



# Elder Burton "Bert" Collier

AUG 7, 1918 - SEP 15, 2011



Scan to Visit

*Robertson*  
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 5



## **Elder Burton "Bert" Collier**

AUG 7, 1918 - SEP 15, 2011

**S**HAMROCK No services are scheduled. Cremation and Arrangements are by Robertson Funeral Directors of Shamrock. Bert made his last jump Thursday, September 15, 2011, at 11:50 a.m.

Born August 7, 1918 at Martha, Oklahoma, to John Christopher and Mary Jane Collier. Bert was preceded in death by his mother and father and one sister, Johnnie Hay Gooden. He is survived by his wife, Jean Collier of the home; one son, Ron Tollison and wife, Darlene, of Shamrock; one daughter, Pat Crowell and husband, Don, of Memphis, Tennessee; two grandsons, Robert Crowell of New York, and David Crowell of Boston; one great-granddaughter, McKinnley Tollison of Shamrock whom Bert adored and McKinnley loves Bert; two great-nephews, John Ray and wife, Patti, of Altus, Oklahoma and Dorman Collier and wife, Jannelle, of Strathmore, California; two very true friends, Bobby Hunter of Gunter, Texas who was Bert's WWII buddy and friend of 67 years, and Wayne Brown and wife, Betty, of California; Jack Cruzan and his late wife, Carole, of Arizona; and many, many friends. Bert joined the Army in 1939. He was at Pearl Harbor that fateful day. After three years in Hawaii, he came back to the states, attended O.C.S. and became a Paratrooper with the 501/101st Screaming Eagles Airborne. He jumped into Normandy D-Day, June 6, 1944. He jumped into Holland September 17, 1944, in the battle of the Bulge in Bastogne. He was a Platoon Leader, 1st Lieutenant after his honorable discharge in 1945. He started college and graduated from O.U. in 1951, with a degree in geology, where he was employed in the oil business. After years of that employment, he went to work in Civil Service at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He retired in 1980 and traveled all over the United States and over seas until two years ago. While in the Army, he earned and received many medals including the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, two French Croix De Guerre with Palm, Netherlands Orange Lanyard, Belgium Fourragere with Palm, Jump Wings with two stars for two combat



## Obituary

**Elder Burton "Bert" Collier**

AUG 7, 1918 - SEP 15, 2011

---

jumps, ETO Ribbon with four stars and two arrowheads for leading two invasions, Presidential Unit Citation with Oak leaf cluster, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign medal with four Bronze Service stars and one Bronze arrowhead and many bars, stripes, ribbons and patches. Bert was the kindest and most sincere man that you could have ever met. He never said an un-kind word about anyone or to anyone. He was a true gentleman in every way and he showed it in the way he treated his fellow man. He was a friend to everyone, and possessed not one hard feeling nor a selfish bone in his body. Persons like Bert are very rare, and he will always be remembered as a man who was always willing and ready to help anyone. Bert was a small man in stature but a giant in his trust and giving. He is truly irreplaceable and will definitely be missed. He was such a loving human being. He once said "I'd like to be remembered as a good, honest man who didn't do too much harm to my family, friends, and fellow man." He made his last jump to be with his mother, dad, and sister, but we will join him again in God's Heavenly place.



## Tribute Wall

**Elder Burton "Bert" Collier**

AUG 7, 1918 - SEP 15, 2011

BM

**Brian Willey Of Colon, Michigan** posted:

Our families condolences to the Collier Family for the loss of Bert. Dad mentioned how wonderful it was to see Bert during the 501 reunions. Our late father George Willey served with Bert during WW2 in D Company.

October 9 at 7:00 PM

TN

**Thijs Eekhof Of Netherlands** posted:

Words can not discribe how thankfull we are for the freedom that was given by the courage of men like LT Collier.Strength and comfort to the relatives he leaves behind, you can be proud of this man.

September 29 at 7:00 PM

AN

**Archie Of Haarlem, The Netherlands** posted:

Thanks for being here, back in those days!

September 29 at 7:00 PM

TM

**Teddy Kelley Schmoll Of Minnesota** posted:

It was my privilege to have known Bert these past few years. He will be sadly missed. A 501st Airborne Assn friend, Teddy

September 28 at 7:00 PM

CN

**Cees Coenmans Of Nederland** posted:

My condolences to the families of this great man. One of the valiant liberators of our country. We will never forget.

September 28 at 7:00 PM

DN

**Donny Hermsen Of Nederland** posted:

bert rest in peace I have a beautiful memory of you, I will forever carry in my heart, bert day I'll never forget jean'ee and family, much needed strength during this difficult time, sweet greetings and hugs from donny

September 27 at 7:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

**Elder Burton "Bert" Collier**

AUG 7, 1918 - SEP 15, 2011

BN

**Bram Kuipers Of Uden, The Netherlands** posted:

Take your last flight and rest in peace, our Hero.

September 27 at 7:00 PM

BE

**Bony Michiels Of Brussels Belgium (Eur)** posted:

Thanks to these tenacious paratroopers we were liberated from fascism. Bert will be included in our prayers and I will surely remember him when next december I will walk again trough the Ardennes forest at Bastogne

September 25 at 7:00 PM

EN

**Erwin And Elize Janssen Of Eerde, The Netherlands** posted:

Our condolences are to the family and all those who loved Bert. We knew Bert as a loving and softspoken man. He is one of the true heroes who gave our country its freedom back from the German oppression, when they descended like angels from the sky on 17 September 1944. We will always honor this man. May you rest in peace Bert. Erwin and Elize Janssen, Eerde, The Netherlands

September 24 at 7:00 PM

DM

**Dan Cutting Of Detroit, Michigan** posted:

As a member of our WWIIADT family, Bert will be sorely missed. His last jump reunites him with our many Legacy Veterans that have gone before. I am richer from having met him. God Bless the Collier family.

September 23 at 7:00 PM



# **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Elder by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



Scan to Visit