



G.B. "Ben" Schurmeier Jr.

February 15, 1923 - October 10, 2021

Gustave Benjamin "Ben" Schurmeier Jr. of Serbin died peacefully early afternoon on Sunday, Oct. 10 at Bec's Blessing Assisted Living. He was 98.

Ben was the oldest WWII veteran in Lee County and was recognized last year at the dedication of the Lee County Veterans Memorial Park on Armed Forces Day. He owned a ranch in the Serbin area since the 1960s and was married to Ruth Schkade Schurmeier until her death about 15 years ago. Ben had lived in Houston during most of his adult life after being honorably discharged from the U.S. Navy at the end of WWII, doing engineering work with Dietrich Company until his retirement in the 1970s. He and Ruth lived in Houston and came home to Serbin nearly every weekend, and then retired to the ranch where they raised cattle. He was born Feb. 15, 1923 in St. Paul, Minnesota. Ben was the oldest child of Gustave Benjamin Schurmeier and Elizabeth McIntosh Schurmeier. Ben flew B-24s in the Pacific Theatre during World War II over the pacific islands with his flight crew as they photographed enemy territory. After his wife's death, Ben continued to live on his ranch until 6 months ago, when after surgery he moved into Bec's Blessing where he participated in events there and rode on the Bec's float at the Dime Box Black Bridge Festival throwing out candy at the parade just two weeks before his death. He was blessed with generally good health and was able to go out with family 2 or 3 times a week for trips to restaurants, out to his ranch, and on short trips to surrounding towns. He could still walk without a cane and loved

meeting new people. Ben was known for being able to converse with almost anyone and had a broad knowledge of things in general. In recent years he got especially interested in politics and watched Fox News regularly. At one point in his life, Ben owned two classic Dussenbergs after the war. He loved to look at antique and classic cars and go to air shows to look at WWII planes. He owned and fixed up an old fire truck, and even bought a power plant that had been used by a small town to supply electricity. He and Ruth loved attending the Rotary Club's Country Music Monday and other local events. Just two weeks before his death Ben was able to attend the Wendish Fest at Serbin, where he was greeted by old friends and those thanking him for his service during the war. He was known in recent years for his wit and love for conversing with family and friends. His hobbies since his retirement included attending area auctions, especially the Rudy Mayer Auctions, and working on equipment he had purchased in his shop at the ranch. He drove his own car until his mid-90s, and still had a valid driver's license even when he decided to quit driving. He especially loved driving from Serbin to Winchester to eat at Murphy's Steakhouse with old friends and family.

Survivors include his three stepchildren, Buddy Preuss and wife Louise, Ronna Britton and her husband James, all of Giddings, and Karen Bryant of Austin; a brother, Robert "D" Lindeke Schurmeier, and a sister, Elizabeth "Betty Lou" Schurmeier Christensen, both of South Carolina.

He is also survived by a special nephew, Robert "Bob" Schurmeier of North Carolina, and a special step-grandson, Sam Preuss of Dime Box, who was also his caregiver; step-grandchildren, Rita Preuss Hudson, Sam Preuss, Sloan Preuss, Amber Preuss, Matt Preuss, Lisa Britton Dickey, Tanya Britton Wymer, Travis Britton, Kari Britton Jones, Byron Burns, Tracy Burns, 15 step-great grandchildren, and 5 step great, great grandchildren, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Ben was preceded in death by his wife; and a brother, Harris "Bud" McIntosh

Schurmeier.

A memorial service for Ben is planned. The time and date will be announced by Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home, as well as in the Giddings Times & News.

Tribute Wall

RU

“ I was Ben's and Ruth's neighbor in Houston for many years. Always loved visiting with them. They were dear, friendly, delightful people.

Ruth - June 08, 2024 at 12:54 PM

CB

“ Christi Bradford lit a candle in memory of G.B. "Ben" Schurmeier Jr.



Christi Bradford - October 19, 2021 at 03:13 PM

DJ

“ I met Ben only once in NC. He was a gentle and kind man. He was not a stranger and I enjoyed his short visit to visit with his nephew. I will be praying for the family and may comfort and love surround his family during this time.

Donna Johnson

Donna Johnson - October 18, 2021 at 08:29 AM

JG

“ Ben was a fine man and a sharp business man! It was my pleasure and privilege to work with him for many years. I always enjoyed hearing his stories, especially about the war. He was a gentle man and will be missed by me. Joe Green

Joe Green - October 13, 2021 at 09:29 AM

CS

“ Cheryl Sanders lit a candle in memory of G.B.
"Ben" Schurmeier Jr.



Cheryl Sanders - October 13, 2021 at 12:13 AM

LC

“ Linda Cook lit a candle in memory of G.B.
"Ben" Schurmeier Jr.



Linda Cook - October 12, 2021 at 08:15 PM