

**Coleman M. Reese**

Coleman M. Reese, 84, of Osprey, Fla., and formerly of Highlands, passed away Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2005, in Florida.

He was preceded in death by two wives, Vera Williams Reese who died in 1956 and Lucille West Reese who died in 1990, his parents, four brothers and two sisters.

He was born in Highlands and moved to Osprey in 1954. He was retired from the U.S. Postal Service. He was a member of the 2nd Armored Division of WWII fame, known as Patton's own. He served in Africa, Sicily, England, France, Holland, Belgium and Germany, earning two invasion arrowheads, five battle ribbons, the Bronze Star, Certificate of Merit, Army Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, American Defense Medal, WWII Victory Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal and the Belgium Fourragere.

He was a member of First Baptist Church of Osprey and Highlands. He served as a deacon, Sunday school teacher, historian and held many other positions in the Gulf Gate Baptist Church for more than 20 years. He was an active member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Sarasota African Violet Society, the National Rifle Association, the National Right to Work Committee and the Second Armored Division Association, where he served as vice president.

He is survived by his wife, Christelle Reese of the home; one daughter, Cathrine E. Jerrell of Ft. Myers, Fla.; one brother, Wayne A Reese of Highlands; a stepson, Jackie Charping of Sarasota; two stepdaughters, Judy Charping Johnson of Labelle, Fla., and Denise Charping Hess of Ocala, Fla.; many nieces, nephews and grandnephews.

Funeral services were held Saturday, Feb. 12, at 2 p.m., at the First Baptist Church of Highlands. Rev. Dan Robinson officiated.

Burial was in Highlands Memorial Park Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to Gideons International, P.O. Box 5163, Sarasota, FL 34277-5163 or Franklin Gideon Camp, P.O. Box 372, Franklin, NC 28744.

Bryant Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Online sympathy messages may be sent by visiting [www.bryantfuneralhomes.com](http://www.bryantfuneralhomes.com).

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