

NO PHOTO Coates, Harry

Clairemore, OK

381st Inf Co C & D

Harry H. Coates passed away on Friday, Feb. 20, 2009. Harry was 87 years old. Services will be on Thursday, Feb. 26, 2009, at 10 a.m. at First United Methodist Church in Claremore. The Reverend Dr. Ray Crawford will officiate. Harry will be laid to rest at Wanette Cemetery in Wanette at 3 p.m. The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Wednesday from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Harry was born on Sept. 6, 1921, to Henry C. Coates and Anna L. (Huff) Coates in Murfreesboro, Tenn. He grew up in El Reno. Following high school, he attended the University of Oklahoma where he received his degree in Civil Engineering.

Harry served in the United States Army where he was selected to attend the Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP) at Illinois Institute of Technology. His Army service with the 96th Infantry Division took him to the Philippines where he made beachhead landings on Okinawa and Leyte. He was awarded numerous medals including a Bronze Star with two clusters and the Combat Infantry Badge.

While at the University of Oklahoma, Harry met Peggy Jane Fox. The couple married in June 10, 1949, at McFarland Methodist Church in Norman. They moved to Vicksburg, Miss. where they became the proud parents of their daughter, Kimberlee. From there they moved to Galveston, Texas where the family lived until moving to Claremore in 1992.

Harry was employed throughout his career as a Civil Engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers until he retired in 1980. He was a long time member of the Rotary Club having 15 years of perfect attendance. Harry also developed and coached a little league football program with the YMCA. He spent many hours as a volunteer with the Salvation Army and worked in several programs and committees for the First United Methodist Church.

A devoted husband, father and grandfather, Harry is survived by his wife, Peggy, his daughter Kimberlee Coates; and his grandson Jeffrey Coates; his beloved Yorkie, Maddie, of Claremore; and other relatives including numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, three brothers and one sister.