



## Ernest Eugene "Bugs" Cole

April 26, 1928 - December 26, 2023

Ernest Eugene "Bugs" Cole, 95 peacefully went to be with the Lord on December 26th, 2023 at the Mangum Nursing Home. Bugs was born April 26, 1928 to Earnest and Lillian Westbrook Cole in Duke, OK. He was given the nickname "Bugs" at a very young age by his older sister, Gwen. It was a nickname that would soon replace his given name among family and friends. Bugs joined the United States Marine Corps, November 27, 1945. He served in China where he was an ammunition guard. He left China and served tour of duty in Guam before returning to the United States with an Honorable Discharge in November 1948. He served in the reserves until November 1950.

On December 2, 1948, Bugs married the love of his life, Katie Belle Barker at Vernon, TX. They established a life of farming in the Reed, OK community and were married over 65 years at the time of Katie's passing in March of 2014.

After 15 years of marriage, Bugs and Katie adopted their only child, Nancy Denise. She quickly became the center of their lives. Bugs would later become "Da-Da" to his very special grandchildren, Kelsey and Cole. Bugs accepted Jesus and his Lord and Savior at the Sulphur Missionary Baptist Church in Reed, OK at the age of 39. He developed a love for hymns and singing. He, along with good friend Winfred Allen, led singing at Sulphur for many years. He continued that love even after moving to the nursing home in 2021. He was always ready to sing for anyone who would listen. He took

his singing programs very seriously and spend many hours preparing just the right song list. He is a current member of Trinity Baptist Church.

Bugs loves were his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, his wife, his daughter and her family, his country and his farm of 50 plus years. He also had a very special friend, Lavada Devol Thompson, who he shared the last few years of his life with.

Bugs was preceded in death by his wife, parents, sister, and a host of family members and close friends.

He is survived by his daughter and her family, Nancy, Jay, Kelsey, and Cole Lehr of Lawton, OK. A brother, Steve (Edna) Cole, Sharpsburg GA, a sister-in-law, Ruby Crawford, Altus, OK, and special friend Lavada Thompson, Mangum, OK.

In lieu of flowers, remembrance donations to the Reed Cemetery or Reed Community Center can be made at Great Plains Bank or Cattleman's Bank in Mangum, OK.

Graveside services are scheduled for Friday, December 29, 2023, 2:00 P.M. at Reed Cemetery, where the United States Marine Corp will perform Graveside Rites. Public viewing will begin Thursday, December 29, 2023, at 4:00 P.M. until 8:00 P.M., with family present to receive friends between 5:00 P.M. & 6:00 P.M.

Online condolences for Eugene can be made by visiting [www.peoplescooperativefuneralhome.com](http://www.peoplescooperativefuneralhome.com).

# Previous Events

## Graveside Services

DEC **29**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Reed Cemetery  
Reed, OK

# Tribute Wall

LP

“ Nancy, we are so sorry about Bugs but know you have many happy memories of him and Katie. Continue to cherish those good times and the special moments you all shared. May God give you the comfort that only He can at this time. Larry and Louise Paxton

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**Larry W Paxton** - December 28, 2023 at 02:04 PM

LC

“ In loving memory of my brother Bugs Cole. He was an American Patriot! He was admired and respected by all that new him. He is heaven now with Katie, singing together. Steve and Edna Cole.. . .

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**Larry Stephen Cole** - December 28, 2023 at 08:04 AM