



# William Charles "W. C." Carlow

JAN 2, 1933 - AUG 11, 2007



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# William Charles "W. C." Carlow

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**W** C. Carlow was born January 2, 1933, at home on a small farm in the community of Lanesport in Williamson County, Texas.

He passed away on Saturday, August 11, 2007, at the age of 74, after a five year battle with cancer.

He was the eldest of William Albert and Mabel Mary Tidwell Carlow's four children. W. C. attended schools in Friendship, Granger, Thrall, and was a 1950 graduate of Taylor High School, where he was known for his exceptional and gifted woodworking and leathercraft abilities.

Mr. Carlow joined the U. S. Navy in March of 1951, taking basic training in San Diego, CA. He was assigned to the Corpus Christi Naval Air Station. He applied for drafting school and was trained as a draftsman in San Diego. Later, he was ordered to serve aboard the U. S. S. Markab until he was honorably discharged in March of 1955 with rank of Draftsman 2nd class.

After the Navy, Mr. Carlow worked in Dallas for Temco Aircraft and Lone Star Boat Co. He then attended Paris Junior College, Paris, TX, and Lamar Tech in Beaumont.

He also worked as a deckhand aboard a tugboat, then as a draftsman for Magnolia Petroleum, a division of Mobil Oil Co., before transferring to the S. S. Socona.

Mr. Carlow started his first business, Carlow Iron and Metal in 1958. Other companies he owned and operated include, C & C Wrecking Co., Hi Lite Products, Inc., Resinex Equipment Inc., and Resinex Designs.

Business memberships included, American Rental Association, Texas Rental Association, Portable Sanitation Association, where he served two terms on the Board of Directors, and Founder and First President of Fiberglass Fabrication Association, now known as American Composites Manufacturers Association, of which he was also awarded a lifetime membership in 1985.



## Obituary

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After selling his business in 1985, he continued to work in management and designing various products for manufacture, until his retirement on December 31, 2002.

While he enjoyed many different hobbies during his lifetime, he probably, spent more time on genealogy than all the rest.

For the last fifteen years, W.C. had been writing his life's story in book form, "It Is Hard to Miss Something You Never Had".

Funeral services for W. C. Carlow, 74, of Gladewater, will be held at 12 Noon, Wednesday, August 15, 2007, in the Chapel of Rader Funeral Home, 1617 Judson Rd., Longview, with Mr. Earl Roberts, a cousin-in-law of Mr. Carlow, from Madisonville, TX., officiating. Interment will follow in Rosewood Park Cemetery.

Mr. Carlow was preceded in death by a daughter, Cecilie Gayle Carlow, parents, and brother, Douglas Delano Carlow.

He is survived by his wife, Fonda Jane Ryan Carlow, who he married on January 21, 1959, in Athens, TX; son, Kevin Keith Carlow of Gladewater, TX; his loving sidekick "Curly"; sister, Val Jean Carlow Blair and husband, Roy, of Seagoville, TX; brother, Kenneth Terry Carlow and wife, Linda, of Alvarado, TX; as well as many other loving family and friends.

The family will receive friends at the funeral home, Tuesday evening, from 6 to 7 PM.

The family asks that memorial donations be made to the Arthur Temple Cancer Center, 1201 W. Frank Avenue, Lufkin, TX, 75904.

Special thanks go out to Beverly Jernigan; Anna Gonzales; Michelle Phelan, Nurse Practitioner, Overton Brooks Veterans Hospital, Shreveport, LA.; Dr. Jon Caster, Lehman Eye Center, Nacogdoches, TX; Dr. Sidney Roberts and staff; Temple Cancer Center, Lufkin, TX; Dr. Ronald Scott, Longview Cardiology; and Care Team Home Health staff.

A memorial guestbook may be signed at [www.raderfh.com](http://www.raderfh.com)



## Tribute Wall

**William Charles "W. C." Carlow**

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**Anonymous** posted:

Fonda & Kevin I know I'm probably the last to sign but I just want you to know how much I've been thinking of you over the past month. I think about you two without WC and I wonder how you are and what you are doing to move on with your lives. WC was how I knew him and I still chuckle every time I think of him. He was always kind to me in a way that was his own. I am truly sorry I could not be there for you both but I am praying for your comfort and peace that only God can give. Please know I am thinking of you and lifting you up in my heart. I hope to see you both again sometime soon. Much Love Lisa##imported-begin##Lisa Plymell Pryor##imported-end##

September 18 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

While I never met Mr. Carlow, I have heard about him from Fonda and after reading some of the memorial statements, I know he was a wonderful man. I want to extend my sympathy and prayers to the family.##imported-begin##Millie Ritter##imported-end##

August 30 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

I will always remember the help and friendship we at WaterCut had with W.C. He was a great help on some of the drafting projects. We will miss the quick drop in visits he would give us while sharing some of his life experiences or just to share a joke with a smile.##imported-begin##Joe Wise##imported-end##

August 19 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Dear Fonda we are thinking of you and pray God will look after you, and your life we be full of happiness again. We always enjoyed being with you and W.C. at the Class of 1950's reunions. Hope you can come back to Taylor sometime. Thank you and W.C. for helping us with the estate. Leon really spoke highly of W.C. and will miss him. Love you! Sylvia and Leon##imported-begin##Leon & Sylvia Slagle##imported-end##

August 17 at 7:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

**William Charles "W. C." Carlow**

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**Anonymous** posted:

Fonda and Kevin: We just read in the Madisonville Meteor about the death of W.C. We send our sincere love and sympathy. Those early days in Madisonville were made easier because of your friendship.##imported-begin##Jerry and Pat Harper##imported-end##

August 16 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Fonda, thinking of you at this time. I do understand your loss. Jack passed away August 23, 2003.##imported-begin##Florence Friend##imported-end##

August 16 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Fonda & Kevin, I am so sorry to hear of WC passing. I feel glad that I was able to see him at Grandpa's funeral in May. I know Grandma Lottie was glad to see him. We send our love to you and all of your family all the way from Florida.Lisa, Dennis, Kaitlin, and Cody##imported-begin##Lisa Purnell##imported-end##

August 14 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Fonda and Kevin Our love and prayers are always with you. There is not enough words for us to express our deepest condolences. Rest assured he is in a better place without pain and suffering. We love you and always carry you near our hearts.##imported-begin##Arnold and Anna Gonzales##imported-end##

August 14 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Dear Fonda & Family:We read in the Taylor Press yesterday about William Charles.We are so sorry and you have ourdeepest sympathy. We will certainlymiss him. I know he worked so hardon the Tidwell genealogy but heloved doing it and we all appreciatehis hard work. We will keep youin our prayers.Sincerely,Jodie & Trona Tidwell Blaha##imported-begin##Jodie & Trona Blaha##imported-end##

August 14 at 7:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

**William Charles "W. C." Carlow**

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**Anonymous** posted:

##imported-begin##Johnny & Jo Wilson##imported-end##

August 14 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Fonda, Kevin, Val and Kenneth,Loved WC very much and will miss him. Sorry to have not been able to come down. Love you all.Deb##imported-begin##Debby Carlow##imported-end##

August 14 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Fonda, Kevin, Val Jean, Kenneth Terry and families,I have always loved the family as if they were my own. William Charles was always a little special to me. He was very intelligent and only occasionally was he "full of hot air." He told lots of stories. Occasionally some them seemed a little fabricated such as the time he ended part of a conversation with, "about that time a flock of bird dogs flew over..."Charles and I were given a ride from the airport in New Orleans once in his old car...the one with almost no floorboard...the one you could see the tires through and all the road that rolled under you...a little scary.I always loved William Charles and enjoyed his intelligence and his entertaining ways.I love you all and am sorry I could not be there with you. I miss seeing everyone.##imported-begin##Gwen Carlow##imported-end##

August 14 at 7:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

**William Charles "W. C." Carlow**

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**Anonymous** posted:

Fonda and Kevin, Val and Kenneth, et al, We love all of you and will miss WC and his always interesting observations about life. I greatly enjoyed working with him in the "Toilet Factory" that may sound funny to outsiders. I learned lots about fiberglass manufacturing from him, and that experience was helpful to me. He was a great teacher and always encouraging about my projects. WC always had a little twist of wry humor and seemed to salt most of what he said with a little bit of cynicism...just enough to be challenging to one's thinking. He always impressed me as the guy that you could look up to. Even as a kid I was impressed by seeing his model airplanes hanging in the room off to the side of the house. I still envision what I think was a Piper Cub. When he lived with us in the 50's he talked about this new material, "fiberglass" and how strong it was. I tested a sample without his knowledge one day by placing it under my Dad's rear right car tire. It broke. I thought he may be wrong, but he understood what it was supposed to do even if I didn't. I want to read his book ?It Is Hard to Miss Something You Never Had? and to review his geneology material some day. He is something we all had, to our benefit and pleasure. We definitely will miss him. I look forward to seeing him again 'cause no matter what it may seem to some folks, he will rise again someday. We will have lots of things to talk about and do. We love you all.##imported-begin##Jerry Carlow, Sandra and Family##imported-end##

August 14 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Fonda: My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. This phase in our lives is never easy but I know that God will take care of you. Keep the faith and continue to trust in God. May God continue to Bless you. Love you!##imported-begin##Linda Brooks##imported-end##

August 14 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Fonda and Kevin, It was so wonderful talking with yall Monday night. Even though circumstances keep us from being able to make it to TX to be with you at this time, please know that our hearts and thoughts are and will be with you. I know your hearts are both saddened and heavy, remember to keep in mind the wonderful memories you have of W.C., because as long as you keep those in your hearts he will always be close. We may be seperated by many miles, remember, I am as close as a phone call. Love Shannon and Kelly##imported-begin##Shannon Bratcher##imported-end##

August 13 at 7:00 PM



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**Anonymous** posted:

I saw the father through the eyes of those who loved him more than life. He instilled in his son Kevin the idea tha method is much, technique is much, but toghether with inspiration you can counquer all. His family has done this with Mr. Carlow's leadership. May God hold each of them in the palms of his hands, calm & heal thier broken hearts, & rekindle the wonderful spirit of this family.##imported-begin##Minn Daly##imported-end##

August 13 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Kevin I am so sorry to hear of your Dad's death. I know he fought courageously the last several years. Please take care of yourself. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Candy##imported-begin##Candy Rogers##imported-end##

August 13 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

May he rest in eternal peace. Take care of yourself.##imported-begin##Don Powell##imported-end##

August 13 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

##imported-begin##Harris Ryan##imported-end##

August 13 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Fonda and KevinTo let you know my thoughts and prayers are there with both of you at this very difficult and sad time in your lives. I have many fond memories of William Charles; however, my fondest memories go back to our childhood. At the age of four, I became an aunt when he was born. Although I was his aunt, he always seemed more like a brother to me rather than a nephew as we spent many happy hours playing together when we were young. Our memories are something no one can take from us, and I hope yours will be of great comfort to both of you in the future. Love you.Melba##imported-begin##Melba Zett##imported-end##

August 13 at 7:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

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**Anonymous** posted:

Fonda, Kevin, Val Jean, and Kenneth Terry, The circumstances of our lives tend to create time and distance between family members, but bonds remain strong. W C's passion for genealogy did so much to keep the Powell and Alvena Tidwell family united and well documented. I hope you will be comforted by knowing how much his work meant to the lives of so many of us. Janice Rosenbalm Smith W C's cousin##imported-begin##Janice Smith##imported-end##

August 13 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Kevin, I am really sorry to hear about your Dad. I will be praying for you and your family. Please let me know if there is anything I can do. Lisa P&G Tyler Area##imported-begin##Lisa Trantham##imported-end##

August 13 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Our deepest sympathy to Fonda and all of the family and friends of William Charles. I enjoyed doing online genealogy research on our Carlow family name with William Charles. He had much more patience than I did for recording the results. I like to hope I contributed to his effort. With Fondest Remembrance Charles and Cindy Carlow##imported-begin##Charles & Cindy Carlow##imported-end##

August 13 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Dearest Fonda and Kevin, It's been difficult to compose a letter of remembrance for Mr. Carlow, and I am saddened not only by the loss of your beloved husband and father, but also by the fact that I cannot be present with you. So, please know that these words are from my deepest heart and are written with heartfelt sympathy. When you all moved to White Oak when Kevin and I were freshmen in high school, I remember meeting Mr. Carlow in your home on Cates Lane. He, like your whole family, was always so welcoming to me and was always interested in chatting or telling a story. I loved that he was always reading in the evenings when I would visit. I remember after you all moved onto Bingham Street, I came over one night, and Mr. Carlow was sitting in his chair reading the book entitled, "Texas." At that time, I couldn't imagine anyone ever reading or much less finishing a book that thick, but he certainly did, and he probably did it in a matter of hours not days!! Regardless of what he might be involved in when I would arrive for my visits, he would always put aside his interests to talk to me. Mr. Carlow and I had some great dialogues, and he loved to tell stories of events or happenings that he had experienced. Sometimes, I would get tickled listening to Mr. and Mrs. Carlow talking about a trip or something they had experienced together, and I was always amazed that NOT ONE detail was overlooked in any story. They would paint a picture of some happening or event, and you could honestly picture yourself there with them!! It was uncanny and very cool. As unique as the two of them were together, it is without question that they were in sync! I suppose 48.5 years together will do that for any couple. Another thing I grew to appreciate about him was his ability to be involved in a conversation, peripherally- never saying a word, and at just the appropriate time, he would chime in with some incredible pearl of wisdom or some quick witted one-liner- whatever the given situation. Ironically, it was always an appropriate interjection! Now, that is a gift that can't be learned. I'm so grateful to have been a part of Mr. Carlow's life. I know he cared, deeply, about me and he was always interested in the "goings-on" in my life. I think Mr. Carlow was a man to be admired. I know he didn't have the easiest upbringing, and I know that sometimes life seemed to knock him right between the eyes. But, with all of my heart, I feel that he was a man with great integrity, perseverance, and a "never give up" attitude and approach to living. So, Fonda and Kevin, I suppose I'll close for now, but I'm so honored to have been asked to write this remembrance for W.C. Carlow- a man I loved and respected. I know his last years were tough and sometimes they were horrific. I, simply, cannot imagine all that you suffered with him. But you, both, know my heart, and I believe beyond a shadow of a doubt, that Mr. Carlow's suffering is over, and he is well, and he IS NOT hurting anymore. At this moment, I believe he has experienced the eternal mercy of God, and he is at peace! I like to think that he has been hugging on Cecile for the past couple of days, and they haven't even let go yet!!! My prayer for you is that you, too, will experience peace despite your terrible loss and overwhelming sorrow. I love you, tremendously, and my heart is with you today....Always, Brendan##imported-begin##Brendan McKinney##imported-end##

August 12 at 7:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

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**Anonymous** posted:

We were so sorry to hear that William Charles had passed away. I know that you will miss him in your life, but he will always be in your heart, as he will be in ours. Love, Saverion and Mona##imported-begin##Mona Gaudiano##imported-end##

August 13 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Although we can't be there with you, know that our hearts are and they ache along with yours. Love Lottie and Wilma##imported-begin##Lottie & Wilma Smith##imported-end##

August 13 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

W.C. had courageously been fighting cancer for the past five years. And we mourn his loss and extend our sympathy to Fonda and Kevin. W.C. was founder and CEO of Hi Lite, Inc. which was a manufacturer of portable fiberglass restrooms and related equipment which was marketed nationally. In addition to overseeing Hi Lite, Inc., W.C. was a founding member, director and first president of the FFA Fiberglass Fabrication Association which today is named ACMA American Composites Manufacturing Association with worldwide membership. ACMA has been serving the Composite Industry for the past 25 years. He was a member of the PSAI Portable Sanitation Association International where he helped to promote clean, sanitary portable restrooms for industry, construction, military and special events. His leadership in past years with both organizations will surely be missed. But most of all W.C. was a very dear friend. We will surely miss him. He and his family are very special to us. We shared many good times a lot of hardwork and laughs together. These memories are cherished forever. Frank & Mary Jane Ranson##imported-begin##Frank & Mary Jane Ranson##imported-end##

August 12 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Knowing and working with W.C. was certainly one of the high points of my life. He will be missed and never forgotten. I'm certain he made a great impact on the life of everyone he met.##imported-begin##Rex Hackley##imported-end##

August 12 at 7:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

**William Charles "W. C." Carlow**

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**Anonymous** posted:

WITH ALL MY SYMPATHY AND LOVE. NELDA##imported-begin##NELDA RYAN##imported-end##

August 12 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

You and the family are in our thoughts and prayers. Please know we love you and will be with you in our hearts even though we can't be there in person. Love You!##imported-begin##Margaret Cunningham##imported-end##

August 12 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Just wanted you & Kevin to know I was thinking about you. Love you both. Love, Janell##imported-begin##Janell Trapp##imported-end##

August 12 at 7:00 PM



**Anonymous** posted:

Dear Fonda and Kevin, We were so sorry to hear of WC's passing. We pray that he is now at peace and that fond memories will sustain you in the days to come. We did have some good times together. We will be unable to attend the services. Earl is recovering from neck surgery so traveling is restricted. God Bless you both.##imported-begin##Earl & Terrilee Maudlin##imported-end##

August 12 at 7:00 PM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

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



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