



## Wilhelm Fredrich Backhaus

June 27, 1917 - August 11, 2017

Services for Wilhelm Fredrich Backhaus will be 2:00 pm Monday, August 14, 2017 at St. John's United Methodist Church in Rockdale with Rev. Adam Straznicky officiating. Burial will follow in the I.O.O.F. Cemetery in Rockdale. Visitation will be 3:00 until 5:00 p.m. Sunday at Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home.

Wilhelm Fredrich Backhaus, age 100, devoted husband, father, grandfather and friend passed away peacefully on August 11, 2017 surrounded by his loving family. At the time of his death he resided at Sunrise of Cinco Ranch Assisted Living in Katy, Texas. Together with his wife they had relocated there three years ago to be near their family. His love for his family was evident to all who knew him.

He was born June 27, 1917 in Sharp, Texas to Ernest and Margaret (Westermann) Backhaus. He graduated from Sharp High School on May 24, 1935.

He proudly served in the United States Army during World War II. His enlistment on April 17, 1942 took him to several bases including Detroit, Michigan, Bloomington, Illinois and lastly Ft. Benjamin Harrison, Indiana at the Headquarters Supply division. It was here he was responsible for the servicing and maintenance of all small arms weapons. As Post Ordinance Sergeant he

saw that each post was equipped with the proper number and kinds of weapons as well as ammunition necessary to support our troops. He separated from his service at Camp Atterbury, Indiana on January 31, 1946.

On March 15, 1941 he married his high school sweetheart Artie Evelyn Gamble. They made their home in Rockdale where they enjoyed many happy years. Together they were very involved with their church, their community and their friends.

They returned to Rockdale after the war and began work shortly thereafter at Louis G. Gest Chevrolet where he worked for many years. In addition he taught a wood working class at night for G.I.'s at the old Aycock School.

He then began work at the United States Post Office in Rockdale, Texas where he worked for 26 years, retiring on August 3, 1984. After retirement he assumed his fathers Germania Insurance Agency in Rockdale where he continued to enjoy traveling around Milam County and visiting with all his friends and selling a little insurance.

During his life he was a member of Rockdale Masonic Lodge #414 AF&AM. His love for sports occupied a large and joyous part of his life. He began coaching Little League Baseball and coached his sons team for many years. He was a dedicated supporter of the Athletic Department at Rockdale I.S.D. You could find him in the Press Box every Friday night running the clock and cheering on the Tigers. In the spring he was the head timer for many years at the Rockdale Relays. In addition he was often found with his whistle refereeing area basketball games. He remained an avid University of Texas Longhorn fan until his death. Nothing pleased him more than to tease with his many Rockdale Aggie friends. He traveled to Darrel K. Royal Memorial Stadium every Saturday home game for 31 years to volunteer at gate 9 collecting tickets.

Mr. Backhaus was preceded in death by his parents, Ernest and Margaret Backhaus. Brothers, Hermann Backhaus, and Siegfried Backhaus and his wife Helen. Brother-in-law and sister-in-law Glenn and Mildred Gamble. Brother-in-law Harry Korthauer. Also one granddaughter Melanie Rothwell Byrd.

Survivors include his loving wife of 76 years Artie Backhaus. Daughter, Linda Rothwell of Katy, Texas. Son, Paul Backhaus and wife Tena of Katy, Texas. Sister-in-law Edith Korthauer of Kingwood, Texas. Grandson, Travis Rothwell of Austin, Texas. Granddaughters, Kelley Morse and husband Kyle of Katy, and Brittany Buchtien and husband Chris of Houston, Texas. Great grandchildren, Jentry and Lila Byrd of Houston, Texas, Karson, Knox and Case Morse of Katy, Texas. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews along with numerous loving friends.

Pallbearers will be Hal Reagan, John Shoemake, Alan Miller, Kerry Starnes, Emery Crump, Dale Jaecks, and Ron Montgomery

The family wishes to thank all the caregivers at Sunrise of Cinco Ranch Assisted Living in addition to the care and support of Resolutions Hospice of Katy, Texas, Rob Collins, RN and Continual care nurses Starklyn Inmon, Mary J. Watson, Harriet Campbell and Carolyn Gipson.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations to St. John's United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 168, Rockdale, Texas 76567 or the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation@cff.org

# Cemetery Details

## I.O.O.F. Cemetery

850 N. Main St.  
Rockdale, TX 76567

# Previous Events

## Church Service

AUG **14**. 2:00 PM (CT)

St. John's United Methodist Church  
1700 Hillcrest Dr  
Rockdale, TX 76567

# Tribute Wall

JK

“ *My thoughts of sympathy go out to all the family..*

June Key - August 13, 2017 at 11:42 PM

AC

“ *Mrs B, Linda and Paul, I'm so sorry for your loss. Mr B (and you too, Mrs) were good friends to Fred and Mille. Prayers for God's comfort and blessings for each of you and the extended family.*

Amy (Morris) Cowell - August 13, 2017 at 05:23 PM

TF

“ *The Broach-Byrd Family purchased the Divine Light for the family of Wilhelm Fredrich Backhaus.*



The Broach-Byrd Family - August 12, 2017 at 10:26 PM



“ *Linda Sue, Lea and I are so sorry to hear of your family's loss. May you be granted peace. Jim and Lea McDaniel*

Jim McDaniel - August 12, 2017 at 08:50 PM

BM

“ *We are so sorry for your loss. May God surround you with His love, comfort you and give you peace.*  
*Bob and Donna Melcher*

Bob and Donna Melcher - August 12, 2017 at 08:39 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Wilhelm Fredrich Backhaus.*



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August 12, 2017 at 07:42 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Wilhelm Fredrich Backhaus.*



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August 12, 2017 at 07:33 PM



“ *Noble Energy, Major Projects, Leviathan Team purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Wilhelm Fredrich Backhaus.*



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**Noble Energy, Major Projects, Leviathan Team** - August 12, 2017 at 06:23 PM