



**Lawrence Wilson Hays Sr**

12/5/1918 – 2/17/2008

**90<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division**  
**359<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment**

Lawrence was born December 5, 1918 in Wise County, TX. He was the seventh child of Thomas Irving and Janetta Rebecca Phillips Hays.

Lawrence was a veteran of the Second World War serving honorably as part of the D-Day Invasion at Normandy. He was later wounded in France and was awarded the Purple Heart.

Following the war, Lawrence graduated from Abilene Christian College with a BA Degree and began a career in education as an elementary school teacher in Deming in 1949. He then earned his MA degree at Western New Mexico University and moved into school administration. It was during this time that he married Frankie Gerean Cook on June 10, 1958. Lawrence served as the principal of Bell Elementary School in Deming from 1958 until his retirement in 1983.