



Meredith Earl Roberts

OCT 10, 1936 - JAN 2, 2014



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Rader
FUNERAL HOMES
OF LONGVIEW AND HENDERSON

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Meredith Earl Roberts

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Meredith Earl Roberts, Jr. died peacefully with family at his side on January 2, 2014, after a brief battle with cancer. He was 77. After a private graveside ceremony, a memorial service will be at 1:30pm on Tuesday, January 7, 2014, at First Baptist Church in Longview, Texas, with the Rev. David English presiding.

Arrangements are under the direction of Rader Funeral Home.

Born October 10, 1936, Earl was the first child of Meredith Earl Roberts, Sr. and Myra Lynn Ray Roberts. He was preceded in death by his parents and in-laws David and Nola Hull.

Survivors include his wife of 55 years, Elizabeth Hull Roberts; children, Murray Earl Roberts, David Hull Roberts and wife, Amanda Kuhlman Roberts, all of Longview, Texas; grandchildren, Laura Catherine Roberts, Murray Wythe Roberts, Cameron Elizabeth Roberts, Jonas Kuhlman Roberts, and Meredith Ann Roberts; sister, Claire Roberts English and husband, Gayle, of Longview; brother, James Franklin Roberts and wife, Judy of Dallas; brother-in-law David C Hull, Jr. and wife, Stormy of Houston.

Earl was born and reared in Longview, graduating from Longview High School in 1954, Baylor University with a B.A. in 1957 and from the University of Texas Law School with a J.D. in 1959. He practiced law in Longview for more than 50 years which began in 1960. His practice focused on business planning and corporate law, commercial litigation, public law and employment law. He represented the City of Longview for a number of years, concentrating on water law, eminent domain and all aspects of advising the City Council and staff on varied municipal law issues. For more than 35 years, Earl served as attorney for the Sabine River Authority of Texas and in that capacity headed the legal efforts of acquisition of land for the Lake Fork Reservoir as well as being involved in all aspects of water planning and development for the Sabine River Authority. In addition, he served as President of the Gregg



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County Bar Association in 1964. Service to his community was a value that was instilled in him by his parents. Consequently, he served as President of the Longview YMCA Board of Directors, 1967-68; chairman of the board of the Longview Chamber of Commerce (now the Longview Partnership) in 1989; as a member of the Board and Executive Committee of the Longview Economic Development Foundation; as longtime member of the Board of Trustees of LeTourneau University, 1967-1981 and 1992-2007 and until his passing as LETU Board Member Emeritus; as Deacon and Chairman of the Deacons (1988) at First Baptist Church of Longview; as long time Sunday school teacher in Senior adult Department; and as a member of the Board of Directors for the Hiway 80 Rescue Mission, 2003-2010.

Earl was elected Mayor of the City of Longview, Texas in 2000 and served until 2003. During that time his focus was the development of water resources in Northeast Texas, reduction of the city's debt, acquisition of land and development of Lear Park, initiated Longview's public transportation, and the divisive smoking ban. Both as Mayor and later as a private citizen, Earl advanced successful efforts to delay the deregulation of electric deregulation in Northeast Texas.

As many early morning risers knew, Earl was an avid runner. He could constantly be found running the streets in the early morning with his fellow group of runners affectionately known as "The Pack of Fools". In addition to numerous local races, he also participated in over 40 marathons, including 5 times in the Boston Marathon. The family would like to thank Dr. Larry Frase of the Texas Oncology Cancer Center and all of the wonderful doctors, nurses, aids and staff at Heartsway Hospice. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Earl Roberts Endowed Scholarship Fund at LeTourneau University or Hiway 80 Rescue Mission.



Events


Meredith Earl Roberts

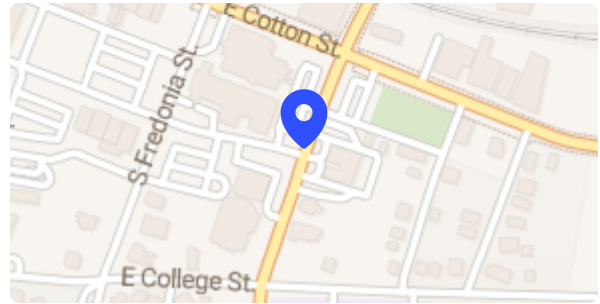
OCT 10, 1936 - JAN 2, 2014

Memorial Service

 **Tuesday**, January 7, 2014

 1:30 PM CT

 **First Baptist Church**
South at Green, Longview TX





Tribute Wall

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RR

Richard Reed lit a candle in honor of Meredith.

Dear Betty, Just learned of Earl's passing and we are so very sorry for your loss. Though we had not seen you guys in recent years we still think of you and enjoyed the family Christmas card pictures each year. Give our love to Clair, Jimmy and all the family. You will be in our prayers. Your Cousin, Richard and Shirley Reed



January 18 at 10:45 AM

JA

Joan Anderson posted:

Dear Betty: I just learned of Earl's passing a few minutes ago. I am so very sorry for your loss. He will be missed by all who knew him. You have my deepest sympathy. Joan Anderson

January 9 at 1:29 PM

MD

Mara Diane Davis posted:

Dear Betty, I just found out about this horrible loss for you. My heart is heavy knowing that Earl is gone. What a wonderful man and a wonderful friend. He will be missed by everyone who knew him. I only wish I had known earlier. Please feel free to call me if I can offer any support whatsoever. I will always be available to you. Diane Moffett Davis (760) 500-0153. God bless you and keep you in this time of grief.

January 9 at 8:09 AM

BS

Bob Satterwhite posted:

Earl Jr. was one of a kind. He was his own man despite being a "junior." He was one of the unique individuals who taught Sunday School at First Baptist in the 60's to a group of young wise guys (no names to protect the not so innocent). A lot of our church teachers retired after dealing with our class as we came through. We questioned authority. He was able to deal with it. Years later, I found myself opposite him in a case involving the Cherokee Water Company in an ad valorem dispute with the Gregg County Appraisal District. We had a priceless moment. It was perfect. He peaked in my cubby hole where I was slaving away pushing the rock up the mountain like Sisyphus. He was a kind man, but took no prisoners. I learned a lot, early on. May his soul rest in peace.

January 7 at 9:58 AM



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KT

Karen Tutt posted:

Mr. Earl Roberts will be greatly missed. We pray for peace for the Roberts' family. Sincerely, Tom and Karen Tutt

January 7 at 9:35 AM

NL

Nancy Ables & Ada Fuller Lyon posted:

Dear Roberts Family, Our thoughts & prayers are with you today. Earl was a special friend as the Roberts & Fuller families were two of the pioneers of Longview. He will always be remembered by many. May God bless & give you peace in this time of sorrow. Love, Ada Laverne Fuller Lyon & Nancy Lyon Ables

January 7 at 8:45 AM

CE

Chuck Ewings posted:

I had the great pleasure to work with Earl and am blessed to have spent what little time I had with him. My prayers are with the family during this difficult time. God bless.

January 7 at 3:58 AM

RD

Rita Roarty (Miss Double R) posted:

I have many good memories of running with Earl and the "Pack of Fools". I am just stunned and saddened to hear of his passing. The running trails in Longview will be lonelier without Earl. Bless you.

January 7 at 3:22 AM

DL

Dale Lunsford posted:

LeTourneau University is a more faithful and effective institution because of the contributions of Earl. He was first appointed to our Board of Trustees nearly 50 years ago and served in many roles. Most recently he had been serving on our Finance Committee. You would think after that long record of service one might be tired, but not Earl -- he was a distance runner. Even in the months before this cancer took hold, Earl was enthusiastic about the future of LETU; he told me more enthusiastic than he had ever been. He saw the opportunity for both LETU and Longview to flourish together. He has inspired me to run the distance also and seek the best future for both the city and for the university that has been a part of Longview for nearly 70 years.

January 6 at 11:14 AM



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Anonymous sent a Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet to the Roberts family.



January 6 at 9:39 AM



Joyce Morris posted:

Claire, My prayers are with you and your family at this sad time. The Roberts family's positive influence is an ever-widening circle that can hardly be calculated. I still benefit from your mom's wise and caring attention. Thanks to you and Earl for carrying forward the values passed to you. Sincerely, Joyce Jones Morris

January 6 at 7:25 AM



Lisa Harris Patterson posted:

My thoughts and prayers are with your family at this time. May God give you His peace. Lisa Harris Patterson

January 6 at 6:24 AM



Paula Kaplan posted:

Dear Roberts family, Longview has lost a giant supporter. Earl was always looking out for the city he loved and wanted to be a better place for his kids and grandkids. It was my pleasure to have known him all of my life. Your family will be in our prayers. Chuck and Paula Kaplan

January 6 at 5:29 AM



Jimmy Findley posted:

Dear Roberts Family, I have many good memories of Earl that I cherish very much. He was a good friend. remember " The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart" Jimmy Findley

January 6 at 2:18 AM



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SL

Suzann Little posted:

Dear Roberts family, Earl was "Mr Longview", giving so much of himself in everything he did. Please find comfort in knowing you will meet again. Take care and God Bless. Sincerely, Suzann Sandifer Little
dtr Clay Godfrey Little
We were very active with Longview Community Theatre as was Earl. Mailing address: POB 544 East Haddam, CT 06423

January 5 at 7:04 PM

JV

Jeff Vanderbilt posted:

Dear Roberts Family: I am a better man having known Earl for 30+ years. Many miles and almost as many memories. I counted Earl as one of my very best friends and will miss him deeply. Jeff Vanderbilt (Bowsch)

January 5 at 3:17 PM

LT

Linda Tucker posted:

Dear Claire, I have always admired your family as special, caring people who shared their gifts with the community. I remember Earl as your friendly, smiling big brother, and I know you will miss him so much. Hold fast to faith, and remember that many of us are saying prayers on your behalf. Love, Linda Ellis Tucker

January 5 at 1:17 PM

DO

Donna Oates posted:

The memories I have of Earl Roberts always make me smile. Bob and I taught high school Sunday School for many years with Earl. We were having a swimming party with our youth when the kids decided to throw Earl in the pool... clothes, blue tennis shoes ...etc. of course he was soaking wet but the funny thing was those blue tennis shoes dyed his feet blue. For the remainder of the party he walked around laughing about his blue feet. Even though I no longer live in Longview, I knew that when visiting First Baptist I would always be greeted by a smile and a kind word from Earl. He will be missed... Donna Rhodes Oates

January 5 at 1:09 PM



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KD

Karen Daly posted:

What a wonderful legacy Earl left for Longview. I am very grateful for all of his contributions including the time he served as Mayor. I learned a lot from him, laughed at his dry sense of humor, and stayed amazed at his energy and intellect. I should feel guilty (but I don't) about threatening to strangle him if I heard him and his pack of fools talking about me when they ran on the trail by my house. I could often hear them during their morning run and he would often say they would be discussing the projects I was working on for the City. I consider it an honor to have known Earl. Thank you for sharing him with us and my prayers are with you as you reflect on all of the memories of him. Karen Daly former Assistant City Manager

January 5 at 1:08 PM

MM

Mary Mccarron posted:

DEAR CLAIRE, I AM SO SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT EARL. JUST WANTED YOU TO KNOW THAT MY THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU. LOVE MARY KOCUREK MCCARRON

January 5 at 1:02 PM

DM

Diane Porter Mccameron posted:

Dear Claire, my heart is warmed by the many wonderful things I have read about your brother. It is too bad that we often do not share our good thoughts about one another sooner. I am sorry about his passing, and we know he is in a good place, so remember the good he shared with the world and be uplifted. Be supported by the good wishes of your friends and family, and know my prayers are with you and Earl's soul. Diane Porter McCameron

January 5 at 8:39 AM

PO

Patty Mccarthy Owens posted:

Farewell for now, my friend. May God bless you and let his face shine upon you. Sincerely, Patty McCarthy Owens, your classmate of 1954.

January 5 at 8:33 AM



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RM

Richard Manley posted:

Earl was one of the first people I met when our family moved here in 2002. He always treated me as though I had been here all my life. In addition to his leadership and wise counsel, I will mostly miss his friendship.

January 5 at 8:05 AM

PE

Patricia Roberts Edmondson posted:

To the Roberts family, my sincere sorrow for you in the passing of Earl. I always found him to kind and gentle. Longview has lost a valued citizen. May he rest easy in the arms of our Lord. Pat Roberts Edmondson

January 5 at 8:05 AM

GG

Gordon Green posted:

Claire, I hope you and your family are feeling the support of our Class of '57. In our various ways, we seek to lighten your load, by adding our sympathies and thereby sharing a bit of your burden. You, and all of the Roberts family, have given much to our Class and our community. Thanks to your Mom and Dad, to Earl Jr, and to you. Gordon Green

January 5 at 8:02 AM

MB

Michael L. Burks posted:

Betty, Vickie and I send our condolences and know that you have the Lord to help you through this difficult time. Earl and I ran together many times and I enjoyed every one of them. I only wish there have been 1,000 more. Surround yourself with friends and family and be happy knowing that Earl is making people smile as always. Michael L. Burks

January 5 at 7:45 AM

LL

Linda Wicker Lackey posted:

Claire, I am grieving with you at this moment....I have always loved every member of the Roberts familynone as I did your Dad....but Earl Jr. and I bonded in our youth and I loved him too.....what an incredible family you have to remember....You are in my thoughts and prayers....know that I also love you dear friend!!!!

January 5 at 7:35 AM



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SB

Suzy Morgan Beck posted:

Claire, I am so sorry to hear that Earl passed away. Stephen had told me that he was ill, but did not say how serious. My prayers are with you, Betty and their children, and Jim. God be with you all at this sad time. Suzy Morgan Beck

January 5 at 7:21 AM

ES

Earl "Butch" Salmons posted:

Claire, so sorry to hear of Earl's passing. Your family has always been held in high esteem by me, probably for the manner in which your mother helped me as I move to Longview and had her as my 7th grade teacher. Earl was in my sisters class, and I know from his obit, he must have immolated your parents. My condolences to Betty and the rest of the family, God Bless each and everyone of you during this time. Your friend in Christ, Earl "Butch" Salmons Lobo Class of '57.

January 5 at 6:53 AM

BB

Bettye Todd Baty posted:

Betty, I have only happy memories of our times together during the summer of 1957, and all our talk about college days ahead. For you that meant being with Earl at Baylor. My memories of him are from the years as youth at First Baptist. He always had a smile and a funny story, even back then. His mother was my 7th grade math teacher. What a wonderful legacy your boys and grandchildren have. Bettye Todd Baty

January 5 at 5:48 AM

BM

Billy Martin posted:

Claire, I am so sorry about Earl and want you to know I am thinking about you and the family at this time. I really liked Earl and he was always cordial to me. Sincerely, W. Forrest Martin, Jr.

January 5 at 4:41 AM

MC

Marvin Curnutt posted:

Claire, I'm very sorry for your loss. If I remember correctly we were in the same Boy Scout troop. Remember to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. Marvin Curnutt, Class of 57

January 5 at 4:05 AM



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JA

Jim Aleshire posted:

King, I am honored to have called you "friend" and I'm thankful for the miles we had together. Never a dull moment around you, for sure. Man we had some fun! It is evident how large a presence you have been in our lives as we deal with the huge vacuum your absence has created. We miss you and you will forever be in our hearts. There will certainly never be another like you. Rest, my friend. God, please bless Betty and the family and comfort them as only you can do. Pablo

January 5 at 1:23 AM

DW

Daniel Weaver posted:

King, I am very thankful to have known you and to call you my friend. Thank you for the laughter. You brought joy and humor into this world and that is a beautiful legacy to leave. I will try to live up to your expectations. I wish I could do one more imitation for you, buddy. I will cherish the memories of our good times together forever. Wish we'd had more.... I will try to live this life of mine to the fullest and take your spirit along with me. Until we meet again!TEN SPOT (Tenny)

January 4 at 9:27 PM

MT

Mel Thompson posted:

Dear Betty Today I grieve for you.....and rejoice with you, for your long life with my dear Friend Earl.Mel

January 4 at 6:25 PM

GH

Gayle W. Hansen posted:

Dear Betty, My thoughts and prayers are with you as you make this enormous adjustment to a new life without Earl. I lost my husband in May, and so I do know the feeling of emptiness and loneliness that comes with this awareness. I have such delightful memories of being in school with Earl and his incredible sense of humor. He was always ready with a witty reply, and a smile to share. I trust you can find comfort knowing he is at peace with no more suffering. You will relive your happiness together and be warmed by these memories for (I'm guessing) 50+ years. God bless you. Sincerely, Gayle Whitehurst Hansen

January 4 at 11:31 AM



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BC

Bob Coffey posted:

Betty, I'm so sorry to learn about Earl. While it has been a life time since I saw him last, just looking at his instantly recognizable beaming face and big smile in the photo above brings back many fond memories of long ago when we were in school together. My condolences to you and all your family for your loss. Bob Coffey Hendersonville, NC

January 4 at 10:45 AM

SB

Shannon Thames Burdett posted:

Love and prayers to you and your family. It was always great to see you and Earl at the reunions. He will be missed! I have read the article in the Longview newspaper and what wonderful accomplishments and accolades. His legacy will live on in Longview's community! Shannon Thames Burdett

January 4 at 10:38 AM

JM

Judy Morrison posted:

Betty, You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. Fondly, Judy Morrison

January 4 at 7:07 AM

GR

Gene Robertson posted:

Betty and Family: About 20 of Earl's friends sat around the table at Panera Bakery this morning and had a blast telling "Earl Stories." What memories of a great guy and one who will be sorely missed. We miss you Earl, but the memories will last forever. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Roberts Family. Gene Robertson

January 4 at 4:54 AM



Anonymous sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Roberts family.



January 3 at 12:39 PM



Tribute Wall

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Roger Sage Jr posted:

"King"....old pal I'm looking forward to a twenty miler when I join you , till then we will all miss you.....you have run a good race. Thanks for 40+ years of great memories Your friend.....Rageeb

January 3 at 11:24 AM



Patrick Noon January 4 at 4:22 AM

Betty and family,Longview has lost a giant among men. He was an inspiration, over the past years, to many of us Words cannot express our appreciation for all that he has done for the chuyrch and community. Our prayers are with each of you in the days to come and May God Bless each of you'holley' and Pat Noon



Memories only last if you share them

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



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