



## John William Outlaw

March 5, 1921 - January 25, 2017

Obituary of John Outlaw

JOHNNY OUTLAW, THE FLORIDA CRACKER COWBOY WITH A BARNYARD EDUCATION passes away.

John William Outlaw (J. W.) died Wednesday, January 25, at Ocala Regional Medical Center, from complications following an automobile accident January 19, 2017. He was 95.

Born in Center Hill, Florida, March 5, 1921, to Hammitt D. Outlaw, Sr. and Daisy Young Outlaw, he attended Webster schools, graduating from the high school there in 1941.

John or "Johnny" as he would introduce himself, entered the United States Army in August 1942, and was attached to B Battery, 244th Field Artillery Battalion at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, and Fort Benning, Georgia. From the military operations center in England, he was issued a jeep which he drove onto an LST there and then later drove off the LST when it landed on Normandy Beach in France 54 days after the invasion. At issue, the jeep had

17 miles on the odometer; eleven months later he turned the jeep in with a reading of 17,000 miles. He often said, "My hat is off to anyone who lived through that invasion." John received the Good Conduct Medal and five battle stars for action in Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes, and Central Europe. Corporal (Tech 5) Outlaw mustered out of the Army in late 1945. While John could not bring himself to participate in the Honor Flights to Washington, DC, he thoughtfully retraced his military steps in Dachau and Cham, Germany during a trip in 1987, while visiting his daughter Susan and son-in-law Ben who was 3ID Family Life Chaplain, Würzburg.

Following his military service, Johnny settled into the process of acquiring land and beginning a farming/ranch operation in Sumter County. At the age of 29, he met his wife-to-be, Almarene Woodard, at a Baptist Training Union Seminar in Bushnell; they were married in September 1951, and moved into a cabin John built on his property in Mabel. To supplement the rising farming/ranch business, he worked variously for B & W Canning Company, Groveland; Florida Rock, Center Hill; and Florida Forestry, Richloam. Along the journey, he also drove a school bus for the Sumter County Schools. After retirement, they moved to Inverness in 1981.

In retirement, he and Almarene enjoyed traveling, woodworking and various crafting projects; they participated in craft fairs and seminars in which they demonstrated their work. Johnny especially enjoyed storytelling about old times and was an authentic Florida Cracker. He was an expert platter of bull whips, selling them to "cowboys" throughout the state as well as donating them for auction at various fund-raising events such as the annual Linden Cemetery Picnic. For anyone who called to purchase a whip, Johnny set an appointment and advised the person they would need to sit for a spell to reminisce about old times before the sale could be completed. No one ever

turned him down. And, always included in his comments about his life, was the fact that he had only a "barnyard education" even though he was a graduate of Webster High School. Without doubt, as he himself claimed, he was The Florida Cracker Cowboy with a Barnyard Education.

He was predeceased by his wife of 55 years, Almarene; parents, Hammit and Daisy Outlaw, sisters Myrtle Iley, Bernice Worn, Daisy Day, and Evalena Burnett; brothers Robert and Hammit Jr.; sisters-in-law Delma Huff Saggus, Doris Woodward, Frances Hall Nistendirik; brothers-in-law Floyd Woodard, Edwin Woodard, Lester Woodard, and Mark Woodard.

He is survived by his daughters, Dr. Mary E. Outlaw of Armuchee, GA, and Rev. Susan Outlaw Stallings and son-in-law Chaplain (Maj/Ret) Ben Stallings, Terre Haute, IN; grandson Jordan Outlaw Stallings and granddaughter-in-law MaryAnn Havener Stallings of Paris, IL; niece and caregiver Marsha Woodard Perkins and husband Steve, nephew Kenny Woodard, all of Bushnell, FL, sister-in-law Pauline Outlaw of Center Hill, FL; and a host of additional nieces and nephews, numerous cherished friends and acquaintances.

He was an active member of Linden Baptist Church until 1981; following the move to Inverness, he united with the First Baptist Church, Inverness where he enjoyed regular Sunday School and church attendance until his recent move to live with his niece, Marsha.

Purcell Funeral Home, Bushnell, in charge of arrangements. In lieu of flowers, and because of our Dad's tender concerns for Vietnam Veterans, the family

suggests contributions be made to Vietnam Veterans of America, Florida State Council at <http://www.vvafsc.org/donations/support-vva-fsc> or Treasurer FSC, Vietnam Veterans of America, P.O. Box 331322, Atlantic Beach, FL 32233-1322.

Burial in the National Cemetery, Bushnell, Florida.

# Tribute Wall

DA

“ Susan what a beautifully written obituary From the picture to his delightful words I feel like I knew your father What a beautiful and fun person. How blessed you all are to be able to call him dad. Please know that I'm praying for you and your family. Praying your memorries give you peace and bring you great joy.

Debbie Athey - February 06, 2017 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ Susan, I am so sorry for your loss. I just read the obit and he sounds like a wonderful man! ( You don't know me, but I enjoy your Chef Susan creations)

Kathie Munson - February 06, 2017 at 12:00 AM

RG

“ Mary, Randall and I send warmest thoughts and prayers as you and your family face the loss of your father and patriarch. We consider it an honor to to have been in his presence several times over the last years as he visited our community. Peace and comfort are our prayers for you all. Fondly, Pam and Randall Green

Randall and Pamela Green - January 30, 2017 at 12:00 AM

RO

“ John William Outlaw

Roger E. Outlaw - January 29, 2017 at 12:00 AM

EC

“ Our sincerest condolences and love to Mary and her family We will never forget the visits of " The Cowboy " to Everett Springs

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**Everett Springs Baptist Church Senior Adult Class** - January 29, 2017 at 12:00 AM

EC

“ Sincerest Sympathy and Love

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**Everett Springs Baptist Church** - January 29, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ My husband, David, and I have enjoyed a friendship with Mr. Outlaw's daughter, Mary, for several years. We have heard stories about her father but much to our regret, we never had the pleasure of sitting with him and hearing HIS stories. What an incredible and honorable life he lived. My sincerest condolences to the whole family. You've lost a bedrock of your family but he obviously laid the cornerstones for you on which to build a life to first serve God. Grace be with you.

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**Debbie McIntyre** - January 27, 2017 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ John was always present at worship with the people of First Baptist Inverness and always pleasantly greeted those seated around him. The world is a better place because he lived here a long time. A great witness for our Lord

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**Marian minyard** - January 27, 2017 at 12:00 AM

BT

“ I met Johnnie several years ago at the Floral City Heritage Days. We talked and discovered we had much in common.....both grew up in central Florida, both were actual working cowboys, both knew many of the same people in the ranching business back then, and both had a love of the outdoors and all that goes with it. We lived only a few miles apart in Inverness, and I would go to Johnnie's or he would come to visit me and we would talk for hours about how things used to be. I have much respect for this man and am so sorry about his passing. I will surely miss our visits and sharing our past adventures together. I am proud to have known him and his service to his country. He truly was a great American!

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**Bill Thompson** - January 27, 2017 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ Prayers and comfort to the family.

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**Ruby Hewitt and family** - January 27, 2017 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ John William Outlaw

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**STEPHEN WADE** - January 26, 2017 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ My condolences on Johnny's passing. I was introduced to Johnny by my dad, Glenn S. Wade, some years ago at the Linden Cemetery Picnic. They had apparently known each other since childhood. I always looked him up at the picnic after my dad passed away in 1999. I'll miss our little chats at the picnic.

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**STEPHEN WADE** - January 26, 2017 at 12:00 AM

AP

“ Rest in peice good sir you've done a blessing to this country.

Anthony priore - January 26, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ My sincere condolences on the passing of Uncle Johnny. He was a true gentleman and I always enjoyed my visits to the Outlaw home as a young girl - I recall that there were cookies involved, a small rocking chair and Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls. He and Aunt Almarene were so kind to my Dad (Carl). I'm sure he will be greatly missed by all. Rest in Peace.

Janet Huff Blaum - January 26, 2017 at 12:00 AM

RN

“ GOD BLESS. May your family know you are in the presence of our LORD. He would be saying "Well done my faithful son as he is welcoming John into Heaven." Prayers to all family and friends. Thank You for your service and your family for their Love and Support.

Rose Nutt - January 26, 2017 at 12:00 AM

SN

“ Sending out prayers to your family.

Shawn Nugent - January 26, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ How I will miss seeing Mr. Johnny at the Post Office in Inverness as his 'gait' was well known! He bounced as he walked, and talked. What a dear man he was, always a kind word and broad smile. I thank his family for his service to our country. It is men like him who make America great - and free. We will miss you, Mr. Johnny. I know Heaven will enjoy your 'gait' and broad smile! See you there!

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**Jo Woody** - January 26, 2017 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ I am so sorry to hear of Mr. Outlaws passing. I will forever remember him and his lovely wife for their compassion for others and friendliness. Praying for the family & friends left here to mourn his loss. He is rejoicing in heaven. RIP Mr. Outlaw, I will miss seeing you!

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**Lori Bitters** - January 26, 2017 at 12:00 AM

WA

“ So sorry, I met him once long ago

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**Will Adams** - January 26, 2017 at 12:00 AM

TP

“ We loved Mr. J. W., and we are going to miss him. We loved his stories, his gentlemanly ways, his consideration of others, and his abiding faith. We pray for comfort and strength for his family, and we send our sincere sympathy for your loss.

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**Tom and Jackie Peterson** - January 26, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ What a Treasury and a great life. God bless

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**Jimmie lee webb brumley** - January 26, 2017 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ *Deepest sympathy and prayers on the loss of a true Cracker hero.*

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**Sam Sikes** - January 26, 2017 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ *###GESTURE###*

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**STEPHEN WADE** - January 26, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ *Our hearts were saddened to hear of the passing of Uncle J.W. He was an amazing man with so many interesting stories to tell. His mind was so full of information and he loved to share it. Enjoyed sharing time with him in his shop and seeing all his treasures. He was a man on the go. He was truly amazing. We are praying for you all during these days of loss that God's love and comfort will be with you. We love you, Judy & Mitch*

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**Judy & Mitch Marsh** - January 25, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *John William Outlaw*

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January 25, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ *Dearest Mary and Susan.... I am saddened by the news of your father's passing. Praying for comfort and peace as we celebrate his life of service and rejoice in the knowledge that he is now at total peace and rest with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

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**Janis Johnson** - January 25, 2017 at 12:00 AM