



James Preston Ahrend

May 22, 1924 - March 20, 2022

On May 22nd of 1924, James Preston Ahrend was born unto James “Jim” Irvin Ahrend and Mary Artie Missy Harvill-Ahrend of Sasakwa, OK. James, known by loved ones as “Preston”, passed away from this life to his eternal home in heaven on Sunday, March 20th of 2022.

Preston grew up in Sasakwa as a sharecropper during the onset of the Great Depression and worked on his family’s farm until age 19. While in school, Preston excelled in all areas and especially enjoyed spelling, geography, and baseball. Preston was scouted by the American Legion Baseball League as a left-handed pitcher and first baseman, but his opportunity to pursue a professional sporting career was pushed aside by a call from Uncle Sam. Shortly after graduating from Sasakwa High School in 1943, Preston was drafted into World War II on July 13th of 1943. Preston served his country as an Army Technician Corporal in the 326th Airborne Engineer Battalion (326th AEB) of the 101st Airborne (101st AB) Division. Several decorations and citations were awarded to Preston for his notable involvement in four major military campaigns/battles in Europe: Invasion of Normandy (D-Day); Central Europe (Western Allied Invasion of Germany); Rhineland/Netherlands (Operation Market Garden); The Ardennes Offensive (Battle of the Bulge/Siege of Bastogne). Preston was honorably discharged from the Army in 1946.

After returning from the war, Preston obtained an associate degree from

Oklahoma A&M. On July 15th of 1948, Preston was hired as an inventory keeper at American Airlines and made his way up to the position of Crew Chief through long hours of dedicated hard work and perseverance. Preston retired in November of 1987, proudly celebrating his nearly 40 year career. Preston enjoyed many aspects of life. Over the years, he's earned various bowling and softball trophies. Preston loved sporting his red Boomer Sooner wind-breaker and ball cap wherever he could. He shared his love for sports with his children and grandchildren, supporting, sponsoring, and coaching them through youth leagues – or whatever dream they pursued. Aside from sports, Preston enjoyed keeping up with current events, playing multiple rounds of dominos, coin collecting, and most of all – spending time with family. In February of 1953, Preston met the love of his life – Clara Fay Rose – in Dawson, OK. Clara Fay and Preston were married on June 3rd of 1953 and remained sweethearts for almost sixty-nine years until his death. Towards the latter part of his life, Preston became universally known as “Papa” by his family, friends, and even strangers. “Papa” will be forever remembered by the countless lives he touched and his memory will continue to live on through his loved ones.

Preston is survived by:

WIFE —Clara Fay Ahrend of Broken Arrow;

BROTHER — Norman Ahrend & wife, Shelia, of Broken Arrow;

SON —David Ahrend & wife, Lois, of Broken Arrow;

DAUGHTER — Sherry Oden & husband, Jim, of Broken Arrow;

DAUGHTER — Joy Jiles of Broken Arrow.

GRANDCHILDREN — Matthew Ahrend; Amanda Oliver; Sarah Thummel; Ty Oden; Jessica

Klassen; Troy Oden; Rachel Rose; Jennifay Richardson; Starlee Jiles.

GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN — Grady Oliver; Nate Ahrend; Ella Thummel; Ashtyn Oliver;

Timmy Thummel; Caden Oden; Kodi Klassen; Levi Ahrend; Gianna Thummel; Abby Oden; CJ Oden; Tatum Klassen; Mason Oden; Gavin Oden; JohnPaul

Thummel.

Preston is preceded in death by:

BROTHER — Garland Ray Ahrend

FATHER — Jim Ahrend

MOTHER — Artie Harvill-Ahrend

SON — Danny Lee Ahrend

SISTER — Wanda Lea Fulps-Ahrend

The family asks that donations be made to Forest Ridge Baptist Church, 8300 South Oneta Road, Broken Arrow, OK 74014

Cemetery Details

Vernon Cemetery

14827 South 305th East Avenue
Coweta, OK 74429

Previous Events

Viewing

MAR 24. 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Hayhurst Funeral Home
1660 South Elm Place
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
(918) 258-9623
hayhurstfuneralhome@gmail.com

Visitation

MAR 24. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Hayhurst Funeral Home
1660 South Elm Place
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
(918) 258-9623
hayhurstfuneralhome@gmail.com

Funeral Service

MAR **25**. 12:30 PM (CT)

Life.Church
2420 E. Kenosha St.
Broken Arrow, OK 74014

Tribute Wall



“ *James Preston Ahrend*

October 23, 2023 at 01:21 AM



“ *Preston and Clara lived across the street from me when I was growing up out in Covington estates, I used to go to their house and entertain their son Danny, sometimes sitting in a broke down car in the driveway pretending to drive Danny around, and I did some crazy imaginary driving!! Danny would laugh and laugh 😂🌀 Clara was a sweet momma to him and Preston was a kind man. Joy and David, I remember you guys too, God be with you all, I hated to run across this, but I'm glad to have the opportunity to share a memory. Take care.*

Gina Emerson - June 08, 2022 at 12:47 AM



“ *I met Preston and Clara one day at work. I found out that he could talk your leg off real quickly but that he also loved to share about his son Danny and from his garden. Just ask Clara about Preston's Christmas gift with a large Red bow! I later met his grand daughter Sarah and her parents Lois and David as she met and married my son. Preston will leave a void that must be filled with our memories until we meet again. Love ya Preston!*

Tim Thummel - April 06, 2022 at 10:26 AM



“ *Tear of Sympathy Pendant was purchased for the family of James Preston Ahrend.*



March 26, 2022 at 01:34 PM



“ *The Mike Fulps Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of James Preston Ahrend.*

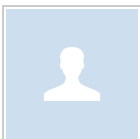


The Mike Fulps Family - March 24, 2022 at 09:55 PM



“ *Preston set my parents, Troy & Irma Smith, up on a blind date, and my parents were married within a month. Dad said the minute he saw my mom, he knew that she was the one. I'll always be grateful to Preston. I had incredible parents and a wonderful life. Preston will wear a crown of jewels in heaven. He was quite a man.*

Christine Smith - March 24, 2022 at 06:42 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of James Preston Ahrend.*



March 24, 2022 at 06:04 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Papa



Hayhurst Funeral Home - March 24, 2022 at 02:03 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Preston Ahrend.



March 24, 2022 at 12:04 PM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Preston Ahrend.



March 24, 2022 at 09:55 AM



“ Love Joe, Sally, Chelsea, Ashley Mohan purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of James Preston Ahrend.



Love Joe, Sally, Chelsea, Ashley Mohan - March 23, 2022 at 06:03 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of James Preston Ahrend.



March 23, 2022 at 01:05 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of James Preston Ahrend.



March 23, 2022 at 01:01 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of James Preston Ahrend.



March 23, 2022 at 12:06 PM



“ *Uncle Preston was always smiling and so welcoming. He had a way of making everyone feel special. We have lost a family treasure! Sending love and prayer to Aunt Clara and the family.*

Barbara Pitts - March 23, 2022 at 11:41 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James Preston Ahrend.*



March 23, 2022 at 10:40 AM



“ *Bull was my Crew Chief years ago at American Airlines,he was a great guy and dedicated family man, he had some good stories about being a young soldier in Europe during WW2.*

Christopher McSherry - March 23, 2022 at 07:46 AM



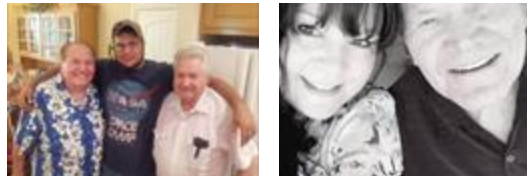
“ *With Distinction was purchased for the family of James Preston Ahrend.*



March 22, 2022 at 08:04 PM



“ *Forever proud to be your "Birthday Girl" I love you for always. Thank you for all that you have done for me. Elijah James learned a lot from you and so did Zach. Your legacy will continue thru you children, grand and great grandchildren and everyone you love (love never dies). I will see you in Heaven.*



Mary Laughlin - March 22, 2022 at 07:45 PM

JM

“ *Jim & Barbara Matthews purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of James Preston Ahrend.*



Jim & Barbara Matthews - March 22, 2022 at 12:46 PM



“ *America the Beautiful was purchased for the family of James Preston Ahrend.*



March 21, 2022 at 09:56 PM

VC

“ *Vicki Cotton lit a candle in memory of James Preston Ahrend*



Vicki cotton - March 21, 2022 at 07:29 PM



“ 8 files added to the album Memories Album



Hayhurst Funeral Home - March 21, 2022 at 09:58 AM



“ It is our honor and privilege to serve the Ahrend family and to provide this permanent tribute website in memory of James.



Hayhurst Funeral Home - March 21, 2022 at 09:16 AM