



## Corliss Howard Currie

July 27, 1923 - January 6, 2021

CORLISS HOWARD CURRIE, 97, passed away on January 6, 2021, in Durant, Oklahoma. Corliss was born July 27, 1923, in Happy, Texas, to A M and Jessie Kreger Currie, early settlers in Happy. He was the last surviving child of six siblings. Siblings who pre-deceased him were Florence Myers Miller, Florene Pounds, Millard Currie, Corlyn Ausdemore, and Pauline Burris Miller. Corliss's wife of 73 years, Juanita Byrd Currie, pre-deceased him on May 29, 2020. Burial will be private at Highland Cemetery in Durant. A memorial service will be held at a later date when it is safe to gather.

Corliss is survived by two children: son Dwight Howard Currie and wife Jorja of Bennington, Oklahoma, and daughter Debra Juanita Shaw and husband Jim of Austin, Texas. There are four grandchildren: Chad Howard Currie and wife Rhonda of Bennington, Oklahoma, Kelly Shaw Wheelock and husband Josh of Austin, Texas, Amanda Currie Wallis and husband Chris of Allen, Oklahoma, and Amy Shaw Edwards and husband Dusty of Bentonville, Arkansas. There are seven great-grandsons: Graham, Jude, and John Gabriel Wheelock, Garrett and Brodie Wallis, and Bowie and Gus Edwards. There are three great-granddaughters: Madison Currie Collins and husband Johnathan, Kendall and Karoline Wheelock.

Corliss grew up in the Happy/Canyon area, attending schools in both towns. He bought his first calf at the age of 12 for his 4-H project. It was a love affair with cattle for life. He graduated from Happy High School just as World War II was beginning. He stayed home to take care of the family farm but finally enlisted in the Army in February 1945, just as the war was ending. He returned home in 1947 to marry Juanita Byrd. He continued to farm southwest of Happy, adding the first irrigation wells to the dry-land fields in 1941. He was instrumental in getting the natural gas pipeline throughout Swisher County. Having the foresight to see the end of the irrigation boom, Corliss began looking for ranch land—his life-long dream to have a cattle ranch. That ranch was found in 1963 southeast of Bennington, Oklahoma. He and Juanita moved permanently to Oklahoma in June 1969. Son Dwight joined them there in 1970. Together they carried on a cow/calf operation under the name of Currie Cattle Company. That relationship continued until 1999 when

Corliss semi-retired and turned the ranch over to Dwight and his son. Corliss continued with his interest in cattle by working as a cattle buyer for interested parties, as well as running his own small herds on leased ranches. He finally totally retired in 2015 when he sold his last batch of cattle. He was happiest when sitting watching his cattle out in the green pastures. He loved to share his observations about cattle behavior—calf nurseries, cow friendships, cow/calf relationships.

Corliss had many skills and interests. He was a farmer, rancher, carpenter, welder, mechanic, auctioneer, bank CEO and president, church elder, inventor. He only had a high school education but he was a life-long learner and loved to share his knowledge with others. If he was in a group, he was usually the one in charge. When no one else wanted to step up, he would take on the task and do it well. He was a planner, an organizer, a businessman who was proud to be known as a cattleman.

The family requests that any memorial gifts be sent to Westview Boys Home, 120 W Broadway St., Hollis, Oklahoma.

Arrangements are under the direction of Brown's Durant Funeral and Cremation Service.

# Cemetery

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## **Highland Cemetery**

1620 Cemetery Rd

Durant, OK,

# Comments

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“ AMANDA HENDERSON lit a candle in memory of Corliss Howard Currie



AMANDA HENDERSON - January 13 at 10:47 PM

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“ CORLISS WAS ONE OF THE FINIST MEN I EVER KNEW. HE WAS A GOOD NEIGHBOR AND FRIEND. WE LOGGED MANY MILES TOGETHER WHEN WE WERE FIGHTING TO SAVE OKLAHOMA WATER. WE HAVE MANY MEMORIES WITH JUANITA AND CORLISS, AND WILL MISS THEM VERY MUCH. JESS & JOY HOLLOWAY

JOY HOLLOWAY - January 11 at 06:32 PM



“ Dad (W.Y. Spence) will welcome Corliss into the Golden Gates. Corliss was a long time friend of our family. He was a remarkable "cattleman". He and Dad are already buying and selling cattle in Heaven. Mr. Currie was the first to call me when Dad passed away in 2001. My prayers are with your family.

Patty Spence Wilhite - January 11 at 10:39 PM

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“ Please accept our deepest sympathy during this difficult time. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Dan and Mary England

Mary England - January 11 at 06:28 PM

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“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



**Debra J Shaw** - January 10 at 01:05 PM

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“ AMANDA HENDERSON lit a candle in memory of Corliss Howard Currie



**AMANDA HENDERSON** - January 10 at 01:18 AM



“ Sweet man sure going to miss him, RIL my friend

**AMANDA HENDERSON** - January 10 at 01:20 AM

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“ I didn't know Mr Currie very well. But, I knew him as a Christian man, cattleman and a family man. We usually passed a few words each time we see each other. I know that our middle son had the greatest regards for him. Please accept my condolences to all the family. Virginia Weeks Davis.

**Virginia Weeks Davis** - January 09 at 03:27 PM



“ When I think of Corliss Currie, I think of the summers in the 1960s and our father (Clyde Cook) working the ranch for the Curries. The cow dogs, Peppy and Tip would help Corliss and Daddy work the cows. I was a little girl and scared of Corliss's cow dog because he would show his teeth to me every time I came near! Peppy only answered to Corliss. Corliss was always so very kind to me, even though I was just a freckled little redhead running around the ranch. I loved watching Corliss ride. It was like watching John Wayne, the way he handled a horse beneath him. What a wonderful and incredible man is now with his beloved wife and our Lord. Our family's condolences to all the Currie family. We love you all.

**Sheryl Cook Dougherty** - January 10 at 10:14 PM