

Willie C. George

AUG 23, 1922 - JUN 4, 2015



Scan to Visit

Rader
FUNERAL HOMES
OF LONGVIEW AND HENDERSON

Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Events	Page 5
Tribute Wall	Page 6



Willie C. George

AUG 23, 1922 - JUN 4, 2015

Willie Cullen George, 92, of Henderson, was born August 23, 1922 in Burke, Texas. He passed away peacefully at his home on June 4th, 2015.

Mr. George joined the United States Navy on November 6, 1942, as an Apprentice Seaman. He served on the USS Cambria (APA-36), USS Indianapolis (CA-35), and the USS New Mexico (BB-40) as a radio operator mostly under the command of Admiral Raymond Spruance. Battles fought while in service include the Marshall and Gilbert Islands, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. He rose to the rank of RM 2/c before being honorably discharged and returning home to Diboll, Texas.

Upon his return, he had various jobs and attended college classes at Sam Houston State University before meeting his wife of 60 years, Gloria Simpson. They moved to Henderson in 1954 to operate the Lacy Cotton Gin. They purchased the gin and expanded its operations to include a Texo feed store. Mr. George then became involved in the Henderson Livestock Commission. The cotton gin was unfortunately destroyed by fire in the late 60's.

Shortly after becoming involved in the auction business, he built his first long term healthcare facility, Southwood Convalescent Center. This was the start of a career that would eventually lead to the construction and operation of Autumn Leaves Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Henderson. He and Gloria were both licensed nursing home administrators and innovators of long term care in Texas. Shortly after constructing Autumn Leaves, Mr. George formed several other medical companies including Advancing At Home Healthcare, Arbor Place Assisted Living, and Angel Care Hospice which continue to operate today under new ownership.

In 1983 Mr. George built the Circle Plaza Shopping Center which included a Winn Dixie Grocery and the Circle Plaza Cinema. Winn Dixie eventually left Texas and Mr. George established a locally owned and operated grocery store, Henderson MarketPlace. In 1987 Mr. and Mrs. George purchased Texas Bank of Tatum and changed the name to Texas Bank which now operates seven branches throughout East Texas.



Obituary

Willie C. George

AUG 23, 1922 - JUN 4, 2015

While visiting Branson, Missouri in 1992, Mr. George was unable to find an available hotel room. This inspired him to build the Ozark Regal Hotel. Being a hotel owner was one of Mr. George's most prized personal achievements. He told everyone to visit Branson and stay at his Ozark Regal Hotel.

Mr. George enjoyed farming vegetables and took great pride in his fig tree. He also enjoyed cattle ranching and passing on his passion to younger generations. He purchased many animals throughout the years at the Rusk County Youth Project Show giving back to the community. In recent years he donated a former nursing facility to Son Shine Lighthouse, a woman's shelter, and helped Henderson expand its parks through land acquisition.

He is survived by one sister, Mary Sue Ferguson of Beaumont, a half-brother, Jimmy George of Ft. Davis, a half-sister, Audrey Bullard of Round Rock; daughters Virginia Irwin and husband Billy Wayne of Henderson, Kay Segura of Austin; grandchildren Casey Irwin and wife Emma of Carrollton, Kati Wagner and husband Graham of Park City, UT, Trey Segura of Henderson, Will Segura of Austin, Jenny Segura of College Station; and great-grandchildren Frances Irwin, Bryce Irwin, and Lucia Wagner. He is preceded in death by wife Gloria George and siblings Doris Squyres and Hulen George.

A special thanks to his caregivers Michelle Means, Tajuana Dennis, Millicent Robertson, and Mevane Dorsey. Also Joyce Nayfa of Angel Care Hospice.

Funeral services will be at 2:00 pm Saturday, June 6th, in the chapel of Rader Funeral Home with Pastor Matt Gholson officiating. Interment to follow at Lakewood Memorial Park. Visitation will be at 1:00 pm prior to the service. Pallbearers for the service are Casey Irwin, Trey Segura, Will Segura, Graham Wagner, Paul Morris, Gene McCauley, Troy Williams, Carl Webber Ferguson. Honorary Pallbearers are Scotty Cawthon, Dallas Woods, Lisa King, Ronnie Medford and Brad Smith.


In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Willie and Gloria George Business Scholarship: PO Box 1990, Henderson Texas 75653.



Chapel Service - Henderson

 **Saturday**, June 6, 2015

 2:00 PM CT

 **Rader Funeral Home of Longview Chapel**
1617 Judson Rd, Longview TX 75601



Cemetery Details

 **Lakewood Memorial Park**
Henderson TX





Tribute Wall

Willie C. George

AUG 23, 1922 - JUN 4, 2015

SM

Steve And Sandy McMurray posted:

Always thought a lot of Willie George. always kind and soft spoken... He and Gloria and my parents had a lot of great times together. He will be missed! Prayers for your family. Steve and Sandy McMurray

June 17 at 2:47 AM

LK

Linda Keith posted:

So sorry for Your loss! Sending prayers out to the Family!

June 10 at 11:45 AM

DG

Dorothy Glasscock lit a candle in honor of Willie .



June 9 at 12:19 PM

DG

Dorothy Glasscock posted:

Willie George was my friend. Down through the years of doing business with Mr. George and Texas Bank he extended many kindnesses. I, just this moment, learned of his passing and I am saddened to realize that I will not again see his spry walk or cheerful smile, or the sometimes scowl on his face when he was deep in thought. The thought that his valiant spirit is reunited with Ms. Gloria comforts my heart. He will be missed. Good friends always are. My deepest of condolences to his daughters, son in law and grandchildren. He was a giant of man with the biggest heart. We will all miss him. Sincerely, Dorothy Glasscock

June 9 at 12:17 PM

JS

Jimmy & Linda Sipes lit a candle in honor of Willie .



June 6 at 5:32 PM



Tribute Wall

Willie C. George

AUG 23, 1922 - JUN 4, 2015

JR

Jana Rossi Enloe & James & Sara Ross lit a candle in honor of Willie .

June 6 at 11:43 AM



RT

Randy Thorne posted:

Willie and I had a great time together when I was a teenager. Had a great time playing ping pong. He used to beat me until I got better and then the tables turned. I will miss him greatly. God bless him and Gloria. Randy Thorne

June 6 at 4:47 AM

KM

Kay Mauritzen posted:

Dr. Irwin and Virginia, We are so sorry for your loss. You have been through so much lately. Our prayers are with you. Mary and Kay

June 6 at 4:28 AM

PP

Pud Patterson lit a candle in honor of Willie .

June 6 at 3:47 AM



BH

Bob & Sue Henderson lit a candle in honor of Willie .

June 5 at 1:32 PM



MT

Mike, Christie And Starr Thomas lit a candle in honor of Willie .

There's never a teardrop that God doesn't see. He knows when a sparrow falls from a tree. There's never a moment when God doesn't care, never a time when he won't hear our Prayer. My Thoughts and Prayers are with the George Family and Friends. Fly Free Sweet Angel in Heaven. {{{Hugs}}}

June 5 at 5:32 AM





Tribute Wall

Willie C. George

AUG 23, 1922 - JUN 4, 2015



Sue Thompson lit a candle in honor of Willie .

Sweet Man! He will be Missed!

June 5 at 5:29 AM



Jamie Skelton posted:

My heartfelt condolences go out to Mr. Willie's family. Prayers for you all

June 5 at 3:28 AM



Anonymous sent a Sacred Garden Spray to the George family.

June 4 at 4:39 PM





Memories only last if you share them

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



Scan to Visit

Rader
FUNERAL HOMES
OF LONGVIEW AND HENDERSON