



John A. "A.J." Cruce, Jr.

October 22, 1930 - June 3, 2019

John A. "A.J." Cruce, Jr., age 88, passed away on June 3, 2019 in Tallahassee, Florida. A.J. was born in rural Madison County and raised on a farm.

He served two years in the United States Air Force. After leaving the Air Force, he married his sweetheart, Doris Studstill, and came home to Madison, Florida where he started his timber/logging business which he did for over 45 years. His favorite career, however, was farming. He had a passion for the land and cattle that he raised. He loved being on his tractor and just driving through the fields looking at his cows. Over the years, A.J. built many friendships through his personal and business relations, and everyone knew him by his signature laugh and smile.

A.J. is survived by his wife of 68 years, Doris Studstill Cruce, daughter, Sharon Cruce Richardson and husband Donnie of Tallahassee, FL, sons John Wallace Cruce and wife Kendall of Perry, FL, Adam Cruce and wife Brenda of Steinhatchee, FL; seven grandchildren, Matt Cruce, Kellie Cruce Gober, Dorie Cruce Foshee, Adrian Stewart Roberts, Caleb Cruce, Brad Richardson, and Melani Richardson Harder; fourteen great-grandchildren; three sisters, Florise Watson, Ruby Laurance, and Robbie Earp, along with numerous nieces, nephews, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John A. "Ab" and Almera Pickles Cruce, five brothers, Truman Cruce, Henry Cruce, William E. "Buddy" Cruce, Leonard P. "Sugar Boy" Cruce, A. W. "Pete" Cruce, and one sister, Lily Cruce

Pridgeon.

The family will receive friends from Wednesday from 5:00-7:00 p.m., June 5, 2019, and a Celebration of A.J.'s life will be held at 10:00 a.m. on June 6, 2019 at Beggs Funeral Home in Madison with Interment to follow at Evergreen Cemetery in Greenville. Following the Interment, the family ask that all friends and relatives please join them at Greenville Baptist Church for lunch.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in A.J.'s memory to Greenville Baptist Church or to Big Bend Hospice.