



John A. Petty

JUL 17, 1910 - AUG 9, 2007



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Rader
FUNERAL HOMES
OF LONGVIEW AND HENDERSON

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John A. Petty, 97, went to be with his Lord and Savior August 9, 2007. He was born July 17, 1910 in Siloam Springs, Arkansas to Alonzo Frank Petty and Clara Stultz Petty. He moved to Longview, Texas in 1947 to begin his own construction company, John A. Petty Contractor which later became Longview Construction Company. As the company expanded he paved streets, built highways, bridges and dams and laid water and sewer lines in Texas and Louisiana. He built much of the infrastructure still used today and helped establish the foundation for the economic growth of the City of Longview. His largest project was the construction of the levee system that protects the City of Dallas even today from flooding by the Trinity River. He was a member of the board of director of the YMCA, Cherokee Water Board, and a member of the Citizens Council of the Scott and White Memorial Hospital. In 1953 John was declared a Master of the Royal Secret of the 32nd Degree of Scottish Rite and in 1977 he was presented at the Ceremonial of Investiture with the Rank of Knight Commander of the Court of Honour at the Scottish Rite Temple in Dallas. In 1975 he was presented a Life Membership by Longview Masonic Lodge #404 and in 2003 he received his 50 years pin. He served as an elder on the official board of First Christian Church and regularly attended the Loyal Men Bible class for over 60 years. He enjoyed coaching little league baseball where his team of 11-year olds, the Eagles, won the State of Texas Little League Championship in 1952. His passion for supporting the youth of Longview was shown in the numerous students that were able to attend college due to his generosity and kindness ? most of which he helped anonymously. John's greatest passion was breeding and racing thoroughbred horses. He established the first Class A training track in East Texas. From 1970 through 1996 his Paradise Farms horses won over 300 races at tracks including Churchill Downs and Oakland



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Park. One of his favorite horses, Daytime Tudor, won the Texas Derby for three years olds at Louisiana Downs.

He was preceded in death by his daughter Nancy Kindle in 1966 and his loving wife of 67 years, Velma Petty, who passed away October 8, 1998.

John is survived by his daughter Elaine Allen, his former son-in-law Harry Allen; 3 grandchildren: Kathy Allen Linton and her husband Zeke of Longview, Steve Allen and his wife Cindy of Longview, and Keith Petty Kindle and his wife Susan of San Antonio; 5 great grandchildren: Chelsea Allen of Dallas, John Allen at the University of Texas, Nancy Lou Kindle of Missouri City, William Wayne Kindle and John Christian Kindle of San Antonio.

His family will always remember his favorite quote from Grantland Rice:

?For when the One Great Scorer comes to mark against your name,
He writes ? not that you won or lost ? but how you played the game.?

Funeral services will be 10 AM Monday in the Chapel of Rader Funeral Home, Longview, with Reverend David Farmer officiating. Interment will follow in Memory Park Cemetery.

The Family will greet friends at the funeral home Sunday, August 12, from 3 to 5 PM. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to First Christian Church, 720 N. Sixth St., Longview, TX 75601



Tribute Wall

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Anonymous posted:

We were so sorry to hear about Mr. Petty. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you during this difficult time.##imported-begin##Delores & David Morris##imported-end##

August 15 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Elaine and Keith, my thoughts and prayers are with you both and your families. I am distressed that I did not read the psper until almost five o'clock Sunday and it was too late to make it to visitation however these "golden years" make it difficult to attend the services Monday. I'll be thinking about you.##imported-begin##Virginia Kemper West##imported-end##

August 12 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

##imported-begin##Joan N. Rathbun##imported-end##

August 12 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

##imported-begin##Chuck & Winona Williams##imported-end##

August 12 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Elaine...reading about Mr. Petty's passing brought so many memories back...please accept my condolences..God BlessMary Evelyn##imported-begin##mary evelyn redmon salsman##imported-end##

August 11 at 7:00 PM



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Anonymous posted:

My deepest sympathy to the family; I was privileged to work for Mr. Petty out at Paradise Farms back in the mid 90's. I learned so much from him about the thoroughbred industry as he was a wealth of knowledge when it came to race horses. I enjoyed the stories he told from back in the day when he was a young boy traveling from Arkansas to Oaklawn Park to race horses. I can remember him coming down to the barn saying "I'd pay good money to have someone drive me to Louisiana Downs today?", and the best part about the payment was one of Mrs. Petty's pimento cheese sandwiches and a diet coke. Those were some of the best years, I'll always treasure the memories of Paradise Farms and Mr. & Mrs. Petty.##imported-begin##Dee Ann Lerma##imported-end##

August 11 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Our thoughts and prayers are with you.##imported-begin##Jud H. Weston##imported-end##

August 11 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

At one time, I was privileged to be the Assistant Teacher of the Loyal Mens Bible Class at First Christian Church and that was how I got to know John A. Petty for he truly was a Loyal Man who loved the Lord & it showed! When I was privileged to bring the Bible lessons, he was always gracious in expressing gratitude for my being with them. I treasure my Memories of him & Mrs. Petty & Elaine. John Petty was loved dearly at First Christian Church, Longview.##imported-begin##Millie Harper##imported-end##

August 10 at 7:00 PM



Anonymous posted:

Steve, Cindy, and Family, Our thoughts and prayers are with you and yours during this tough time. I challenge you to cherish the many, many memories you have of your grandfather. He lived a long life and touched many, many lives during that time. In my early years at Texas Eastman, I heard a lot about his construction company and was amazed by all that he accomplished. I had the privilege of meeting him a few times many, many years ago and sensed a real love of life. God bless - - - we love and miss you all! Jeff and Debra##imported-begin##Jeff & Debra Johnston##imported-end##

August 10 at 7:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring John by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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