

IVEY

Harold Ivey, loving father, husband, grandfather, brother and uncle died peacefully July 6, 2009 in George West, Texas. He was born June 9, 1923 in Fabens, Texas, the third of seven sons born to K.B. and Marie Dolan Ivey. He and his brothers attended local schools and worked on the family farm. Following graduation from high school, he left to study agricultural engineering at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. His college studies were interrupted when he joined the U. S. Army during World War II, where he served in the Pacific Theater. In 1945, his military unit was part of the allied force sent to mount an invasion of Japan. His detachment was one of the first to land on the main island of Japan as an occupying force. He served as the Japanese language interpreter for his army company. Returning to civilian life at the war's end, he completed his degree at A&M and returned to the El Paso Lower Valley. On April 28, 1947 he married Dorothy "Mickey" Coppinger of El Paso. They started their farming life together in Tornillo, eventually establishing Rio Bravo Farm where they raised their three children. He utilized many innovative farming techniques to improve his acreage and was a strong advocate for soil conservation. He and his brothers were pioneers in pecan cultivation and established the first commercial pecan orchard in the Lower Valley. He was especially proud of his many years on the El Paso County Water Improvement District as a member and as president. A devout Catholic, Harold was very active in Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Fabens as well as the Knights of Columbus. He and



Mickey were instrumental in building St. Rita's Church in Tornillo. When chronic illness befell Mickey, his loyal wife and supportive partner for 44 years; he quietly and lovingly devoted himself to her care and well-being. He performed many charitable works and was always there to serve his community. He was devoted to his family and loved by many. After Mickey's death in 1994, Harold married Mary Lou Nance and moved to George West, Texas. There he completed this life's journey among his many new friends that quickly embraced and welcomed him to his south Texas home. He was preceded in death by his parents, K.B. and Marie, his wife Mickey and brothers Ben, John, Paul and Bill. He is survived by his wife Mary Lou; son Arthur and daughter-in-law Debbie Ivey of Tornillo; daughter Dorothy and son-in-law Wayne Strachan of Fort Hancock; daughter Cathie and son-in-law David Whatley of Leander; brother Charles Ivey of Tornillo; James Ivey of Clint; fourteen grandchildren; three great grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews. The Ivey family will receive relatives and friends on Friday, July 10, 2009 from 5:00 to 9:00 PM in the Chapel of Martin Funeral Home East with recitation of the rosary to begin at 7:00 PM. Funeral mass will be held Saturday, July 11, 2009 at 9:00 AM at Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church. Interment will follow at Mt. Carmel Cemetery. Service arrangements have been entrusted to the care of MARTIN FUNERAL HOME EAST, 1460 GEORGE DIETER DR., EL PASO, TX. 79936. (915) 855-8881.

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