during the drought years of the 1950's, then cattle and anything else that needed hauling. His driving career came to an end in 1968 after seeing three truck wrecks on the road home from California.

John Ed's driving was interrupted when Uncle Sam requested his presence in Korea. Ironically, his primary job during the war was driving a truck. His most special memory of the Korean War was being on Heartbreak Ridge on the night of the cease fire.

After his discharge, John Ed returned to driving. He also worked in George Curry's Gun Shop in San Angelo for a year, and as a pumper in the oil leases in Menard County. He discovered that he loved this as much as he loved driving. From 1968 to 1993 John Ed worked seven days a week taking care of wells. After retiring from pumping, he managed the family ranch in Edwards County. In 1999 he sold that place and bought a small ranch only 13 miles from town. He continued with this until his health broke and he decided to sell. For a man who knew only work, he did find time for his other passions: guns and target shooting, country music, and writing personal experience stories. As an avid shooter and gun enthusiast, John Ed believed in safety first. He was one of the first individuals to be certified as a Hunter Safety Instructor in the state of Texas. He taught young boys and girls how to safely care for and use their weapons and to follow hunter regulations at all times. He also coached the 4H Rifle Team for five years. He was presented with the distinguished 4H Adult Leader Award in 1981.

John Ed was instrumental in planning, raising funds, and building a rifle range about 10 miles south of town. Shooters enjoyed many years at the range; however, the lease was lost because of a few individuals violating the landowner's trust.

He grew up with a love for classic country music. His father and uncle were accomplished musicians, so he was exposed to country songs from the beginning. He played rhythm guitar with friends from around the Hill Country. He especially enjoyed the jam sessions at the American Legion.

John Ed was a natural story teller. He could tell a story numerous times and no detail would be omitted. He could leave his listeners laughing or crying. A passion for writing grew from his skill as a story teller. He wrote about personal experiences, technical articles for gun magazines, and imaginative stories filled with adventures of young boys living in simpler times. One of his most popular pieces was "Along San Saba Avenue." It is the tale of an old man remembering what main street in Menard was like before so many of its residents moved away.

Animals were another of John Ed's passions. His children believed he could make a pet out of any animal, except a rattlesnake. Cats, dogs, rabbits, squirrels, baby goats, lambs, and calves all became household pets through the years.

The family offers special thanks to the staff of Menard Manor and Hospice of San Angelo for the loving care they gave John Ed. We also thank our special friends, Doug and Dianne Simmons, for their support throughout John Ed's illness.

A man who never met a stranger left his mark on a community he loved. He requested that memorial donations be given to the 4H Shooting Sports Program. P.O. Box 485, Menard, TX 76859