



William "Bill" Clark Shafer

March 9, 1951 - April 3, 2020

William (Bill) Clark Shafer, 69, of Longview, Texas, was born March 9, 1951, to William Clarence and Vera Moseley Shafer in Shreveport, La. He passed from this life April 3, 2020, at Highland Pines Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Longview after a sudden illness. Due to the current pandemic, the family will have a private service at a future date. Bill married Regina Flemister Shafer, March 17, 1978. He graduated from Woodlawn High School in Shreveport in 1969 and joined the U.S. Army in 1970. He served in the Army until 1975, including a 1970-71 tour of duty in Vietnam. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Louisiana Tech University in 1976. He was employed by LeTourneau/Joy Global/Komatsu for 44 years, employed as Senior Engineering Manager of Electrical Systems and finishing his career as Engineering Consultant for Wheel Loaders.

He worshipped and served at First United Methodist Church Longview. He was an avid hunter and loved going to the woods. He also enjoyed playing sports, especially softball and basketball and coaching church league youth basketball.

He was preceded in death by his parents and father-in-law, Dr. R.B. Flemister. Those left to cherish his memory are his wife, Regina; son, Matt Clark Shafer and wife Kristin of Aledo; daughter, Ann Marie Flournoy and husband Andrew of Fort Worth; sister, Frances Kaye Hoefelmeyer of Plano; brother, Terry Lee Shafer of Bossier City, La.; grandchildren, Ella Kate Shafer, Olivia Grace Shafer, and Luke Graham Shafer; mother-in-law, Ruth Flemister of Longview; brothers-in-law, Brooks Lee Flemister and wife Charmayne of Houston, and James Earnest Flemister and wife Deronda of Longview; and several nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to First United Methodist Church, 400 N. Fredonia St., Longview, TX 75601

An online guestbook may be signed at www.raderfh.com

Comments



“ (1 of 2)

Thank you all for the kind words about Dad, many of them from those of you who have known him for longer than I've been alive. The notes about Dad at work are particularly touching because, as will surprise absolutely nobody, Dad didn't talk about work much at home. It's amazing (although it should not be, of course) how consistent the man his coworkers describe is with the man he was at home.

Dad obviously enjoyed work and it was clearly important to him, as the comments (and his 40+ years there, several of them after he "retired") attest. But it was also always clear to us that family was Dad's first priority. Yes, if it was a weekday, Dad was in the office at 8am sharp (unless he was in a deer stand or a duck blind), but if there was ever a day he wasn't also home with the family by 5:15, I certainly don't remember it. What I do remember are the countless hours he spent waiting for football practice to finish while reading the newspaper in his truck, pitching batting practice, playing catch, coaching basketball, and taking me to the woods for target practice (Dad) and to wildly hack at bushes with a machete (me, much to Dad's chagrin).

When Mom and Dad finished helping me move into my apartment as I started my job after college, I remember Dad telling me two things: 1) show them what a boy from Longview can do, and 2) don't let them make you work too much overtime. Years later, I've seen how easy it is to let work become too important, and also how unsatisfying that can be. I think Dad may be one of the rare people that actually had true work-life balance, and I only hope I can follow his example with my family.

As I got older, got a real job and started paying bills, got married and had children, Dad continued to get smarter and smarter (it's funny how that seems to happen). A few memories and lessons...

When I was 4 or 5 years old, Dad hung a spool of thread from the ceiling just out of my reach. He'd have me jump and reach for it over and over until I was able to finally touch it. Once I could finally jump high enough to touch it, he'd wrap the spool a little to raise it up higher, and I'd have to go back to jumping and reaching again. That pattern went on for years. Looking back at it now, he may have just been trying to tire me out so I'd go to sleep, but I think he was also teaching me something about ambition and striving to always improve.

In college, I often joined the regular lunch-hour basketball game at LeTourneau if I was home from school on a weekday. By that time, I was tall enough that my head would almost scrape the ceiling from which the spool of thread used to hang. One day, I wanted to show Dad that I could now jump high enough to dunk a basketball (at least sort of), which felt to me like the natural culmination of all those years jumping and reaching for that spool of thread that always continued to be just out of reach. I managed to get off a decent, but not too impressive, dunk. Dad took that opportunity to impart a different lesson, this one about humility, as he said (yes, I can

quote it word-for-word 20 years later) “Be careful. We only have one rim.” (Dad was nothing, if not practical). But, he delivered it with the half-smirk of a suppressed smile, an expression he wore often when he deployed the dry humor that many others have mentioned. It’s an expression that I often feel on my own face, and it unfailingly summons vivid visions of Dad.

Matt Shafer - April 16 at 12:38 AM



“ (2 of 2)

Dad’s life was also a daily example of consistent attention to detail and giving everything your best effort. Many of the comments from his coworkers illustrate that perfectly, and at home he lived that example as well, in everything from his measure-twice-(or-three-or-four-times)-and-cut-once attitude, to the fact that he gave me the same safety speech every time he handed me a gun from the time I was 6 years old until just a couple of months ago at age 39.

My senior year of high school, I brought home a report card with a grade that was lower than my usual standard. I distinctly remember the report card sitting on the dining room table when Dad got home from work, with me as far across the room from it as possible, as if physically distancing myself from it would help in some way. When Dad looked at the report card, he wasn’t mad. He didn’t say he was “disappointed” or anything else that I might have feared. He said (and again, I can quote it word-for-word 20 years later) “I bet you’re not happy with that grade, are you?” He was right. That knot in my gut wasn’t from a fear of what Dad or Mom or anyone else would think. It was there because I knew I hadn’t given it my best effort.

Finally, on a somewhat lighter note, I’ve always enjoyed Dad’s favorite application of the Golden Rule: “If you take a cold Coke out of the refrigerator, replace it with one from the pantry so it gets cold for the next person.”

Thanks for always making sure there was a cold (caffeine-free) Coke in the fridge. Love you, Dad.

--Matt

Matt Shafer - April 16 at 12:37 AM



“ When I married James in 1983 and joined the family, Bill was the first family member I got to know the best because we were building a house and he came out practically every day and helped us. That’s the way he was. We could always count on him for anything at the drop of a hat as he could also count on James. And he was my “go to” guy if I had an emergency when James was out of town. I feel like he and I had a special rapport as we were always picking on each other and believe me he could give as good as he got. He was more than just a brother-in-law to me and other than

James, the best man I've ever known. And he was James best friend.

There are so many stories I could tell about him but one that stands out was the night he showed up at our house after dark having killed a wild pig. He needed to string it up in a tree and skin and gut it while I held the flashlight as James was out of town. We couldn't point headlights at it because of the location. Needless to say, this was not a job I wanted to repeat and he got a big kick out of it.

If you knew him, you know that he had a dry sense of humor, he HATED the Dallas Cowboys but loved to watch most sports, he wanted meals served on time, he was loyal to his friends and family, he was a great father and grandfather, he was a man of few words but the words he spoke were important, he was the best of the best at his job as attested by his co-workers, he loved to hunt, he was a devout Christian, and Regina was his soulmate and love of his life.

!Bill, I can't even begin to tell you how much you mean to James and me and how very much we will miss you. Rest In Peace. Regina and kids, we love you all, our hearts break for you, we are here for you, we are thinking of you and praying for you. All our love.

Dee

Dee Flemister - April 13 at 11:52 AM



“ I first meet Bill when I started to work for Marathon LeTourneau back in 1989. At that time I was traveling internationally for the Service Department. There were several times that I would have questions about the electrical control system and Bill would always be the man that could explain how the circuit worked and what symptoms a fault would present. I particularly recall a trip to Australia in 1991 with the 2nd L-1400 front end loader that required some fine tuning because of the tire type. Bill coached me through which resistors to change out and test on an electronic card. I would make the changes and then report back that night via fax what the results were. Bill would then make further recommendations to help improve the performance even more.

In the last few years, I have had the privilege of working with Bill more closely. One of the most prevalent traits that a person could see in Bill was his integrity. Bill was never one to let something slide. If it was not truthful or if it was derogatory, Bill would always champion truth.

I will always remember our pheasant hunting trips. Bill took so much pleasure in having Sean, Jake, Andy, and myself go pheasant hunting with him. We told stories, got to brag about who out shot who, and then we would laugh until our chest hurt. I will miss those times together. And I will also miss the early morning duck hunts. The hunts that it really did not matter if we got anything, but it was just fun being out in the

blind with you.

To Bill's family, my prayers are with you and for you. I am deeply sorry for your loss. Bill was more than a coworker, he was a friend. And I know that he loved his family greatly.

David Suchan

David Suchan - April 13 at 08:54 AM



“ I've often heard the term the "greatest generation" of those who made America great and I think Bill Shafer is a member of that club.

As many others have spoken about, I had the pleasure of knowing and working with Bill for most of my career at LeTourneau and he, along with many others, carried on the R.G. LeTourneau vision and culture to create one of the most amazing companies in the USA.

His incredible intellect, quiet determination, immense respect for others and dedication to his profession, family and faith were evident with Bill every day. I wish many of our young people coming into the workplace today could have shadowed a man like Bill Shafer for six months before beginning their career. It would be the greatest part of their education.

I only ever saw Bill get mad (on multiple occasions) and it was on the basketball court. If you fouled Bill or anybody else and didn't call the foul on yourself, count on a big dose of advice from Mr. Shafer!! But the reason was clear; Bill held himself and everyone else to a very high standard of self-accountability and doing the right thing. His moral and ethical compass were always true and straight.

To his wife and family, I hope your fond memories of Bill can suppress the tears and sadness over time. He truly was a treasure to all of us and will be missed terribly. If more men like Bill Shafer existed in the world today, nobody would have to coin slogans like "making things great again", it would happen naturally and with little fanfare.

Brad Rogers

Brad Rogers - April 12 at 11:47 AM



“ Camie and I are so sorry for your loss. I've known and worked with Bill since his first day in Longview. In those early days we shared an office for a time and when we both retired, we shared an office again in a new retirement assignment at Komatsu. Bill became a good friend soon after he arrived. We worked together, traveled many assignments together and played racquetball together whenever possible. We've had many enjoyable times together with our families and well remember your wedding and when Matt and Ann arrived. I knew I could depend on Bill. I have many memories of times at work and personally when Bill offered assistance and then followed through to make sure I had what I needed. He's helped resolve issues at work and helped me re-tile a floor at home to name a few. In any situation, I knew Bill was willing to help.

If you asked Bill a question about a technical problem at work, he would think about it or do a little research and when he answered, no one could explain it better with the needed steps to resolve the issue. He was anxious to learn about systems or parts where he had not been involved before. Bill would often provide the documentation to support the answer to a question asked, anticipating that you would need it to explain the issue for whoever initiated the question. He was very patient with any of us who needed his help and one's level of experience or background was never a cause to ignore the question or treat you differently. Bill has certainly been a positive influence to me over the years as I watched him work with his thoughtful and positive process of communication. He was reserved in his conversation about any given subject and I often caught myself pausing to see if Bill had a comment (and when he did, it was worth listening to). I'm sure I'll continue to do that and think of Bill (as well), but it's a good habit to have. And I'll miss his Grammar Police critique (at a skill level I will never achieve!)

We'll hold on to those memories and as others have said...Bill, will be greatly missed but never forgotten!

Gary Palmer

GARY PALMER - April 10 at 01:16 PM



“ Ghirardelli Galore was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Clark Shafer.



April 09 at 12:28 PM



“ Bill hired me in 2005. Not long after I started working for him, he invited me to shoot in the Buckner Sporting Clays Challenge. I didn't own a shotgun at the time so I bought a shotgun. He took me to the gun club to practice a little before the event. I ended up doing the shoot with him for the next several years. Ge always hit more clays than I did. Bill was a good man and he will be missed. This was a shock for all of us. I pray for Bill's family.

Jon Bailey - April 09 at 10:40 AM



“ I started working at Letourneau in the summer of 1997 when I was an electrical engineering student. At some point early on I learned that Bill had started at the company the year I was born. At the point I started my career, Bill's experience as an electrical engineer was equal to my entire lifetime. Bill was able to explain concepts clearly and concisely which made using him as a resource for information or for a sounding board for a new concept very valuable. At lunch he would either play basketball or sit in his truck listening to Rush Limbaugh. I never saw him eat lunch out. He brought his lunch every single day. At least once per year he would bring chili for the entire building. He was a hunter and would share some of his venison with us every time. A good man who will be missed greatly.

Andy Dorsett - April 08 at 11:40 AM



“ Bill was a great guy and he taught me a lot over the years while working with him. I will miss our short conversations we had in the halls and out at the land after running into each other after hunting. I always knew Bill would do anything he could help out, at work or otherwise. One of my favorite quotes from Bill looking back now while at work was when he'd come by to tell me 'I think we've plowed up a snake'. I didn't like to hear it because it always meant we had a big problem. I appreciate all the work and help you gave me over years and I pray for your family at this time. You will be missed.

Jason Sorgée - April 08 at 10:05 AM



“ I have the honor to work with Bill for over two years. When I first met him, Bill reflected a wise man and strong character, he was very passionate about the company and the product. After a few weeks I learned that he played Basketball , I played many times against him and he was a tough guy on the court. Not to mention the deer chili, it was fantastic and for me a unique flavor; that little detail meant a lot, specially in today's world where sharing is limited. Bill touched my life in many ways and in a very short time. He will be missed and he will have a very special place in my memory. Rest in piece.



Gerardo Pineda - April 08 at 12:01 AM



“ I am shocked and saddened in hearing of Mr. Bill's recent passing. Bill was a joy to work with, a true gentle soul. He will be greatly missed at Komatsu/LeTourneau. I do pray for the family, friends, and coworkers of Bill Shafer, that your mourning will be short lived and I readily rejoice with you as he is Home now in Glory. Surely he is re-engineering the place to be even better than it was when he arrived. God Bless,
Raymond Hyatt

Raymond Hyatt - April 07 at 11:23 PM



“ I met Bill in January 1981 on my first visit to Longview Texas. While we worked on a few small projects, every discussion with Bill was extremely helpful and I rapidly grew to respect his knowledge and advice. Bill first visited Australia in 1986 or 87 to make some modifications to the new Titan trucks being delivered to a coal mine in Central Queensland. Bill arrived in Brisbane and I met him and we flew to Mackay, overnighing and then drove the 2-1/2 hours to the mine early the next day. It was January and the summer temperature was over 100F and the humidity was close to 100%, making the outdoor working conditions tough, even more so for Bill coming from a Texas winter and suffering from jet-lag. There was only one transportable building on the build site with an air conditioner and we set Bill up in there and he commenced the modifications, most of which were control cards and easy to remove from the trucks. Many of the mechanics and electricians on the build heard that Bill was suffering with the temperature and humidity, and decided among them to demonstrate to Bill how they coped with the climate by working exceptionally hard and fast. Every time Bill looked outside the team were working frantically on the assembly. Bill made comment on their hyperactivity and how he had no idea how they could tolerate this climate and work so hard and fast. What Bill did not see was, the guys were moving out of Bill's sight and taking many breaks, only putting on a 'show' for a few minutes. Bill discovered their game after an hour or so and said nothing, going right along with them, continuing his amazement at their abilities in such a difficult climate. By the end of the day, several of the guys were very tired and declared their game was over as they could not keep it up, Bill had that sheepish grin, as he had turned

the game back onto them and he quickly earned their respect.

Bill got the changes made and returned to Texas after about 10 days.

I had many occasions to meet with Bill in the 35 years since we first met and he always took the time to talk over any issues and quickly worked out a solution. There was never much idle chit-chat, but there was usually a dry humoured comment in the discussion somewhere and that same grin appeared.

I greatly enjoyed working with Bill and he constantly amazed me with his knowledge and logical clarity, and he was a gentleman at all times.

My condolences to his family and close friends, I share your sadness in his passing.
Ken Gould, Australia.

Ken Gould - April 07 at 07:22 PM



“ Regina, Matt & Ann,
Praying for comfort at this time.....God has called another Angel home.

Lisa Goettle

Lisa Goettle - April 07 at 02:45 PM



“ Prayers for the families, sorry for your loss.
Mary Ann Phillips- Bemis



Mary Ann Phillips-Bemis - April 07 at 12:37 PM



“ My heartfelt sympathy to Bill's wife and family:
What a terrible shock to hear of Bill's passing! Bill and I worked closely for 44 years on numerous projects...starting with the first L-700 Loaders with the AC-DC Drive System. Bill was always a positive, productive member of the team.

Bill told us early-on that he grew up in Shreveport, LA and attended the same high school, at the same time, as Terry Bradshaw.

Therefore, he was a staunch Pittsburgh Steelers' fan, and definitely not a Dallas Cowboys' fan. Some of us tried for years to convert Bill to our fan base (Cowboys), but he wouldn't even admit the "Boys" were okay. That speaks to his resolve and tenacity.

I miss you, Bill, and look forward to a reunion in Heaven. ~Gary Nelson

Sent from my iPhone

Gary Nelson - April 07 at 10:26 AM



“ I am one of the many people who count themselves fortunate to have had Bill in their life, as evidenced by the many tributes that have been submitted. Reading through them evokes 40 years of cherished memories of a man with whom I had the privilege of calling a friend. Over the years Bill took the time to mentor myself and countless others as part of his selfless approach to his work. The impact of his Engineering contributions to the LeTourneau drive systems are immeasurable. He was one of only a few people I have ever met that could take his intellect and Engineering prowess to the factory floor with ease and solve real problems in real time. He was equally comfortable working with Engineers and Assemblers, which is part of the reason so many people across the organization are mourning his loss. For me personally.....every great memory I have of working with Bill is complemented by a multitude of memories we shared away from work.....kids, family, weddings, college, co-workers, food, hunting, fishing, etc.. I was truly blessed by his friendship and my heart goes out to his family. He will be sorely missed.

Doug Coon

Doug Coon - April 07 at 09:17 AM



“ Our Business and the world is so much poorer with your passing Bill. I'm sorry we did not get to say goodbye. It's been an honour to work with you over the years (plus a little bit of play too). You don't get the privilage of meeting too many nice blokes in life, but we did with you Bill. A real gentlemen who always offered to help and was never too busy to pass on your vast knowledge. Rest in peace Old Mate. You're in a better place now. We'll miss you so very much.

David Riseborough
Australia

David Riseborough - April 07 at 05:31 AM



“ Greg Grant in Tucson Arizona...I had the pleasure to work with Bill on several occasions during the time I worked for LeTourneau. We spent a lot of time on the phone together working out issues with the variable engine speed Titan trucks. Bill was by far the most brilliant, and humble man I have ever worked with. I learned so much about electricity and electronics from Bill. Bill always took the time to make sure I completely understood what we were doing and why. I have to attribute a lot of

my success to Bill's patience! I had the opportunity to thank Bill for all that he had taught me, and to thank him for his patience...his response was simply that he was just doing his job. Bill Shafer was truly a great man in many ways...we will all miss him

Greg Grant - April 06 at 10:01 PM



“ I am shocked and saddened to hear of Bill's sudden passing. My deepest condolences go out to his family and friends.

I first met Bill back in 1993, not long after I started with LeTourneau in Australia.

The thing that always struck me about Bill was his humility. He was easily one of the most intelligent people I know, but Bill was never aloof or elitist. Bill was always approachable and happy to give you his time and focus, regardless of how large or small your need might be. He was always patient and considerate. In short, Bill was an absolute professional and a pure gentleman.

Over the 27 years I have worked with Bill, he has been a mentor, a teacher, a guide and a colleague to me. Most of all, he has been a great friend.

Bill, you will be greatly missed and never forgotten!

Michael Lyten
Brisbane, Australia.

Michael Lyten - April 06 at 07:07 PM



“ Regina and Ann,

I am so sad to hear about your loss. I am praying for the family now, and hope you find comfort in Christ's nearness to each of you. Sending all my love and wish I could give you a big hug.

Megan Webb Fenderson

Megan Fenderson - April 06 at 04:23 PM



“ To The Shafer Family,
The entire Komatsu family's heart is hurting from the loss of our good friend and co-worker, Bill. Bill was a guy that would do anything for you, I loved him for always keeping me in line. He was especially persistent when it came to me getting things

done with the hunting club. I think I drove him crazy sometimes. Bill was my hunting buddy and friend. He enjoyed going duck hunting with me and my 3 boys, so all of my boys and my brother all got to know Bill. We had lots of good memories on those early morning hunts. We were also kinda related, not really, because his daughter was a Flourney and he always made me laugh when he would say Flourney like "Annoy". Anyway, I just wanted to say how much I appreciated Bill and what he meant to me. He will truly be missed!!!

Dan Flourney - April 06 at 04:06 PM



“ Regina,

We are so very sorry to hear of your loss. Bill will be missed dearly by the church and all who knew him. Praying for you and your family!

Much love,
Claire and David Henry

Clarie Henry - April 06 at 02:23 PM



“ Bill Shafer retirement March 27 2014



Randy Plants - April 06 at 12:59 PM



“ The entire Engineering team is deeply saddened by the loss of Bill. Bill was a brilliant engineer responsible for creating designs to solve some of our most complex challenges. But more than that Bill was one of the best human beings I have met in my career. Always willing to help. Always willing to take the time to share his knowledge. Patient, methodical, and always dependable in every way. Very well respected by his colleagues. The kind of engineer and person we all aspire to be. We will greatly miss him.

Mark Barr

Mark Barr - April 06 at 12:36 PM



“ These are the various company logos that were used during the 44 years Bill worked with the company



Randy Plants - April 06 at 11:15 AM



“ So shocked an so sad to hear of Bill's passing. I've worked with him for 19 years. He was a genuinely good guy and a pleasure to work with, and I will miss him. I will be praying for you and your family.

Jim Dillinger



Jim Dillinger - April 06 at 10:02 AM



“ I worked with Bill for 42 years. He was a dependable friend who would help with all problems we encountered. He will be missed

Randy Plants



Randy Plants - April 06 at 09:51 AM



“ Regina and Family...I am so sorry for your loss. I know the days ahead will be hard.Sending prayers and thoughts for your family during this time.

Sandra Edney - April 06 at 02:23 AM



“ Regina and Family, my heart breaks for you. Everytime I think of Bill I see him sitting on the end seat in section G at the Lobo games. I know how much he loved his family and his faith was strong. I'm sending prayers for you and your family.

Sheri Hickerson - April 05 at 10:28 PM



“ Regina, and family—I am so saddened to hear about Bill's sudden illness and your loss. I know this is a most difficult time. May God bless and strengthen you and give you peace during these days and the days ahead. Patsy Rutledge

patsy rutledge - April 05 at 08:55 PM



“ He was an amazing man. Truly would spend time to make sure you understood, and never talked down to you like many engineers would. I learned a lot from him. He will be missed.

Joseph Sondgeroth - April 05 at 03:32 PM



“ Regina, I'm a friend from high school. So sorry for your loss. Nancy Baker Griffin

Nancy Griffin - April 05 at 03:21 PM



“ This is Chaplain Mike Thomas from Komatsu. I was very sad to hear of Bill's passing last Friday. I remember Bill as being a very kind, warm and friendly person. I visited him often at Letourneau, Joy Global and now Komatsu. Please know the chaplains at Komatsu stand ready to serve you in any way we can. My phone number is available from the HR office at Komatsu. Please be assured that I will be praying for you and the family in the days ahead.
Chaplain Mike Thomas

Mike Thomas - April 05 at 03:12 PM



“ Regina and family: our sincerest condolences. Bill was such a quiet person, but when he spoke, everyone listened. We shall miss him in Sunday School. The “corner” won't be the same. Love and hugs to all of you.

James and Vicki Cox - April 05 at 02:23 PM



“ Regina and family,
You are all in our prayers. Hugs and love for you during this time and for days to come.

Brenda Liverman - April 04 at 05:02 PM



“ Michael joins me in sending prayers and love.

Brenda Liverman - April 04 at 05:08 PM



“ Regina, I am so sorry for your loss. You & your family are in my thoughts and prayers.

Penne Duke - April 05 at 01:06 PM



“ Carole and I are praying for you and your family. We are so sorry for your loss.

Johnny Collier - April 05 at 01:16 PM



“ Regina,
Jon and I are keeping you and all your family in our prayers. May all your good memories be a comfort to you at this sad time.

Jon and Sandy Johnston

Sandy Johnston - April 06 at 10:35 AM