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Web-posted Monday, May 8, 2006

Oliver Diggs

Amarillo

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Oliver Diggs, 91, of Amarillo died Sunday, May 7, 2006.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday in First Baptist Church of Canyon with Dr. David Lowrie Jr. officiating. Burial will be in Llano Cemetery by Brooks Funeral Directors of Canyon and Happy.

Mr. Diggs was born Feb. 22, 1915, in Wolfe City, Hunt County, to James William Diggs and Solia Muncy Diggs. Oliver attended school in Hunt County at Wolfe City and Fairlie and graduated from Greenville High School in Greenville in 1934. He received a bachelor of science degree from East Texas State Teachers College in Commerce in 1937 and a master's degree from the University of Texas in Austin. Oliver did graduate work at Texas A&M in Bryan and West Texas State College in Canyon. He received his Chartered Life Underwriter (CLU) designation in 1955.




Oliver was an educator and continued to dream about teaching long after he retired. His career spanned 40 years and included instruction in typing, math, basketball and vocational subjects. He taught at Carey, Childress County, from 1937 to 1941 and was principal at Sierra Blanca, Hudspeth County, from 1941 to 1942. Oliver left teaching for war work during World War II, working at Pantex Ordnance Plant in Amarillo from 1942 to 1943. From 1943 to 1946, he was a civilian instructor in airplane mechanics at Amarillo Air Force Base in




Oliver Diggs:

1915-2006

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Amarillo, Love Field in Dallas and in Denver. _____

After the war, he taught for one year in

Sweetwater from 1947 to 1948. In 1948, he returned to Amarillo, where he taught ICT at Amarillo High School for 30 years. He was teaching there when the building on south Polk Street burned down on Easter Sunday, March 1, 1970.

Oliver was an honorary private of Company C, 111th Engineers, Texas National Guard from 1933 to 1941.

He was a member and substitute Sunday school teacher at First Baptist Church of Canyon and became a Christian when he was in the ninth grade. Oliver was a member auditor of Canyon Senior Citizens Center and enjoyed playing 88 each day. He was a member and past president of Canyon Retired Teachers Association. Oliver was an avid Dallas Cowboys fan, often traveling to watch spring workouts.

Oliver married Linnie Beatrice Mills on July 29, 1941, in Parnell, Hall County. He married Willie Avary Osborn on May 26, 1987, in Canyon.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 45 years, Linnie in 1986; his parents, James Diggs in 1953 and Solia in 1917, when Oliver was 2 years old; three brothers, James Wilburn Diggs, Grady Diggs and Euell King Diggs; four half sisters, Josie Pilkinton, Nell Anderson, Pearl Grover and Rose Diggs; and a half brother, Spencer Diggs.

Survivors include his wife, Willie; two sons, Bobby Gene Diggs of Round Rock and Billy Dean Diggs of Amarillo; a daughter, Patricia Ann Diggs of Amarillo; and a grandson, Brett Dwain Diggs and wife, Kate, of Arlington, Va.

The family suggests memorials be to the building fund of First Baptist Church of Canyon, 1717 Fourth Ave., Canyon, TX 79015, (806) 655-2501, or Canyon Senior Citizens Association, 1719 Fifth Ave., Canyon, TX 79015, (806) 655-7197.

Visitation will be from 6 to 8 p.m. today at the funeral home in Canyon.

Amarillo Globe-News, May 8, 2006

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