



Milton Hafford Saxon

DEC 16, 1925 - MAR 22, 2019



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Rader
FUNERAL HOMES
OF LONGVIEW AND HENDERSON

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Milton was many things, among them a devoted husband and father, an educator, a veteran and patriot, a Christian, an athlete, an artisan and a man with many and varied interests and hobbies. He was born in Houston, Texas and given up for adoption to loving parents Roy and Mary Gladys Saxon. He spent most of his childhood in the Rio Grande Valley, and his school years in McAllen, Texas.

Milton lived a very full life and took great satisfaction in giving back to whichever community he called home. Longview, Texas was his home for the last 46 years. He and his wife Darlette moved to Longview in 1973 and quickly made it their home. Milton was the Assistant Superintendent of schools for the Longview Independent School District for seven years. He also served for seven years as the principal of Mozelle Johnston Elementary School and he considered those years to be some of the most enjoyable and productive of all his years in education.

During his time in Longview he served as an officer of the Kiwanis Club, Longview Beautification Association, American Cancer Society, the Longview Tennis Association, and the Marine Corps League.

He was honored by the local newspaper in their “People Who Make A Difference” campaign, by United Way with their Outstanding Volunteer Award, the teachers Human Relations Reward, the Methodist Church Outstanding Teacher Award, and the one he was most proud of from his Mozelle Johnston students, “The Best Principal in the Whole World” award.

Milton served in the 4th Marine Division as a mortar man during the Marine’s landing and assault on Iwo Jima during WWII. This service would shape a huge part of his life.

He received his bachelor’s and masters in education from Texas A&I in Kingsville.



Obituary

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While at A&I he was also quarterback of the football team. Afterward graduating he began his 37 years of educational service with stints at Banquete, Texas, San Perlita, Texas and Elgin, Texas before moving to Longview.

Milton lost his beloved wife Darlette in August of 2017. He was also preceded in death by his eldest son Mack.

Surviving are children Tana Shipman, Brad Saxon and wife Cynthia, and Jill Saxon; grandsons Brett, Clay and Wade Shipman and granddaughter Chelsea Tate Copeland and husband Spencer; and great grandsons Connor and Braden Shipman and Dillon Copeland.

He is also survived by his brother Bob Saxon and wife Colleen , brother-in-law Jim McCain and wife Betty and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be at the First United Methodist Church of Longview on Saturday March 30th at 2 p.m. Visitation will be at Rader Funeral Home on Friday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Burial will follow in Lakeview Memorial Gardens.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contribution may be made to the First United Methodist Church of Longview.






Events

Milton Hafford Saxon




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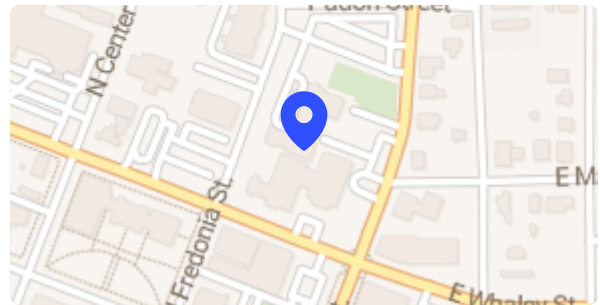
Visitation

-  **Friday**, March 29, 2019
-  5:00 PM - 7:00 PM CT
-  **Rader Funeral Home**
1617 Judson Rd., Longview TX 75601




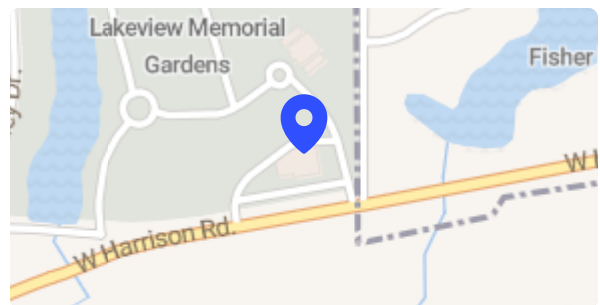
Funeral Service

-  **Saturday**, March 30, 2019
-  2:00 PM CT
-  **First United Methodist Church**
400 N. Fredonia St., Longview TX



Cemetery Details

-  **Lakeview Memorial Gardens**
5000 W Harrison Rd, Longview TX 75604





Tribute Wall

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DM

David McCain posted:

I was Transportation Director at LISD during much of Milton's tenure at Mozelle Johnston. Milton was a man who would willingly give of himself to to others. I vividly remember one such situation, on the last day before the Christmas Holidays. Milton would be Santa Claus to all his students on that day as he visited each classroom; he enjoyed his tour as Santa Claus immensely. But he gave up that time to investigate - and put to rest - a serious allegation by a student against a school employee. His giving of himself allowed the school employee, the child's parent, and me to have a restful Christmas holiday. Outstanding service to others.

April 2 at 3:10 AM

EC

Eddie Cannon posted:

To Saxon Family I am so sorry for your loss. Milton was a good friend. We were elementary principals at the same time for several years. My wife and I went to St. Louis to principal's convention with him and Darlette. It was during that trip that he was informed that he was adopted. I remember how surprised he was. I have a lot of good memories with Milton and I am sure you are blessed with many more. Good man. Eddie Cannon

March 30 at 5:55 PM

KS

Kathy Molitor Steipp posted:

Dear Tana, Brad, Jill, and family, You are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Your dad was a great man, a man who lived life fully. He loved your mother and all of you very much. I remember him fondly as part of the Watson family, and a close cousin to my mother. I cherish a cross he made me years ago, and it reminds me of what a gentle spirit, and God loving man that he was, always. Love, Kathy Molitor Steipp

March 30 at 5:05 PM



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Brett Shipman posted:

Milton Saxon (Pop to me) was an incredible man in my life! Some of my earliest and favorite memories come from my time with Pop and Darlette (My Mama.) There are more ways that my grandparents influenced my life than I had never even realized until this time of loss and reflection. The world has lost an amazing man! He raised the best person I've ever known (My mother!) he's taught me things that I'll never forget, and he has made me feel proud and blessed to be his grandson! With too many memories to recount, I simply want to say from a place in my heart that I owe to Milton Saxon... I love you and will always admire the man that will always be in my heart!

March 28 at 6:30 PM



Tana Shipman March 28 at 7:09 PM

Thank you Brett. Love you!!



Pamela Pyeatt posted:

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time. Mother, Ann Billingsley, was the secretary at Mozelle Johnston when he was there. Pamela Billingsley Pyeatt

March 28 at 10:56 AM



Anonymous sent an Emerald Garden Basket to the Saxon family.



March 28 at 8:06 AM



Tribute Wall

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Kenney Shipman sent a virtual gift in honor of Milton.

Tana, Brad, Jill and the rest of the family - it was such a wonderful pleasure and honor to have known Milton. He was truly a gentleman and will be missed by all who knew him.



March 28 at 7:55 AM

BW **Bryan White** March 28 at 3:10 PM

I'm thinking his Dish TV remote works easier now and his garden is sprouting..

TS **Tana Shipman** March 28 at 10:13 AM

Thank you !



Anonymous sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Saxon family.



March 28 at 5:18 AM



Bryan White posted:

Tana, Brad, Jill and family. Milton was a wonderful neighbor. We lived next door for twenty years. He enjoyed sharing his tomatoes and it was an honor to have read his book about a fox hole on Iwo Jima where two thirds of the Marines were either killed or injured. Old Glory continues to fly every day at the house. Semper Fi. With deep regret, I'll be out of town and will miss the visitation and funeral and wish I could be there to show respect for Neighbor. May God comfort you during this "Change of Address."

March 28 at 4:34 AM

TS **Tana Shipman** March 28 at 10:12 AM

Thank you Bryan. What a thoughtful tribute. Dad enjoyed his time as your neighbor as well.



Beverley Tate posted:

Jill and Chelsea - How proud you must be of Milton. What a beautiful life he had and believe me, I know how hard it is to see someone move one, but so many wonderful things and times you have left to cherish. Please know I am remembering both of you in prayers. Beverley Tate

March 27 at 9:47 AM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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