

NO PHOTO **Freeman, Leonard**

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FREEMAN Leonard Freeman, age 75, of Byars, OK, passed from this earthly life on January 5, 2001, after a brief bout with cancer. Funeral services will be held Monday, January 8, 2001 at the Stratford Church of Christ on Highway 19. The services will be officiated by Bill Jones, Bill Ballard, and Cole Tidwell. Interment will follow at the Byars Cemetery. Pickard Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Visitation daily until 8:00 p.m.

Leonard was born Sept. 4, 1925 at his parents' home on Church Street in Stratford. He was a member of the Church of Christ. He attended Stratford Schools, East Central Teachers College and graduated from Oklahoma University with a BA degree in Business. He served 2 years in the U.S. Army during World War II. A soldier in the 96th Infantry Division, Co. I "The Deadeyes," he received several medals of recognition including the Bronze Star. He has remained very close to the men of Company I and was to receive his 15 year certificate of attendance at the annual reunion this year.

After college, he returned to Stratford to work in the family grocery and dry goods business established in 1919 by his father, S.H. Freeman. Leonard was a fixture on Main Street Stratford, maintaining the family business and promoting Stratford through numerous civic and professional activities. For the past 28 years, he has been an Okla. Motor License Agent and active in the State Organization. He was very involved in the Stratford Chamber of Commerce and instrumental in developing the new Stratford Senior Citizens Building. He was preceded in death by his parents, S.H. and Jewel Freeman; 2 brothers, Silas and Loren and a sister Marquerite Perry.

He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Martha; a daughter, Lynne of Sacramento, CA; son, David of Byars; a sister-in-law, Leta Freeman; and his two precious grandchildren, Cash and Elizabeth Freeman of Ada; many nieces and nephews, 1st cousins, other family members and many friends. He lived his life with vigor, dignity and generosity and accepted his illness in the same manner. His family and friends have been left with the gift of his love forever.

Memorial donations may be made to the Stratford Church of Christ Library, P.O. Box J. or the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, Cancer Division, 825 N.E. 13th St. Oklahoma City, OK 73104.