



Burl Duke Owen

DEC 22, 1956 - AUG 13, 2021



Scan to Visit

Rader
FUNERAL HOMES
OF LONGVIEW AND HENDERSON

Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Events	Page 5
Tribute Wall	Page 6
Media	Page 9



Burl Duke Owen

DEC 22, 1956 - AUG 13, 2021

Burl Duke Owen passed away Friday, August 13, 2021, in Longview, Texas. He was born December 22, 1956, in Longview, Texas, to Bill and Jean Owen. His father worked for Lone Star Steel for many years, his mother was a talented homemaker, and their family attended Oakland Heights Baptist Church. Duke was raised in Longview, attending Mozelle Johnston Elementary, Judson Junior High, and Longview High School through the 11th grade. He graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in 1975 after moving to Tyler where his father accepted a job with Phillips Petroleum.

Duke was vertically gifted, standing at an astounding 6 foot 11 inches, and excelled at basketball. During his high school years with Longview Lobos, he was the leading scorer which led to recruitments and college scholarship offers. He started his college career at the now closed Lon Morris College, a junior college in Jacksonville, Texas, as it was a feeder school to Louisiana Tech University. While at Lon Morris, his team won the Texas Eastern Conference Championship. Later when playing for the Louisiana Tech Bulldogs, they won the Southland Conference Championship. In 1980, Duke moved to San Antonio and was employed by Friedrich Air Conditioning manufacturing facility and at Kelly Air Force Base re-manufacturing turbo jet engines. He later landed a job with Morton Thiokol Corporation in Utah. He worked for Morton Thiokol from 1985 to 1988 helping to redesign the Space Shuttle booster rockets and o-ring seals that had failed during the Space Shuttle Challenger tragedy in 1986. While in Utah, Duke completed his bachelor's degree in Business at the Salt Lake City campus of the University of Phoenix.

In 1988, Duke transferred with the Morton Thiokol Corp. to their Karnack, Texas facility and moved back to Longview. In 1990, he opened his business, All Types Computers, a sales and service computer store, and raised his two daughters, Natalie and Megan. Duke was actively involved in the lives of his daughters, as they inherited



Obituary

Burl Duke Owen

DEC 22, 1956 - AUG 13, 2021

his love for basketball; many weekends were spent traveling around Texas playing in girls' basketball tournaments. His computer business was successful for 23 years before he sold it and transitioned to investing in real estate properties. Eventually, Duke built a custom designed home north of Longview, appropriately dubbed the "Rockin' O Ranch", complete with 8-foot-tall doorways throughout the house. Duke was also involved in the Longview Chapter of AMBUCS, helping with delivery of Amtryke tricycles and building wheelchair accessible ramps for the homes of families with special needs children. Duke was strong in his faith and was a member of Mobberly Baptist Church, loved his family deeply, and a very proud father. Duke is survived by his mother, Wilma Jean Duke Owen of Tyler, Texas; his brother, Alvin Owen of Tyler, Texas; two daughters, Natalie Owen of Houston, Texas, and Megan Owen of Hendersonville, North Carolina; one grandson, Hagen Hightower of Hendersonville, North Carolina; two nephews, Ben Owen of Tyler, Texas, and Seth Owen of Sacramento, California; aunts Ruth Smith and Margaret Cotton of Tyler, Texas; and other numerous relatives. Duke was preceded in death by his father, Bill Owen, and sister, Cathy Lea Owen, grandparents Sherman and Kathryn Duke of Kilgore, and William and Thelma Owen of Hawkins, Texas. The family will receive friends for a visitation on Thursday, August 26, from 5-7pm, and a memorial service Friday, August 27 at noon, both at Rader Funeral Home in Longview.



Events

Burl Duke Owen

DEC 22, 1956 - AUG 13, 2021

Visitation

- Thursday**, August 26, 2021
- 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM CT
- Rader Funeral Home**
1617 Judson Rd, Longview TX 75601



Chapel Service - Longview

- Friday**, August 27, 2021
- 12:00 PM CT
- Chapel of Rader Funeral Home of Longview**
1617 Judson Road, Longview TX 75601





Tribute Wall

Burl Duke Owen

DEC 22, 1956 - AUG 13, 2021



Rader Funeral Home shared a **Webcast Video**.



August 27 at 7:45 AM



Carole Gentry Sherman lit a candle in honor of Burl.



To Duke's mother, brother, his girls, nephews and cousins all of whom he spoke of often and lovingly - I couldn't be there in person from Oklahoma, but was thankful to have the service online to hear the parts of Duke's life unfamiliar to me and to see the great pictures/memories. We go back to him sitting behind me in Coach Cannon's American History class in 10th grade and always enjoyed catching up at reunions since I had left Longview before he returned. We had forged a renewed friendship thanks to Facebook and Messenger over the years. We came to realize at different times we had so many things in common to talk/advise each other on. He spoke so lovingly of his ladies (the guys, too) and was happy to tell of your latest adventures/accomplishments along with Sammy (was so cool to hear how Sammy became Duke's sidekick) and the new grandson. I will miss his larger than life self and the talks on numerous topics we were going to have, so can't imagine the void y'all feel. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. He loved you all so dearly 😊

August 19 at 8:13 AM



Steve Hardin posted:

In high school i played against him in basketball . His height changed my whole shooting style as a 6'3" forward. Needless to say he was intimidating. I learned from Duke i should forget playing at next level. He was so nice about it though. I will miss his quick smile. Steve Hardin

August 25 at 7:18 AM



Sue J Haywood posted:

So sorry for your loss and you are in my prayers. Ambucs lost a member that could never be replaced. Sue Haywood National President of Ambucs

August 24 at 6:19 AM



Tribute Wall

Burl Duke Owen

DEC 22, 1956 - AUG 13, 2021



Anonymous sent a Florist Choice Bouquet to the Owen family.



August 22 at 4:49 PM



Bala L Duszik posted:

Girls, I'm sorry for your loss. I've known your dad since high school. He was a good christian man and a great friend. I will truly miss him.

August 22 at 7:43 AM



Anonymous sent a Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant to the Owen family.



August 20 at 6:18 AM



Anonymous sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Owen family.



August 19 at 2:12 PM



Tina Lampkin, Pta posted:

So grateful for the opportunity to meet and work with Mr Owen. Although I didn't know him long, it didn't take me long to figure out what a character he was. Prayers for his family during this difficult time.

August 19 at 12:18 PM



Mark Deteau posted:

Prayers for the family He was too young to leave this life at least he's not in pain and is with family that have passed

August 19 at 11:58 AM



Tribute Wall

Burl Duke Owen

DEC 22, 1956 - AUG 13, 2021



Anonymous sent a Medium Dish Garden to the Owen family.

August 19 at 10:45 AM



Anonymous sent a Medium Dish Garden to the Owen family.

August 19 at 10:43 AM



Anonymous sent a Medium Dish Garden to the Owen family.

August 19 at 10:40 AM



Joe Knox lit a candle in honor of Burl.

RIP buddy

August 19 at 10:18 AM



Anonymous sent an Ocean Breeze Spray to the Owen family.

August 19 at 9:41 AM



Mike Crawford shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Sharon and I are going to miss you here in Florida. We will always consider you as our Florida family. We will miss our fishing trips, music events, and our many dinners together. You are like a brother to me and I will always be thankful for the many memories we shared. RIP my brother. 🙏

August 19 at 8:13 AM





Media

Burl Duke Owen

DEC 22, 1956 - AUG 13, 2021



Rader Funeral Home shared a **Webcast Video**.

August 27 at 7:45 AM





Media

Burl Duke Owen

DEC 22, 1956 - AUG 13, 2021



Mike Crawford.I shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

August 19 at 8:13 AM





Memories only last if you share them

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



Scan to Visit

Rader
FUNERAL HOMES
OF LONGVIEW AND HENDERSON