



Cleatus A. Lebow

FEB 8, 1924 - SEP 29, 2022



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Events	Page 5
Tribute Wall	Page 6



Cleatus A. Lebow

FEB 8, 1924 - SEP 29, 2022

Cleatus A. Lebow, age 98, died peacefully the morning of Thursday, September 29th, 2022 at Baptist St. Anthony's Hospital in Amarillo, Texas.

Memorial graveside services are scheduled for 3 PM Sunday, October 9, 2022 at Fairview Cemetery Chapel in Memphis with Rev. Daniel Downey officiating.

Cremation and arrangements are by Robertson Funeral Directors of Memphis.

Cleatus was born in Happy, Texas on February 8, 1924 to Samuel Houston and Minervia Lebow and was one of 11 children. He is preceded in death by his parents and 8 siblings, and is survived by two sisters, Tressie Lebow Snider of Lubbock, Texas and Oleta Lebow Buzbee of Redmond, Oregon.

He was married to Norma Ruth Crow from 1941 to 1965. He was married to Joan Edwards from 1966 until her death in 2021. He resided in Memphis, Texas until moving to the Ussery Roan Texas State Veterans Home in Amarillo.

Cleatus was a survivor of the USS Indianapolis sinking in WWII. He served as a fire control technician, Petty Officer Third Class when the Indianapolis was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine and sunk on July 30, 1945. He was among 316 who survived and spent nearly 5 days in the water before being rescued. Weeks after their rescue, Cleatus (along with the other survivors) was presented the Purple Heart by Admiral Spruance while in Guam recovering. The USS Indianapolis Crew was awarded a Congressional Gold Medal on 75th Anniversary of Sinking in 2020.

After the Navy, Cleatus worked for GTE for over 35 years and then continued as a contractor for another 10. He retired in 1995.



Obituary

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He is survived by his two daughters Sonja Lebow Rosson of Mineola, Texas, Cleata Anne and Roy Crutchfield of McKinney, Texas, and a son Jerry Lebow of Pampa, Texas, grandchildren Pepper Pippin, Tim Pippin, Jeff Reeves, Trisha Hughes and Tracy Lebow, great grandchildren Austin Lebow, Kayla Lumley and Keenan Hughes and great-great grandchildren Creed Lumley, Colton Lumley and Tripp Hughes, all of whom brought him great joy.

The family extends sincere gratitude to his care team in Memphis, to Lee Persefield and the Ussery Roan Texas State Veterans Home and staff who cared for him and to the USS INDIANAPOLIS CA-35 Legacy Organization for their tireless dedication to promote and perpetuate the memory of all who served on the USS Indianapolis.

In lieu of flowers please consider a memorial donation to the USS INDIANAPOLIS CA-35 Legacy Organization.




Events


Cleatus A. Lebow

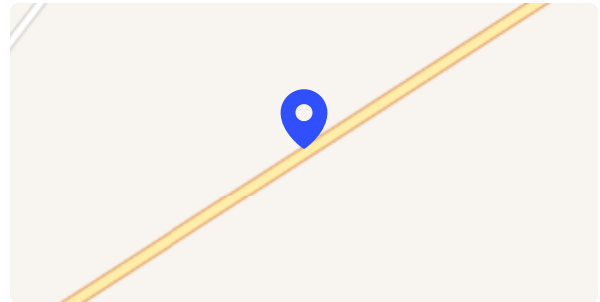
FEB 8, 1924 - SEP 29, 2022

Memorial Service


 **Sunday**, October 9, 2022

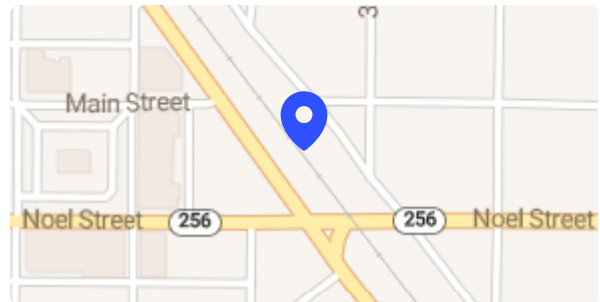
 3:00 PM CT

 **The Chapel at Fairview Cemetery - Memphis**
TX FM 1547, Memphis TX 79245



Cemetery Details

 **Fairview Cemetery - Memphis**
FM 1547, Memphis TX 79245





Tribute Wall

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JR

Jim Reynolds posted:

My parents both worked with Cleatus at the General Telephone Co. Regional Office in Memphis. I went to high school with Cleata and Jerry so this brings back lots of good memories. Remembering these times brings comfort when most needed during a loss. To his family, my sincerest condolences. Jim Reynolds MHS '63

October 9 at 6:49 AM

MK

Melissa Kalka posted:

I am very saddened by the loss of my dear friend Cleatus Lebow. He and his wife Joann were longtime friends since we went on the Honor Flight in 2008. We had many great times together and great visits at his home in Memphis. It was my great honor to walk to halls of Congress and accomplish with 4 others getting the Congressional Gold Medal awarded to the USS Indianapolis survivors. I also had the pleasure of handing Cleatus his medal. It was very special! He is one of the most humble, unassuming and heroic men I have ever met. He is a True American Hero, and he will be dearly missed. Cleatus - I know you are having a glorious reunion with your shipmates and with Joann and Jack! Farewell my dear friend..... Love, Melissa Kalka

October 6 at 8:30 AM



Stan Morris posted:

RIP Mr Lebow

October 6 at 3:12 AM

SH

Sharon Hobbs posted:

It was my great honor and privilege to know Cletus Lebow. I will miss and treasure our weekly visits. I felt a special connection with him because my uncle, Robert Edward Coleman, was also a survivor. My favorite memory is the Memorial Day Ceremony when Blankets of Love Amarillo presented him with a naval blanket in memory of his shipmates - both those who did not survive and the survivors that had passed. Very thankful for his signature in my Indy books. Condolences to his family. 🙏❤️🙏

October 5 at 2:15 PM



Tribute Wall

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DP

Dave And Diana Pallante posted:

May you RIP Cleatus. One of the nicest survivors I had the pleasure to meet and get to know better. Fair winds and following seas brave sailor. You're home now with Jesus and Joan and your shipmates. Truly a hero to my wife and I always. Am so glad we got to see you in Texas at the 2022 reunion.

October 4 at 4:48 PM

LP

Lee Persefield posted:

It was truly an honor to care for Mr. Lebow. And, to have been able to take him to Fredricksburg was a highlight for all of us at Ussery Roan Texas State Veterans Home. What a true hero he was....Lee Persefield

October 4 at 7:15 AM

JM

Janie Mullins posted:

Cleatus Lebow was a great American Hero. God Bless his heart. He was my hero anyway. Thank you Cleatus for sharing your experience with us from your time on the USS INDIANAPOLIS. I will be eternally grateful. In a book he said as he was walking off the side of the ship into the ocean he somehow knew he was going home to Abernathy Texas to his mama. Well Cleatus you can Rest In Peace with all your family members and you mama.

October 4 at 6:02 AM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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