



Alexander "A. J." James Triggs Jr.

June 27, 1929 - May 7, 2015

Alexander James Triggs, Jr., was born in Cameron, Texas on June 27, 1929 to loving and devoted parents Alex and I. G. Triggs, both of whom preceded him in death. "A. J." was also preceded in death by his brother, Rev. William A. Triggs and his wife Claire.

Services will be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at 11:00 AM at Marvin United Methodist Church in Tyler with Rev. Gerry Giles officiating. Visitation will be Monday, May 11, 2015 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at Stewart Family Funeral Home, 7525 Old Jacksonville Highway, in Tyler. A private burial will be held at Rose Hill Cemetery prior to the service.

His early years in Cameron, Calvert and Bryan were highlighted by calf roping exhibitions in rodeos with his best friend "Nubbin". He also lettered in football in Calvert during his Freshman year. He graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in Dallas, where he was a high jumper on the track team. He later received his degree (B.A.) from North Texas State University where he was a team member on the 1949 and 1950 NCAA National Championship golf team. A. J. served in the U. S. Coast Guard from December, 1950, to December, 1953. During this time he married Lessley Ann Ryall on September 1, 1951. He spent a couple of years in the Municipal Bond business upon moving to Tyler in 1955. In 1958, he joined the New York Life Insurance Company, retiring after 38 years as a life member of "The Million Dollar Round Table." On April 7th of this year, he was inducted into the New York Life Hall of Fame. He was a member of Marvin United Methodist Church where he served on the

Board of Stewards, sang in the choir for 38 years and was song leader for the Friendly Bible Class for over 25 years.

His golf career included 49 tournament wins and he was a 7 time club champion at Willow Brook Country Club. He had four holes-in-one and held three course records. His great love of the game was reflected in his many years of service in the Texas Golf Association; two terms as President and thirty years on the Board of Directors. He served eleven years on the Sectional Affairs Committee of the USGA and was an advisory board member of the North Texas PGA. He received the "Byron Nelson Award" in 1988 from the PGA for contributions to Amateur Golf. An annual Tyler tournament is named "The A. J. Triggs, Jr. Cup" and "Triggs Trace" is a street within Cascades Golf Club due to his two tournament wins of the Briarwood Invitational. His passion, love and respect for the honor and integrity of the game of golf culminated with his induction into the Texas Golf Hall of Fame in 2013.

A.J. is survived by his wife of 63 years, Lessley Ann Ryall Triggs; daughter Lisa Anne Rudolph; sons James Byron Triggs and Mark Stephen Triggs; grandchildren Stefan Gillespie Jones, Ryan Gillespie, Collin Gillespie, Graham Gillespie and Zachary Triggs; son-in-law Clint Rudolph; daughter-in-law Freda Triggs; three great-grandchildren, Halle and Addelyn Jones and Bear Gillespie; nieces Adele Dillon, Rebecca Maggi, Tanya Atwood, Kim Hitt, Debbie DeCell, and Adrienne Smith; nephews Alex Triggs, Bill Zeiss and John Scott DeCell; and his in-laws, May Ellen DeCell, Patsy Sue Zeiss and Will A. Ryall.

Pallbearers will be the above named grandchildren.

Honorary pallbearers are Chad Hanna, Bruce Fox, Bill Turner, Don January, Mike Reeves, Jack Reese, Andy Wall, Terry Brown, Don Robert Johnson, Jimmy Wheeler, Reggie Howell, Herd Snider and the Directors of the Texas Golf Association.

Memorials may be made in honor of A. J. Triggs, Jr., to a charity of your choice.

Cemetery Details

Rose Hill Cemetery

2400 S. Donnybrook
Tyler, TX 75702

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 11. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Stewart Family Funeral Home
7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy
Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 581-2008

Tribute Wall

JB

“ A.J., It has been a pleasure knowing you through the years. I enjoyed our talks, laughs, and stories you told. It hurts when you don't get to say Goodbye. Thank you for your years of service at the Barber Shop. Jo Ann Boyd.

Jo A Boyd - May 12, 2015 at 07:14 AM

AL

“ A L. purchased the Serene Reflections Bouquet for the family of Alexander "A. J." James Triggs Jr..



A L. - May 11, 2015 at 04:29 PM



“ Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray was purchased for the family of Alexander "A. J." James Triggs Jr..



May 11, 2015 at 12:35 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Alexander "A. J." James Triggs Jr..



May 11, 2015 at 10:16 AM



“ *Rays of Light Spray was purchased for the family of Alexander "A. J." James Triggs Jr..*



May 11, 2015 at 09:44 AM



“ *Mike and Janie purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Alexander "A. J." James Triggs Jr..*



Mike and Janie - May 09, 2015 at 12:40 PM



“ *Lessley, words cannot express the sadness I am feeling over the loss of my pal, A.J. and my heartfelt sympathy and prayers are for you and the family. You & A.J. are so special to me, and I will truly miss him!*

*Love you,
Barbara (Duncan) Brown*

barbara brown - May 09, 2015 at 01:20 AM

JH

“ I had only known A J about a year in the Friendly class and I instantly loved the man the day I first met him. I am president of the class and my wife Karen and I will miss him at the class but know he is now on that great golf course above singing and swinging to his hearts content. Our prayers are with you during this grieving time.

Love from the Friendly class.

Jim and Karen Haas

Jim and Karen Haas - May 08, 2015 at 08:36 PM



“ We are so deeply saddened by Trigger's passing. Dad could not have asked for a better man to be his best friend for all these years. He has meant so much to our family. When he was visiting in Allentown, PA the day I was born, mom was pretty sure he and dad would be playing golf instead of joining her at the hospital. But, he came through and visited telling the hospital authorities that he was our "priest." I am so glad he and dad had the chance to take one last ride together a month ago even if it was for their good friend Buddy's funeral. Dad had Trigger call me as they got into Houston to tell me they made safely, and I got to hear him say "Julie Bug" one last time. I will miss his great story telling about their North Texas college days, the Talons fraternity, and their time in the Coast Guard. You all are in our thoughts and prayers.

Julie Cunningham - May 08, 2015 at 07:18 PM

SM

“ Lesley, my heartfelt sympathy to you and yours. Trigger was a beloved friend to Buddy, and I know they are sharing many a golf story right now. I pray you find comfort in the love of your many friends and family. Sharon M. McDonald, Houston TX

Sharon M. McDonald - May 08, 2015 at 03:46 PM

MJ

“ You are in our thoughts and prayers during this time of sorrow. May God place his comforting arms around you today and in the days to follow.



Mark & Karen Jones - May 08, 2015 at 03:17 PM

TW

“ Dear Leslie, Mark, Lisa and Byron:

I am saddened learning of the passing of A. J. I was able to play several rounds of golf with him in the past couple of years or so and I will always remember them fondly. May God's peace be with you in this difficult time.

Tim Wheeler - May 08, 2015 at 02:04 PM