



## Jess Willard Nowell

August 15, 2015

Jess Willard Nowell, age 99, a resident of Albuquerque since 1953, died Saturday, August 15, 2015. He is survived by his sister-in-law, Nevada Lasater; five nieces and their families; and one nephew and his family. Jess was preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, Beatrice; his parents, John and Sarah Nowell; two brothers, Johnny and Richard Nowell; and his sister, Bessie. He was born in 1915 at Soper, OK. Jess retired from the United States Air Force with 22 years of service during WW II and the Korean Conflict, including in China, Burma, and India as a flight engineer and a support group for security services. His last tour of duty was in Japan. Jess and Beatrice loved the Lord and were members of First Baptist Church. He was a beloved brother and uncle and will be deeply missed by all who knew him. Graveside Service will take place in Antlers, OK.

# Tribute Wall

“ Before I officially met Jess at First Baptist ABQ, I would see him as a tall, distinguished older member of the FBC congregation. Then I met Jess and his sister-in-law Nevada Lasater because of senior adult activities. I got to write a story about Jess for our senior newsletter and learned about his military career and fascinating time as a young soldier in WW II and serving in Burma and India. Another time at one of our CARE (senior ministry) programs I heard about how he and his wife Beatrice were married by a famous Southern Baptist minister Vaughn Rock.

What sealed our friendship was learning that he knew my father Herman Wagner at Kirtland Air Force Base in the 1950s. My dad did payroll for the Air Force. Jess shared how they worked in the same building and they would talk at breaks. My dad died in 1978 so there are so few people now who remember my dad. And to meet Jess and learn that he knew my dad and thought a lot of my dad was very important.

Another important friendship was our beloved Cohee Merriott who reached age 100 in October 2014 and went on to heaven in March 2015. I would bring Cohee over to visit with Jess and Nevada. She and Jess loved Oklahoma U football and they'd talk football. They'd also talk about their shared life experiences since they were only one year apart.

We had many wonderful visits in their den and on their back patio. Jess was always such a gentleman and wanted to walk me safely out to my car parked in their driveway. Jess loved the Lord and studied scripture.

On the last day of his earthly life, I brought Nevada over to Lovelace Hospice. We talked to Jess, read scripture and prayed. I told Jess that his savior Christ Jesus would take his hand as he entered heaven. Nevada and I said the words of the old hymn "On Jordan's stormy banks I stand and cast a wishful eye, to Canaan's fair and happy land where my possessions lie. I am bound for the promised land I am, who will come and go with me, I am bound for the

*promised land.*

*I know I will see Jess Nowell again when the Lord calls me to heaven. I'm so glad I got to know him here on Earth.*

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**Janet Saiers** - August 26, 2015 at 10:27 PM

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“*Jess and Beatrice were long time friends of my parents. Jess and my father served in the US Air Force together at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque. I was one of Beatrice's piano students from elementary school through high school. I remember each of them as being very kind Christian people who exemplified the best of the "greatest generation".*

*Michael (Mickey) Foris*

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**Michael Foris** - August 24, 2015 at 11:37 AM

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“*On behalf of the FRENCH Family of Companies we want to express to you our deepest condolences.*

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**Harold Hamilton** - August 20, 2015 at 02:53 PM