



Russell Wayt

October 6, 1942 - January 10, 2020

Russell Gene Wayt left this earth to be with his Lord on January 10, 2020. Russell was born the last of nine children to Edna and Don C. Wayt on October 6, 1942. Russell was always grateful to his parents and siblings for their devotion to him when he contracted polio at eighteen months. They were told that he would never walk again. The Wayt family was quarantined for a short time, and they were told to feed him as many bananas and chocolate that he wanted. It was called the Sister Shirley Method. This was a revolutionary treatment for polio at the time, and it was successful. The family moved to White Oak in 1946 with Sinclair Oil.

Russell graduated from White Oak High School in 1960 with athletic and scholastic honors. He earned All-State honors in football and basketball and proudly displayed his State Medal earned in journalism competition. He also set a UIL State Record in the discus throw. His accomplishments led to an academic scholarship to Rice University where he earned a B.S. degree in Commerce while playing football, basketball and track for the Owls. He was selected to play in the college All-Star Football Game his senior year at Rice.

Following graduation from Rice, Russell married his high school sweetheart and love of his life Patricia Deloris Musslewhite. Russell and Pat began an exciting chapter in life when he was drafted by the Dallas Cowboys and played outside linebacker under coach Tom Landry. Fellow players were Bob Lilly, Don Meredith, and Chuck Howley. Russell also served in the National Guard during this time.

After leaving the Cowboys, Russell returned to his beloved White Oak to begin his career in insurance and real estate. He and partner David Reynolds bought Penick's grocery store as their first project in 1967. Russell ran it for a few years before selling and moving on to other ventures. Reynolds and Wayt continued to develop real estate in White Oak greatly expanding the area's commercial and residential development. Additionally, Russell was also a general agent for American National Property and Casualty Insurance, and he maintained an office in White Oak.

Russell and Pat were blessed with two sons, Chris and Kevin, both graduates of White Oak High School. Russell continued his lifelong support of White Oak schools, eventually working to help establish the White Oak Education Foundation. Russell and Pat worked in fundraising for the Foundation and helped bring the highly profitable Monster Truck event to White Oak.

The Wayts traveled the world and furnished their home with many treasures from their trips. Russell loved entertaining friends and family and was known for his generous hospitality. The addition of two granddaughters to the family brought immense joy to his life, and he would not hesitate to tell you about their accomplishments.

Russell was a lifelong Baptist and was strong in his faith. He was a member of First Baptist Church, Longview where he served as a deacon. He also served on the Board of Directors of Chrisman Preparatory School, the American Bank Board of Directors, the East Texas Baptist University Board of Directors, and the White Oak Education Foundation Board.

Russell was preceded in death by his parents and by siblings Annette Drake, Alberta King, Patsy Ann Dunklin, Elbert Wayt, and Dewayne Wayt.

He is survived by Pat, his wife of 54 years, sons Chris and his wife Sheri, Kevin and granddaughters Abby and Emma Wayt. He is also survived by siblings Peggy Jo Schroeder and husband John of Safford, Arizona, June Perryman of Gladewater, TX, and Bob Wayt and wife Shirley of Houston, TX. He is remembered by many special nieces and nephews and a host of friends.

A memorial service to honor his life and faith will be held at White Oak Community Church on Saturday, January 18 at 10am. A private graveside ceremony will be held by the family at a later date. The family wishes to thank his nurse April Borden and caregivers Peggy Starling and Sandra Epps of LifeCare Hospice for their professional and compassionate service. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the White Oak Education Foundation.

Comments



“ Pat, I will lift you up in my prayers during this sad time. It's hard to believe it was over 54 years ago that Martha and I were in your sweet wedding to Russell. How blessed you were to have shared such a long, beautiful story. Stay strong, my friend, and treasure your memories. Sandi Hawley Martin

Sandi Hawley Martin - January 19 at 12:47 PM



“ Dearest Pat & families

Wayne and I wanted so much to be there for you...Waynes in rehab and I had to work. We all enjoyed our family get togethers. Great cousin you have been to us all thru the years. Such a sweet sweet couple and family. You have been such a wonderful wife thru Russells health issues. You all are in our prayers!

Wayne & Margaret Musslewhite - January 18 at 09:54 AM



“ Pat and Family. Lester and I are sorry for your loss. You will be in our prayers and thoughts. We have a lot of good memories from our time at Emmanuel in White Oak Ronnie will have another saint to show around heaven. Love June Starr and Les Thurman

June (Mrs. Ronnie Starr) and Les Thurman - January 17 at 06:36 PM



“ Steve&Billie Buckley, Larry&Diane Marsh, & Terry Marsh purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Russell Wayt.



Steve&Billie Buckley, Larry&Diane Marsh, & Terry Marsh - January 17 at 01:34 PM



“ Kevin and Ashley Whitman purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Russell Wayt.



Kevin and Ashley Whitman - January 17 at 10:11 AM



“ Pat and family, So sorry for your loss. Leroy was very fond of Russell and often committed on their memories of the Sunday School group.. I know you will miss him as it is hard to give our loved ones up. May God bless you and carry you through. Thoughts and prayers are with you..

Betty Lou Romines

Betty Lou Romines - January 17 at 10:07 AM



“ Russell was a tremendous athlete, good student, and fine young man. A great example of a student athlete and Christian who lived his faith throughout his life. I was fortunate to be able to coach Russell during my time at White Oak, and remember well his record setting discus throw at the State Track meet in Austin, as well as him receiving the "Most Valuable Defensive player" award at the state high school coaches assoc. football game following his graduation, playing a position he had never played before. When I was asked by his coach in this upcoming game as to what position he could play, I told him he could play any position except quarterback on offense, and any position on defense, as he was that good of an athlete. He was a "one of a kind" athlete and human being. Thank you for the memories, Russell.

Bailey Marshall - January 16 at 07:56 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Russell Wayt.



January 16 at 07:11 PM



“ Memories of growing up & going to White Oak Schools...Russell was one who always towered over everyone...he was smart, athletic & kind. Pat, you & family are in my thoughts & prayers during this difficult time! Love !

Janeen Lyman Rose

Janeen Lyman Rose - January 15 at 02:12 PM



“ Russell and I were classmates and football team mates at WOHS. He was always bigger and stronger then and he continued so during his lifetime caring for his family and the community with his big heart. It is almost shocking and hard to believe he is gone now. He will be missed. Rest in peace old friend.

William Athey

William Athey - January 14 at 02:43 PM



“ Russ and Pat have been such a part of our lives. So many memories like trying to water ski, wonderful parties, taking Wade to Galveston, pulling up my flooded carpet, PTA and WHO duties, and wonderful conversations with these two about everything from Venetian glass to cajun cooking. Pat and Russell have lived beautiful Christian examples, and I'm so lucky to have them in my life.

Beth - January 13 at 09:12 PM



“ Too many memories from our youth. He was a good friend, a better man and a great father and husband. Blessings to Pat, especially, and family.

Joe Lee Smith - January 13 at 05:55 PM



“ I remember all the weekends that we spent with Pat and Russ. We had some great times. We would watch a movie in the Theater room, and sometimes one of us would nod off and take a short nap. Russ would give us a good poke to wake us up. Russ and Pat were so generous in sharing their home with all of us. All the family reunions, Pat's great cooking skills, sitting on the big porch looking at the creek and just relaxing. We will miss all the brothers and sisters sharing memories of their childhood. All of the family reunions held in White Oak, our trips to Marshall Pottery, just being with all the family and how much fun we had. The love and the laughter!!!

All the weekends that we shared at the lake house, the talent show we had in 1988. What good memories we will always have. We will miss the laughter of all the "GOOD TIMES" that we had...thanks to Russ and Pat.We will always love you guys.

Bob and Shirley Wayt - January 13 at 05:49 PM



“ Chantal and I were invited over for something in White Oak and it involved the family...some how we stayed with Pat And Russell. We didn't arrive until late and we watched a movie in their media room really late. It was "Oh Brother Where Art Thou" Russell insisted we watch it...any way we all laughed and laughed..Russell got a kick out of cranking up the volume for all the great music.. it was a great time...

Michael - January 13 at 03:12 PM