



Mike Childress

December 22, 1945 - August 31, 2018

Mike Childress
1945 - 2018

On August 31, 2018, Mike Childress, 72, took his last breath on earth and entered into the presence of God through his personal faith in his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. During his year-long battle with brain cancer - with his wife, Annette, by his side - Mike's positive attitude, courage and complete faith in God were an inspiration to all who knew him.

Mike was born in Tyler on December 22, 1945, to Dorothy and John Childress. Mike enjoyed an idyllic childhood in Turnertown with his twin brother, Pat, and their older brother, Johnny. After graduating from New London High School in 1964, Mike attended Texas A&M and afterwards began his 38-year career at Texas Eastman as a chemical engineer, ultimately becoming the face of the company as its Manager of Communications and Public Affairs. It was the perfect position for an upbeat, outgoing man with a sincere desire to connect with people.

Mike's marriage to Annette was truly a match made in heaven; they were blessed with forty wonderful years together, and he was a devoted father to his only son, Casey, and a beloved "Pops" to his granddaughter, Jayde. Mike and Annette were also doting dog parents; their Havanese Happy's kisses always made Mike smile!

The centerpiece of Mike's life was his unshakable faith in the Lord. For over thirty-five years, Mike was an adored Sunday School teacher, and he especially loved teaching the New Christian Class at Mobberly Baptist Church. The ministry he and Annette started, Reaching Kids 4 Christ, has helped spread the gospel to over 200,000 children in thirty-one countries around the world. Mike had a servant's heart; he volunteered at Shade Tree, Hiway 80 Rescue Mission, and Newgate Mission, where he cooked breakfast and presented devotionals.

Mike leaves behind a wide circle of friends with whom he pursued his passion for the

outdoors – birding, hunting, fishing and golfing. His sunny disposition and easy laugh brought joy to all who knew him, and his natural warmth cast a glow over his endeavors both big and small, whether playing 42 or Rummikub, or cooking dinner for everybody in the back yard on the Full Meal Grill he invented.

Mike was also an accomplished pen-and-ink artist. For 20 years, he was selected to provide original drawings for the Texas Wildlife Association's Texas Big Game Awards. His artwork is proudly displayed in homes and offices across the country and around the world. Mike always acknowledged that he had been gifted with the ability to duplicate on paper what God had created in life.

And those who knew Mike Childress were gifted by his ability to duplicate the love of God in each of their lives.

The family would like to thank Dr. Bob Sansom and Heartsway Hospice, especially Susan, and Mike's loving caregivers, Angel Sammons, Faye Cade, Doris Townsend, Maxine Bowens, and Becky Moore, for their tireless and compassionate care.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at Mobberly Baptist Church at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, September 7, 2018. Visitation will be held from 5-7 p.m. on September 6 in the Chapel of Rader Funeral Home. Interment will follow at Lakeview Cemetery in Longview.

Memorials may be made to Reaching Kids 4 Christ, 1204 Daffodil Lane, Longview, Texas 75604 or the Preschool Building Fund at Mobberly Baptist Church, 625 E. Loop 281, Longview, TX 75605.

Cemetery

Lakeview Memorial Gardens

5000 W Harrison Rd

Longview, TX, 75604-5230

Events

SEP **Visitation** 05:00PM - 07:00PM

6

Chapel of Rader Funeral Home
1617 Judson Rd., Longview, TX, US

SEP **Funeral Service** 10:00AM

7

Mobberly Baptist Church
625 E. Loop 281, Longview, TX, US

Comments



“ It has taken me some time to emotionally prepare myself to post this tribute and memory for my beloved 1st Cousin Annette Clutter Childress of Texas, whom I love like a Big Sister. As well as an amazing Man named MIKE.

Ever since that handsome, intelligent, witty, humorous and extremely talented artistic Mike entered into Annette's life when I was a teenager living in Florida, then first met him in Texas on Florida based family travels to Bonham, Texas he and Casey were bonded, accepted and so loved within our family. We had so many family visits together, both in Texas and Florida especially during holidays and those treasured memories there in Bonham, one ancestral home of our Grandmother Edna Snodgrass Clutter originally from Wheeling, TX "VIRGINIA" - later in history West Virginia. Grandma Clutter migrated with family members to Bonham, Texas before the turn of the 20th Century and had 3 children, Annette's Father Joe Paul Clutter Jr, the eldest of siblings, Zalemah Clutter Newcomb and the youngest one, my Father Grant Clutter Jr. all residing then in Bonham, Texas. Mike & Casey became an immediate and permanent fixture in our extended families and are embedded in my heart forever.

Annette and I have always been connected since the day I was born and she first met me and all those visits especially as small kids in Florida, with her family making the trek from Texas to Florida many times with Mike for special family visits at Grandmother Clutter's 2nd home in the little town of OSTEEN, FLORIDA. That home was down the street where my Mother Joyce Allman lived with my Grandma & Grandfather Allman & siblings, cousins, etc. (yes we are and Annette through marriage distant relatives of a famous singing Band with that Allman last name.) Our Grandmothers became instantly best friends and kindred spirits for the rest of their lives, no matter the divide across sates. When my Dad, Annette's Uncle Grant, a Paratrooper during WWII who also proudly served our military like Annette's esteemed Father Joe Paul Clutte Jr. was injured in the line of duty, he was sent back to the states to recover and then came to Osteen, Florida to be with Grandma Clutter and stayed, falling in love with my Mother Joyce Allman who lived down the street and that is where those first life time connections with Cousin Annette, then blessedly not much later, that amazing husband Mike and their son Casey whom Annette was indeed a second Mother. All of them became so loved members across our extended families. Our Grandmothers whether seasons living down the street from each other or via constant contact chatting for hours by phone and yes indeed "keeping tabs on both the Florida and Texas families", always knowing when to put in motion especially Annette as well as Mike and later myself to be there for all family in need..

Mike told me many times even in my late teens, that myself and Annette were for sure destined to be bonded forever. At times holding my shoulder affectionately when in person and so many times with his calming, wise, yes us both always telling family stories, laughing, joking and in both our hearts knowing Annette and I will never be distanced no matter how far we have lived away from each other. Mike would tease me in his wonderful humorous self, saying privately to me that Annette and I were indeed the next generational "Stalwarts of Families" from her and my side of our

families and he and I had made many promises that Annette and I would always be there for each other as well as for family members . Annette can confirm and tell stories about how Mike was so accurate in his keen analytically brilliant mind and strategic foresight that her, I and many times my spouse were indeed frantically at times living up to being those Stalwart Family positions.

Annette knows that "An Ocean of Tears to form a Shallow Sea" have been shed together for her and Casey's loss of a Timeless, Respected, Admired Man called MIKE..

Dwayne Clutter - December 02, 2018 at 07:53 AM



“ The celebration of Mike's life yesterday blessed us with peace and joy as we remembered and honored a man after God's own heart. Mike truly lived his life as a witness of God's unconditional love for all and His plan to save us through His Son, Jesus. We will miss this thoughtful, funny, and very brave man, and we look forward to seeing him again when God calls us home.
Annette, you are an amazing wife, mother and friend. May God continue to give you pace and comfort.
We love you,
Larry and Cindi Christian

Cindi Christian - September 08, 2018 at 04:44 PM



“ Mike, good friend and classmate from Texas A&M chemical engineering school days, you will be missed greatly.
I am glad I got to speak to you recently.
You left a mark on the world to be proud of.

Richard Jares

Richard Jares - September 07, 2018 at 08:43 AM



“ Annette, I'm so sorry to hear the heartbreaking news of Mike's passing. I pray you will find comfort in memories shared throughout the years. May God bless you with peace and comfort during this most difficult time.

Reba Davis Smith - September 06, 2018 at 09:55 PM



“ Hey Mike. Ill never forget all the good times we had together - study partners at A&M, catching brim on Toledo bend, squirrel hunting at Buster's place in Tatum, catching crappie at Lake Fork. So many great memories. Thanks for being my friend - my life is definitely better because of you. After all you introduced me to Jan (although I wasn't your first choice as a date for Jan!) Rest in peace good friend.

Tommy

Tommy Doerr - September 06, 2018 at 03:12 PM



“ Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Mike Childress.



September 06, 2018 at 01:57 PM



“ Terry Dorsey lit a candle in memory of Mike Childress



Terry Dorsey - September 06, 2018 at 01:26 PM



“ Annette, since Diane and I have moved from Longview, we are just getting the news of Mike's death, and we are so sorry for your loss. It is a loss to all who knew him because he was such a fine person who blessed all who came in contact with him. He was a very talented man of great character, honesty, integrity, faithfulness, and compassion. May God's enduring love sustain and comfort you in the coming days and years.

Merritt Johnson

Merritt Johnson - September 09, 2018 at 05:58 PM



“ We are so saddened by Mike's passing and have wonderful memories of him. Having grown up in New London with Mike, we are so proud of him, his exemplary life, and his love for his friends and family. His ability to care for others along with his talent for sharing that love through his art, set a high bar for others to follow. Our love and prayers go with you,

Annette, and the rest of the family during this difficult time. God grant you peace, comfort, and joy to face the future with all your precious memories.

Bless you.

Gary and Glenda Johnson

Gary and Glenda Johnson - September 10, 2018 at 12:50 PM



“ It was my privilege to be Casey's third grade teacher at Pine Tree Elementary School. He was an excellent student, very polite, well mannered, and just a good person. After I met Annette and Mike, I realized these were all positive traits taught in the home. They were parents teachers dream of having for their students. Please find strength in knowing you have my thoughts and prayers.

Becky Bradley - September 06, 2018 at 01:18 PM



“ Ritter Family, Amarillo Texas purchased the White Standing Spray for the family of Mike Childress.



Ritter Family, Amarillo Texas - September 06, 2018 at 07:39 AM



“ Dear Annette and Casey,
The relationship that we shared as young couples with young sons is rich and full of wonderful memories. When I look at Mike's picture, I hear his voice . When Bob was sick with Pancreatic Cancer, Mike was a precious encourager. He called and wrote letters. What a Special Gift he had for serving others and truly caring. Mike is loved by many, but I want you to know that even though we no longer live in Longview that you, our precious neighbors and friends, have not been forgotten. I love you deeply and I know that Bob was there to Welcome Mike home.

Love, Donna Oates

Donna Oates - September 05, 2018 at 10:27 PM



“ Joe and Kay Clutter, Katherine Rapa purchased the Multicolor Bright Sympathy Standing Spray for the family of Mike Childress.



Joe and Kay Clutter, Katherine Rapa - September 05, 2018 at 07:58 PM



“ Mike & Delores Toon lit a candle in memory of Mike Childress



Mike & Delores Toon - September 05, 2018 at 05:33 PM



“ Annette, Casey, Jayde, Johnny and Pat...Mike was a dear friend for many years, and for that I am thankful. He was diligent on checking on me and the boys after the death of Danny. We had a special bond that I will cherish the rest of my life. What an outstanding life Mike led. I know you have many cherished memories to sustain you during this difficult time. Let me tell you (I'm sure you already know) how much it meant to him for you to all be together last Thanksgiving. Rest in Peace my dear friend. A LIFE WELL LIVED!

Phyllis Shaw Bigbie - September 05, 2018 at 03:46 PM



“ An external video has been added.



Rader Funeral Home - September 05, 2018 at 02:22 PM



“ Healing Tears - All White was purchased for the family of Mike Childress.



September 05, 2018 at 01:11 PM



“ Margaret and I are so sorry for this sad loss. Farewell to a wonderful colleague and one of the most talented men I ever met. He will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mike, Annette and his entire family.

Steve and Margaret Long - September 05, 2018 at 11:34 AM



“ Annette, we are so sorry to learn of Mike's passing. He was an amazing man. We are thinking of you and of the family.
Pat and Leland Frase

Pat Frase - September 05, 2018 at 10:35 AM



“ Blue & White Sympathy Standing Spray was purchased for the family of Mike Childress.



September 05, 2018 at 10:33 AM



“ Annette and Casey, please know how sorry we are upon hearing of Mike's passing. As has been so eloquently stated in the obituary, Mike truly was the personification of a follower of Christ. He no doubt has already heard from Jesus' own lips "well done, good and faithful servant!" What an awesome joy it has been to have seen his sharing of Jesus' love and watching his own example of a love filled life!

Pat & Ken Ross



“ Red & White Sympathy Standing Spray was purchased for the family of Mike Childress.



September 04, 2018 at 04:30 PM



“ Wayne Hawkins & Dellynda (friend) purchased the Healing Tears - All White for the family of Mike Childress.



Wayne Hawkins & Dellynda (friend) - September 04, 2018 at 03:16 PM



“ Ruth Reed purchased the Red Rose Fireside Basket for the family of Mike Childress.



Ruth Reed - September 04, 2018 at 10:39 AM



“ At TWA (Texas Wildlife Association) we are deeply saddened by the loss of Mike. He was a longtime member and helped create one of the state's most well-known big game art programs with the Texas Big Game Awards. He was a special and talented man that we will miss very much. Our prayers are with Annette and the family.





“ Cynthia Childress Nichols purchased the Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of Mike Childress.



Cynthia Childress Nichols - September 04, 2018 at 10:04 AM



“ Dixie Bates Duncan lit a candle in memory of Mike Childress



Dixie Bates Duncan - September 04, 2018 at 10:01 AM



“ Neil & Susan Motley & Helen Taylor purchased the Peach, Orange & White Sympathy Standing Spray for the family of Mike Childress.



Neil & Susan Motley & Helen Taylor - September 03, 2018 at 08:58 PM



“ Our family was so blessed to have known Mike! Our relationship first began when my mom worked for Mike at Eastman. Mike being the way he was, it didn't stop there, he became a dear friend. He and Annette were so special in the way they cared for my mom through so many seasons of her life. A great example of this was Mike writing letters of encouragement to my mom each week after she moved from Longview. We will forever cherish the wonderful works of art he gave to our family.



“ Some of the best memories of our time in Longview involve my friendship with Mike Childress. He was a man of integrity, discipline, and strength of character. He didn't have to preach, he lived his faith. I can hear his voice now, and it makes me smile! God Bless Annette, Casey and everyone who knew Mike. We are all better for having known him!

Russell Crawford - September 02, 2018 at 02:07 PM



“ Mike was sorely missed at Sand Hills Ranch, Estelline, Tx, on this weekend's dove hunt. A great spirit, a great shot, a great 42 player, a great artist, a great man. It was a privilege to know him. Steve Collins

Steve Collins - September 02, 2018 at 01:09 PM



“ Mike, Pat, Sue & Lou Carlisle and I had such a great childhood at the Humble Camp in Turnertown. We were outside playing everyday we were at home! There are so many memories that I cannot count them all. Mike was always so strong, so kind, and just fun to be around. I got to renew our friendship several years ago at the London Class of 1964 reunions. He continued to be strong, kind and fun! His faith was evident in everything he said and did. What a great friend. I cannot attend the visitation or funeral, because I am going out of town, but I will be there in spirit. My prayers include your wife, Annette, your son Casey, Pat and your brother Johnny.

Janis Underwood - September 01, 2018 at 05:36 PM



“ Mike Childress was a wonderful Christian man. I had the pleasure of worshipping with his family at Mobberly Baptist and working with him on many projects at Eastman-many involving his beautiful drawings. My prayers, hugs, and love to Annette, Casey and the rest of the family during this difficult time.
Kathy Hearn

Kathy Hearn - September 01, 2018 at 10:28 AM



“ My family was blessed to know Mike as a friend and coworker I like many others was hired by him many years ago and our working relationship turned into a great friendship .He was a great mentor and prayer warrior and he will be missed by our family. We are praying for courage and strength for your family to face the days ahead . Proverbd 3:5-6

Rocky & Laura Hawkins - September 01, 2018 at 09:16 AM



“ Bob and I had a deep bond with Mike , Annette and Casey. We were blessed by the friendship our families share but especially the love we had because of our precious sons. Our boys became insepretable . There friendship has lasted a last time. When my husband was loosing his life to Cancer mike spent many long hours writing him and being his encourager. Mike will always have a special place in my heart.

Donna Oates - September 02, 2018 at 12:17 AM



“ Yellow & White Standing Cross With Yellow Rose Break was purchased for the family of Michael "Mike" Childress.



August 31, 2018 at 07:17 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael "Mike" Childress.



August 31, 2018 at 06:34 PM



“ Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Michael "Mike" Childress.





“ Annette, We send our love and prayers to you. Mike (and you) have touched so many lives with your faith, friendship and talents. We are forever blessed by that.
Brenda and Michael Liverman

Brenda Liverman - August 31, 2018 at 04:02 PM



“ Annette, please accept my deepest sympathies. I pray you will feel God's comfort and peace now and in the days ahead. -- Belinda McCoy McLaughlin

Belinda McCoy McLaughlin - September 05, 2018 at 09:29 PM