Lt. Col. James J. Webber Sr.


He was born Jan. 25, 1931, in El Paso, Texas, to George and Mabel Brennan-Webber. He graduated from Austin High and UT El Paso.

He was then commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army and served 20 years in the Air Defense Artillery and the Field Artillery. He served in Lebanon, West Germany, South Korea, and Vietnam where he was awarded the Bronze Star with Combat "V". He retired to Pittsburg with his family. He was the Director of Community Development for the City for several years. He then returned to El Paso and managed a business venture, Southwest Reptile, Inc. Upon retiring for a second time, he moved to Phoenix where he drove a bus for the Deer Valley School District. His bus was known as "The Happy Bus".

He married Rita Ellison in 1953.

Survivors include a brother, Barry of Chandler, Ariz.; daughter, Vicki of Pittsburg; son, James Jr. of Coffeeville, Texas; daughter, Pamela of Eau Claire, Wis.; son, Paul of Poway, Calif.; son, Bill of Stafford, Va.; son, Matt of King George, Va.; daughter, Jo Ann of Burleson, Texas; five nephews; and 17 grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and a grandson, Ezekiel.

Services with full military honors will be held at 3 p.m. Dec. 5, 2005, at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C. Condolences may be mailed in care of Barry Webber, 6560 West Dublin Court, Chandler, Ariz. 85226; or electronically at http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/HappyBus/.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Bueler Mortuary of Chandler.

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