



J. B. Elvin Vanaman

October 27, 1924 - November 1, 2021

J. B. Elvin Vanaman passed away November 1, 2021, at the Woodruff County Health Center in McCrory, Arkansas. J. B. was born in Hickory Ridge, Arkansas, to Charlie Harmon Vanaman and Addie Pearl Hargis on October 27, 1924. He attended school in Hickory Ridge until he left in the 11th grade to join the Air Force on July 18, 1942. He served in 15th Air Force, 741st Squadron, 455th Bomber Group during World War II as a Nose Gunner in a B-24 Heavy Bomber, known as the "Gremlins Gripe". During this time he was credited with 46 missions, with each mission averaging 9 to 10 hours long. He also had 4 missions averaging 4 hours (but received no credit because they were too short) and had 6 turn back missions. During these missions they were over Italy, Africa, France, Southern Germany, Austria, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Romania (7 missions to the Ploesti Oil Refinery) and Bulgaria. He flew his last mission on June 6, 1944. There were 193 planes in his Squadron and only 23 planes were left when he flew his last mission. He came back stateside on August 3, 1944, and was discharged, October 3, 1945. J. B. started his farming career in 1946 raising rice and soybeans. He farmed for 46 years before retiring, and was still able to water a 17 acre field at age 92. He served on the board at Riceland Foods for several years and the school board at Cross County High School. He was the last member of the Hickory Ridge American Legion. He taught many people in Hickory Ridge to play tennis and was instrumental in building tennis courts at the school in Hickory Ridge. He would keep his tennis racket and shoes in his truck and run and play a game

or two, any chance he could. After he returned to the United States, he married the love of his life, Doris Edith Imboden on August 12, 1944. They were married for 70 years until Doris passed away on March 7, 2015. They had three children, daughter, Margaret Ann Vanaman Goodart and husband Roy, son, Robert Carl Vanaman and wife Laura, daughter, Patti Denise Vanaman Turner and husband Jack. He had 4 grandchildren, Roy Allen Goodart II and wife Stephanie, Kyle Jay Goodart, Christopher Lee Vanaman and wife Stacey, Jamie Lynn Vanaman Bush and husband Bryan. J. B. also has eight great grandchildren, Bailey Mekelle Goodart Rose and husband Alan, Bairek Heston Bush, Kristin Lynn Vanaman, Adisen Mekay Goodart, Colton Robert Bush, Jackson Taylor Goodart, Christopher Jake Vanaman, Rylee Jo Bush, step-great grandchildren, Jackson Shaw and wife Haley, Ben Shaw and Addy Kate Clark. He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers, Clifton, Johnny, Theodore, Roy, Doyle, Dan and Jack and only sister, Geneva Baker. Graveside services will be held on Friday, November 5, 2021, at 2 PM, at Lewis Cemetery with Mike Bachand officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Lewis Cemetery, P. O. Box 94, Hickory Ridge, Arkansas 72347, or Veterans Helping Veterans of NEA in Jonesboro.

Cemetery Details

Lewis Cemetery

Hickory Ridge, Arkansas, AR

Previous Events

Graveside service

NOV 5. 2:00 PM (CT)

Lewis Cemetery
Hickory Ridge, Arkansas, AR

Tribute Wall



“ I knew Mr. vanaman, meeting him at Riceland Foods. He never came into my office without a smile or a joke to tell. He passed on his east going manner to his son Bob and grandson Chris. I'm truly sorry for your loss and know you will be in my prayers. Much love

Christie Curbo - January 19 at 10:00 PM

GS

“ Condolences to all the Vanaman family and other family members from the Spence family. Grace and peace to you all.

Greg Spence and family.

Greg Spence - November 13, 2021 at 05:30 PM

RS

“ sorry to here of the passing of MR. J.B. Prayers for the family.

Rickey M stutts - November 05, 2021 at 06:48 PM

KG

“ Great man who taught us perseverance and strong will. Proud to be his grandson and great grandson! With love, Kyle and Jackson Goodart

Kyle Goodart - November 05, 2021 at 11:50 AM

GS

“ Condolences to all of Mr Vanaman's family from the Spences. I did not know him well but I knew he was a fine gentleman who was a leader in his community and highly regarded by a great many folks.. Our prayers for grace and peace to you all.

*Greg & Alisa Spence & Family
Sharon Spence Langley & Family*

Greg Spence - November 05, 2021 at 01:39 AM

MM

“ Remembering today Uncle JB's clear opinions of reality...and that unique sense of humor full of so much warmth. I have loved him from afar. Rest in Peace.
Mary Vanaman Miller

Mary Elizabeth Miller - November 04, 2021 at 12:29 PM

FT

“ From Mike & Mary, Ron and Ted. purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of J. B. Elvin Vanaman.



From Mike & Mary, Ron and Ted. - November 04, 2021 at 12:13 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of J. B. Elvin Vanaman.*



November 04, 2021 at 01:02 AM



“ *Lynn & Recia Rodgers purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of J. B. Elvin Vanaman.*



Lynn & Recia Rodgers - November 03, 2021 at 11:26 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of J. B. Elvin Vanaman.*



November 03, 2021 at 06:17 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of J. B. Elvin Vanaman.*



November 03, 2021 at 05:46 PM

GV

“ *Glenda Vanaman sent a virtual gift in memory of J. B. Elvin Vanaman*



glenda vanaman - November 03, 2021 at 05:07 PM

GV

“ *Condolences to the family of JB Vanaman, sorry for your loss. He was a gentleman in every way, he will be missed but not forgotten.*



glenda vanaman - November 03, 2021 at 04:53 PM

CJ

“ *J.B. was a friend whom we have great memories of. Praying for the family at this time. Clarence and Ann Johnson, Chapel Hill, Tn.*

Clarence and Ann Johnson - November 03, 2021 at 04:24 PM

CG

“ *Thank you for your service*

Christy Gross - November 02, 2021 at 11:57 PM

KB

“ *Donna and I were home for Mom's funeral and before we headed to Little Rock to fly back to Texas. We stopped by to see Uncle JB. Well turns and looks at me and says "who are you?" Then he turned to his right and looked at Donna and said hey Donna! I told him so you know her but don't know me.*

Kim Baker - November 02, 2021 at 09:27 PM

JS

“ ONE OF MANY GOOD MEN IN HICKORY RIDGE! HE BE GREATLY MISSED!

Joe Slocum - November 02, 2021 at 08:49 PM

LR

“ *I certainly enjoyed our visits at the ASCS/FSA office for over 25 years. He was a fine gentleman, a warrior, and a wonderful person with very strong convictions and passions about family and life. He was a fine friend. Prayers for family and loved ones. Lamar*

Lamar Rolland - November 02, 2021 at 07:01 PM

LR

“ *I certainly enjoyed our visits at the ASCS/FSA office for over 25 years. He was a fine gentleman, a warrior, and a wonderful person with very strong convictions and passions about family and life. He was a fine friend. Prayers for family and loved ones. Lamar*

Lamar Rolland - November 02, 2021 at 07:00 PM