



## Romus Valton Burgin

August 13, 1922 - April 6, 2019

In lieu of flowers, Valton's family requests memorials be made to the charity of your choice.

Romus Valton Burgin of Lancaster, Texas was born August 13, 1922, in Marquez, Texas to Joseph Harmon and Beulah Mae (Perry) Burgin. He passed from this life on April 6, 2019, at the age of 96.

Valton (R.V.) was preceded in death by wife, Florence Riseley Burgin, brother, Joseph Delton (J.D.) who was killed in France during WWII, sisters Lois Williams and husband Ories, and Ila Minkler and husband Homer and brother-in-law, Felix Freeman.

He is survived by daughters Margaret Ann (Maggie) Shepherd and husband David. Vicki Lynn Burgin, Vanessa Frier and husband Walt and Terrie Lee Burgin; grandchildren Kyle Shepherd and wife Janna, Paige Salinas and husband Greg, Todd Grubbs and wife Mary Neal and Ian Grubbs and partner Kelty; great grandchildren Cody, Wyatt, Abel, Mya and Ashton; sister Imogene Freeman, brothers William Edgar Burgin and Robert (Bob) Burgin and wife Tillie; brother-in-law Les Riseley and wife Lyn. He is also survived by his many nieces, nephews as well as great nieces and nephews.

Valton graduated from Jewett High School where he was Captain of the

football team and lettered all four years. He loved hunting and fishing, it was a passion of his from a young age and continued all of his life. He worked as a stationery salesman in the US Midwest after high school

He joined the USMC on November 13, 1943, and was assigned to the 9th replacement battalion and soon became a mortar man in K Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines (K-3-5), 1st Marine Division and fought in the Pacific theater at Cape Gloucester, on Peleliu for 30 days and Okinawa where he was promoted to Sergeant. Valton was awarded the Bronze Star on May 2, 1945, which he received for destroying a Japanese machine gun emplacement that had his company pinned down. He was wounded on May 20, 1945, and spent 20 days in the field hospital (he was awarded the Purple Heart) before rejoining K-3-5 for the remainder of the battle. He was also going to be awarded the Silver Star by Captain Haldane (AckAck) for taking out a pill box on Peleliu, but Haldane was killed by sniper fire before he was able to submit the paperwork.

Valton left Okinawa on October 16, 1945, on the USS Lavaca which took about 3 weeks to reach the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco and then on to San Diego where he spent a month before being processed back to civilian life. He lived with his sister, Ila, and got a job at the Ford Plant in East Dallas where he worked until he got a job with the Post Office on May 15, 1946, making \$.84 an hour. He worked his way up to supervisor and stayed there until the day he retired on August 13, 1977.

Before going to the battle of Cape Gloucester, he was assigned to training camp at Camp Balcombe near Melbourne, Australia where he met his beautiful wife, Florence, while on leave. They were married in Dallas, Texas on January 29, 1947, and had 4 beautiful daughters...Margaret Ann, Vicki Lynn, Vanessa Jo and Terrie Lee.

Valton (R.V.) is the author of the memoir *Islands of the Damned* and is portrayed in the HOB series "The Pacific". He enjoyed traveling in his retirement years. He had the privilege of going to Okinawa and Peleliu to help heal his heart from the war. After 2010, he also had the privilege of being a guest speaker at military balls, meetings and different events. He wanted the story of WWII Marines to be told to future generations so they would not forget.

# Cemetery Details

## Rawlins Cemetery

1632 W. Main St.  
Lancaster, TX

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

APR 12. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church  
305 E. Third  
Lancaster, TX 75146


# Tribute Wall

NM

“ I just finished listening to *Islands of the Damned* and am now finding out about Mr Burgin's passing. My heartfelt condolences to his family. My dad was in Vietnam; also a Marine. And now my youngest son has enlisted in the Corps and will be heading to boot camp soon. I'm a mess right now but I can say I'm thankful for R.V.'s book. It's a story that should never be forgotten nor should our boys ever be neglected. *Semper Fi*

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**Nick Marquez** - July 26, 2021 at 05:47 PM

 Don Springer

“ Sorry to hear this so late...met the man twice, bought his book and he signed for my son. He spent a lot of time talking to my son and made his day...Rest in Peace...

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**Don Springer** - February 07, 2021 at 01:37 PM

AR

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Alvin Roberts** - April 12, 2019 at 08:36 AM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Romus Valton Burgin.*



April 11, 2019 at 09:29 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Romus Valton Burgin.*



April 10, 2019 at 05:05 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Romus Valton Burgin.*



April 10, 2019 at 12:37 PM



“ *I was fortunate to have been friends with his daughters and spent many happy hours in their home. Vicki and I graduated together. I awoke this morning listening to a tribute to him on WBAP 820 radio.  
What a lovely family.  
Jodie Pettijohn*

**Jodie Pettijohn** - April 10, 2019 at 12:00 PM

DM

“ I met Sgt Burgin A few years back after I had seen him portrayed in the mini-series “The Pacific”. He gave me an autographed copy of his book “ Islands of the Damned” that I will treasure always. He was one of the last of the war heros from the Greatest Generation. It was my pleasure to have met him.

*Don Martin  
Cedar Hill*

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**Don Martin** - April 09, 2019 at 09:29 PM



“ America the Beautiful was purchased for the family of Romus Valton Burgin.



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April 09, 2019 at 12:09 PM

GH

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Glenn Hargrove** - April 09, 2019 at 07:16 AM

LY

*I knew Mr Burgin and spent time with him in his later years. He was a true hero. Louise Young Ph.*

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**Louise Young** - July 02, 2025 at 02:41 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Romus Valton Burgin.



April 08, 2019 at 06:03 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Romus Valton Burgin.



April 08, 2019 at 02:27 PM



“ Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Romus Valton Burgin.



April 08, 2019 at 02:26 PM



“ Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Romus Valton Burgin.



April 08, 2019 at 02:19 PM

SF

“ My condolences to the Burgin family and especially to Terrie my fellow LHS '73 classmate. Susan Dodds Freshour



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**Susan Dodds Freshour** - April 08, 2019 at 12:20 PM

JF

“ Jean Pickard and family purchased the Guiding Light Bouquet for the family of Romus Valton Burgin.



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**Jean Pickard and family** - April 07, 2019 at 04:57 PM

TA

“ Sgt. Burgin:  
Thank you for the opportunity to be your escort at the Dallas Veterans Day Parades, and to participate in the events to promote your book. I will miss and cherish the memories of the lunches we shared, and the many stories of your experiences in the Pacific- both Peleliu and Okinawa. You are truly from "the Greatest Generation". Thank you for all the laughs and memories -small world that you and Marilyn's dad worked together at the Post Office.  
Semper Fi  
Terry and Marilyn Aldridge

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**Terry Aldridge** - April 07, 2019 at 02:30 PM

AB

“ Audra and John Barrett purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Romus Valton Burgin.



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**Audra and John Barrett** - April 06, 2019 at 07:06 PM

TF

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.  
The Jones Family



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**The Jones Family** - April 06, 2019 at 06:59 PM

GH

*It was my honor to be Sgt. Burgin's chauffeur In the Veterans Day Parade in 2014. It has been my privilege to get to know him and make his friendship. He was truly one of the Greatest Generation who saved the world. I was fortunate to have visited with him about two months ago. Thank you Terrie for taking the time to correspond with me over the past four plus years. My thoughts and prayers are with you and the entire family. May he rest in peace.*

*Glenn Hargrove*

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**Glenn Hargrove** - April 09, 2019 at 12:31 AM

RL

*I met R V at the Houston Gun Collectors gun show in 2012 and I got 1 of his books. I spoke with him several times after that at the Woodlands gun shows and it was always a pleasure. Truly one the this countries GREATEST GENERATION R V a true HERO*

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**Rickey Lutz** - April 10, 2019 at 09:04 AM

DA

*Margaret and Vicki, I remember singing in the LHS choir with both of you and graduating in '68 with Vicki. I will never forget Margaret's fabulous soprano voice. I am sorry for your loss of a wonderful Dad and hero. Through the years I have heard many good things about him. Love and Blessings --*

*Dianne McBride Allen*

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**Dianne Allen** - April 11, 2019 at 10:02 AM

KW

*Sgt. Burgin came up many times in my research of the K/3/5 on Okinawa. My friend Hank Harper (Still alive and well at 93.) served in the K/3/5 with Sgt. Burgin from beginning to end of the campaign: Awacha Draw, Dakeshi, Wana, Half Moon, Shuri, etc. To me, R.V. Burgin was a real hero in all regards.*

*Kevin Woods*

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**Kevin Woods** - July 11, 2019 at 08:49 PM