

CODE GIRLS DURING WORLD WAR TWO



Tumbleweed Smith

Julia Garrett of Houston didn't know her mother was a spy. When she found out, she became highly interested in the roll women played doing intelligence work during World War Two. Now she gives talks all over the country about the women who deciphered codes and helped win the war. After Pearl Harbor the military knew it needed to break

Tumbleweed Smith codes. "There were ten thousand women in the Navy, ten thousand women in the Army breaking codes," says Julia. "They worked around the clock in three shifts, twenty-four seven for years and they shortened the war because they could break the codes. They had a natural affinity for it because they were recruited from Ivy League universities while studying math, music, science, anyone who could understand the flow of numbers, space and time."

Her mother was one of them but never talked about it. She did tell Julia she worked in the code room and the girl sitting next to her broke a Japanese code.

"I didn't ask her this question: If you were sitting next to her and she broke a code, what were you doing? I feel it is my job to tell her story as well as other women who broke codes and were never recognized."

Julia put two and two together when she read a book, CODE GIRLS by Liza Mundy about the female code breakers

"Why didn't my sweet mother tell us? During the war the women were told they would be shot if they told about what they were doing. Even though the code of silence was lifted in 1990 and my mother died in 1998, she could have told us. She was a Girl Scout leader and could have told those girls about her experiences. Even Liza Mundy, doing research for her book, had a hard time getting some of the women to talk to her."

When Julia found out what her mother did during the war she started looking through a drawer in a piece of furniture that had gone through several moves.

"And there they were: her commendation letter, her little notebook about how to break codes and the little tests she took, her uniform and all sorts of items I use in my talks. Her uniform had the letter Q on its sleeve, indicating intelligence service. If they were asked about it, they were told to say, "I empty trash and sit on the Admiral's lap.

The first time Julia gave her program was for neighbors and friends, people who had known her mother.

"They were in tears. They, too, asked why couldn't she or my dad have told us. They never imagined my mother being in the Navy and beaking Japanese codes. We could have gloried in her, hugged her and thanked her for her service."

After the war some of those women went to the CIA or the National Security Agency.



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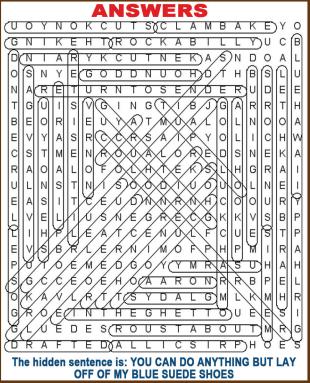


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Kale Robinson

Kale Robinson's untimely passing has left Winnsboro High School and the community in mourning. His love for fishing and his involvement with the Winnsboro Fishing Team brought joy and camaraderie to those who knew him. Though his life was tragically cut short after a fishing tournament at Lake Cypress Springs, his memory lives on in the hearts of those he touched.

A bright presence on campus Kale's warm personality and infectious smile made him a beloved figure at Winnsboro High School. He was known for his unwavering positivity and genuine compassion, always ready to brighten someone's day with a friendly greeting or a listening ear. His presence brought joy and kindness to the halls of Winnsboro High, leaving behind cherished memories for all who knew him.

A dedication to learning and growth driven by a thirst for knowledge, Kale excelled academically and embraced every opportunity to expand his horizons. He approached his studies with dedication and enthusiasm, inspiring both his peers and teachers alike with his curiosity and eagerness to learn.

Making a difference through service and leadership beyond academics, Kale was deeply committed to serving his community and making a positive impact in the lives of others. He volunteered at local charities, organized fundraisers, and led initiatives to support his fellow students. His selfless acts of kindness left a lasting impression on Winnsboro High School and the broader community, showcasing the power of compassion and empathy.

Honoring Kale's legacy as Winnsboro High School mourns Kale's loss, the community has come together to honor his memory in meaningful ways. Candlelight vigils, memorial scholarships, and heartfelt tributes serve as reminders of the profound impact Kale had on those around him. Through shared stories and acts of kindness, his legacy continues to inspire and uplift the community.

Cleveland Odell McQueen

A funeral service for Cleveland McQueen will be conducted at 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at West Oaks Funeral Home Chapel with Pastor W. Scott Pannell officiating. Interment will follow the service at Restlawn Memorial Park.

Cleveland (Cleve) Odell McQueen was born June 18th, 1934, in Hillsboro Texas to T.L. McQueen and Ella Mary Cotton McQueen. He attended Sulphur Springs schools. He was a member of Morning Chapel Baptist Church at an early age and later united with Mitchell Chapel COGIC in Sulphur Springs and then Mount Calvary COGIC in Quitman Texas. He was employed by Maddox Motor Company as a mechanic and opened McQueen's Auto Repair and afterwards worked for Sulphur Springs Asphalt as Foreman until his accident in 1987. He married Margie Mitchell McQueen on January 28th, 1955. She preceded him death on February 14th, 2019. He is also preceded by his parents T.L. & Ella Mary, siblings Richardson McQueen, Opal McQueen Pogue, Floretta McQueen Askew, Barbary J. Pannell Thompson, Lawrence Pannell Jr. and grand-daughter TaKeisha Black.

Cleveland passed on February 16th, 2024, at his residence. He leaves to cherish his memory: Son Kenneth (Stephanie) & Tabatha. Three adopted daughters, Linda McQueen of Tyler Texas. Marilyn TaylorWalker (Matthew) of Garland Texas, and Debra Hawkins (Kenneth) of Little Elm Texas. Grand-daughters T'Kaya McQueen of Tyler (Austin), Kierra McKinnes of San Antonio. God-daughter Jaslyn Heggins of Dallas, Texas. Siblings Winfield Scott Pannell, Billye Faye Pannell, Flora Pannell Clayton, Brenda K. Pannell Lewis. Along with many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends



John Feldt December 7, 1940 — February 12, 2024

A memorial Service for John Feldt, age 83, of Sulphur Springs, TX will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 30, 2024 at Murray Orwosky Funeral Home, Sulphur Springs, TX. Rev. Ed Lantz will officiate. Mr. Feldt passed away on Monday, February 12, 2024 in Rowlett, TX.

John Joseph Feldt, Sr. was born on December 7, 1940 in Tulsa, OK to Morris and Johnnie (McGuire) VanValkenburg. After his father's passing at an early age, John was raised by Harold Feldt. After high school, John attended Kemper Military School, a Junior College in Panama, studied Agriculture at Cornell, graduated from the University of Texas, and went on to complete Law School at the University of Houston. He taught Sunday school at First United Methodist Church in Sulphur Springs and was a member of the Grace Methodist Church.

John was a skilled trumpet and coronet player. He was offered a scholarship to the Julliard School of the Performing Arts but chose to practice Law. His practice in the early years of his career was primarily oil and gas, and real estate, both commercial and residential. He later specialized in Probate. He had been the General Counsel for a banking firm appointed by the Federal Reserve to clean up the FSLIC financial crisis of over 800 Texas banks in the late 1980's. He later became the General Counsel for a national real estate developer in Dallas. During his 52-year law career, John mentored many young attorneys.

He was an enthusiastic historian of the Civil War. John, his wife Sharon and her mother, Birdie Lamkin moved to the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and ran a Historic Bed & Breakfast, Edgewood Manor, for several years. During this time, John formed a Civil War band, The Tuscarora Brass, sponsored by Shenandoah University. The Tuscarora Brass, featuring original Civil War instruments and original music from the 26th North Carolina Band, played at many Civil War re-enactments and events in the Shenandoah Valley and at Gettysburg National Park. He was also a member of the Pennsylvania Wildcat Historical CW Band and played with a group of musicians at a Civil War weeklong event in Vermont. John also wrote articles for several Civil War publications. He was an outstanding horseman and was both a Cavalry and Infantry re-enactor while in Virginia.

He is survived by his loving wife of 34 years, Sharon Feldt. They were married in Dallas, TX on November 3, 1990.

John is preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Fred Feldt and Al Feldt; and grandparents that helped raise him, Billy and Mama D. McGuire.



