

Dr. Ben K. Luck, 84

Funeral services for Dr. Ben K. Luck, 84, of Portales will be at 11:00 AM, Tuesday, September 15, 2009, in the Wheeler Mortuary Chapel with Rev. Ben Wright officiating assisted by Scott P. Reeves. Burial will follow in the Portales Cemetery with Tommy Heflin, Sammy Howell, Jesse Martinez, Matthew Howell, Greg Jacobs, and Robert Encinias serving as pallbearers. Dr. Robert Timmons and all of his many friends will be honorary pallbearers. Memorials may be made to the American Legion Post #31, or the VFW Post 9515 both in Portales or to the New Mexico Christian Children's Home, 1356, NM 236, Portales, NM 88130.



Ben Klaue Luck was born January 30, 1925, in Saxony, Germany to the home of Hermann and Helene (Muller) Klaue, and peacefully passed away in his sleep September 11, 2009. He was orphaned at an early age, and was adopted by his aunt, Gertrude Klaue and her husband, Alvin Addison Luck. He immigrated to America in 1936 and settled with them in Silver City, NM. Ben attended high school at the New Mexico Military Institute. He became an American citizen in 1944. After graduation, Ben entered the Army where he was a member of the Office of Strategic Service (OSS) during World War II. The OSS was an elite spy group that was the forerunner of today's CIA. Ben jokingly said that OSS stood for Oh, So Special!

When he returned from the War, he went to college at New Mexico State University, graduating with a degree in Chemical Engineering. While attending NMSU, he was a member of the Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE) Fraternity, and told of many pranks they pulled on their friends and girl friends. It was while attending college that he met his wife, Betty Jo Good, and they were married on August 27, 1950, in Fort Sumner, NM.

Ben remained in the active reserves during this time, and was asked once again to fight for his country during the Korean conflict. He was a navigator and bombardier in the Air Force, and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. In 1959, he went back into the active reserves to pursue furthering his education. Ben earned his Masters Degree in Psychology and Statistics from NMSU, and his PhD(Ed) from Northern Colorado University in Guidance Counseling. In 1964, Ben began teaching in the Department of Psychology at Eastern New Mexico University, and in 1965, became the Department Chairman. He retired from his military career as an Air Force Major in the early 1970's and from his teaching career in 1984. Ben belonged to Phi Delta Kappa Fraternity to promote education, the OSS Society, the NEA, the VFW and the Episcopal church.

Ben's favorite retirement job was bringing a smile to others by bringing treats – he was most known for taking candy to the restaurants where he ate his meals. He was a regular at Mark's Eastern Grill, the Cattle Baron, La Hacienda and the China Buffet.

Ben is survived by his two daughters, Diana Luck of Aztec, NM, and Cassy Luck-Bird of Lubbock, TX; two grandchildren, Amanda Nicole Leach and Tracy Finnerin; a brother, Jerry Luck of Las Vegas, NV; a sister, Susan Whitlow of Florida; a special cousin, Sammy Howell and his wife, Judy of Elida, NM, and several very special friends who helped him in his last years, Tommy and Joletha Heflin, Dr. Robert Timmons, Jesse and Pauline Martinez, Rene "Doc" Neeley, Joe Cassinotti, Robert Encinias and Greg Jacobs.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his adoptive parents; three brothers, Bill Luck, Bobby Luck, and Glenn Luck, and by his wife, Betty Jo who died August 17, 1989.

Arrangements by Wheeler Mortuary, 575-356-4455.