

**In Memoriam Of**  
**John E. “Jack” Jarrett**

Pvt. U.S. Infantry  
World War I  
May 14, 1893—Oct. 25, 1978

As a young, patriotic man from the south, (my father) enlisted in the Infantry during WWI. After completion of Basic Training and all other trainings, he shipped out to France.

While patrolling on his horse one day, the animal was ‘spooked’, threw him and then fell on top of him. He was injured badly and his hip was broken severely.

After being in the Veteran’s hospital for quite a long time in France, he was sent back to the U.S.A. and Honorably Discharged. From then on, he had to wear specially Government built, elevated shoes because the injury had left him with one leg shorter than the other. He always had a limp after that. However, he did not let this stop him. Soon, he was contacted by Washington, D.C., Arlington Cemetery and the U.S. Army. This group wanted to erect a monument to honor all soldiers that had lost their lives in WWI and were beyond identification. This would later become known as the WWI “Tomb of the Unknown Soldier”.

John E. “Jack” Jarrett joined the military, “Grave Registration Service”, which is used in each war, including the one our soldiers are in today. He had to report back to France, as the appointed head of the team.

His orders were to send back to the U.S.A the remains of an “unknown”. There was not a complete body in tact. He felt, along with his men, the only thing to do was to “build” or put together a body. The permission was granted. From the battlefields of France, a body was constructed, using body parts of men representing each of the branches of the service; Army, Navy, Marines and the Field Artillery or any remaining branches. All were included, none excluded. All branches were represented.

Jack Jarrett had one last thing to do. He wrote the word, WWI “Unknown” on the box, had a prayer and with sadness, shipped it to Washington. There it lies today in it’s final resting place along with the other ‘unknowns’ who fought and sacrificed for our freedom. May God bless each and everyone of our Veterans, Known or Unknown!

John E. “Jack” Jarrett returned home in 1922, married his sweetheart, Mabel Frances “Boots” Deckner. He enrolled mortician school, graduated and became a well known and much respected, licensed Mortician/Funeral Director for way over 50 years.

He was loved deeply and is missed terribly. He was a wonderful husband, father and grand-daddy, “Papa”.

-Written by his daughter, Mary Jarrett Corbett