



Donald Ezell

January 24, 1940 - July 7, 2015

Donald Goodson Ezell, 75, passed away Tuesday, July 7 at Providence Hospice Place at St. Catherine's in Waco. Mr. Ezell was born January 24, 1940 at Davidson Hospital in Teague to Sue Ella Goodson and Earl Ezell. He was a 1958 graduate of Buffalo High School. In 1961, he enrolled in Arlington College, now known as the University of Texas at Arlington, and earned an associate's degree in mechanical engineering. Upon earning his degree, he worked for LTV and Dresser in the DFW area. Later, he moved his family back to Freestone County where he worked for Gilliam Contractors as part owner until his retirement.

He married the former Charlene Gilliam on June 10, 1961 at Little Star Baptist Church in Freestone County, and they had two sons: Derrell in 1964, followed by Steve in 1966. The couple lived briefly in Mesquite before making their permanent home in Fairfield. He was a member of First United Methodist Church of Fairfield.

He was a heavy equipment contractor for more than 45 years, and during his career he cleared many acres of land and constructed many ponds and lakes in Leon and Freestone counties. He helped facilitate many of the massive industrial changes that came during the mid- 20th through the early 21st century to the counties of Freestone, Leon and Limestone. His working years stretched from soil conservation projects to the beginning of the local lignite mining industry through the natural gas boom still playing out throughout the country.

After retirement, he enjoyed traveling and working in his yard and garden. Most of all, he enjoyed spending time with his family, especially his bride and best friend of 54 years, Charlene. He relished his role as grandfather to all six of his grandchildren, traveling far and wide to their various school events so that when they looked up, he was always there.

Mr. Ezell is survived by his wife of 54 years, Charlene Ezell; two sons, Derrell Ezell and wife Tracie of Fairfield and Steve Ezell and wife Rena' of Haslet; six grandchildren, Tad Ezell, Ty Ezell, Dane Ezell, Sloan Ezell, Ellen Ezell and Jackson Ezell; one sister, Valerie Sharp and husband Leo of Buffalo; Brothers-in-law Eddie Stafford of Mesquite; Fred Gilliam, Robert Gilliam and wife Jacque, all of Buffalo; and Charles Gilliam and wife Kathy of Jewett; and nephews and nieces Jerry Gilliam, Lauri Gilliam Davis, Bonnie Gilliam Massengale, Debbie Gilliam Read, Patricia Gilliam, and David Gilliam, all of Buffalo; Lisa Stafford Sneed of Mesquite, and Scott Stafford of Round Rock. He was preceded in death by his parents; and his sister, Lola Stafford of Mesquite.

Visitation will be 6-8 pm Thursday, July 9, 2015 at Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home. Funeral service will be 2 pm Friday at First United Methodist Church with Rev. Michael Bedevian officiating. Burial will follow at Buffalo Cemetery. Pallbearers will be grandchildren; Tad Ezell, Ty Ezell, Dane Ezell, Sloan Ezell, Ellen Ezell and Jackson Ezell. Honorary pallbearers will be Angie May Bonner Sunday School Class Men, Kevin Benedict, Fred Gilliam.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Providence Hospice Place 6700 Sanger Ave. Waco, Texas 76710 or First United Methodist Church Building Fund 201 N. Mount Fairfield, Texas 75840.

Cemetery Details

Buffalo Cemetery

Buffalo, TX

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 9. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home, Fairfield
450 East Main Street
Fairfield, TX 75840
(903) 389-9217
info@griffin-roughton.com

Funeral Service

JUL 10. 2:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist - Fairfield
201 North Mount
Fairfield, TX 75840
(903) 389-2225

Tribute Wall



“ *Donald Ezell*

October 08, 2023 at 12:04 PM



“ *We will miss your smile and sense of humor!
Dr. Casper and Brandy @ Connect Hearing*

Brandy Davis - July 15, 2015 at 03:16 PM



“ *Charlene and family, we are so sadden to hear of losing a good husband, a good father and grandfather, and a very good friend and neighbor. I have many fond memories of Don and I talking "over the fence." He was always so friendly and a big help to me for anything I asked of him. Ken and I will miss him dearly and our hearts go out to you, Charlene.*

Charlotte Berry - July 10, 2015 at 12:14 PM



“ *I have known the Ezells all of my life. He was a very good man and leaves great memories for you to cherish. Please know the entire family will be in my prayers. Charlene will especially be in my thoughts and prayers.*

Yvonne Waters Woodard

Yvonne Waters Woodard - July 10, 2015 at 09:36 AM

YW

“ Yvonne Waters Woodard lit a candle in memory of Donald Ezell



Yvonne Waters Woodard - July 10, 2015 at 09:33 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Donald Ezell.



July 09, 2015 at 02:37 PM

YA

“ Your friends at HF & Associates purchased the Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray for the family of Donald Ezell.



Your friends at HF & Associates - July 09, 2015 at 11:19 AM

NL

“ So sorry to hear this .A good man and loved by all that knew him .

Nellie LeGalley - July 09, 2015 at 11:09 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Donald Ezell.



July 09, 2015 at 09:23 AM



“ *Love, Dennis and Tracey Crozier* purchased the *Strength & Solace Spray* for the family of Donald Ezell.



Love, Dennis and Tracey Crozier - July 08, 2015 at 09:52 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of Donald Ezell.



July 08, 2015 at 07:22 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Donald Ezell.



July 08, 2015 at 05:28 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Donald Ezell.*



July 08, 2015 at 04:24 PM



“ *Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Donald Ezell.*



July 08, 2015 at 04:12 PM



“ *Greg S. purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Donald Ezell.*



Greg S. - July 08, 2015 at 02:34 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald Ezell.*



July 08, 2015 at 12:25 PM

SC

“ Sincerely, Carol Christian purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Donald Ezell.



Sincerely, Carol Christian - July 08, 2015 at 11:24 AM

VS

“ When I was 5, I would say that he was my boyfriend. I knew then that he was a very good pick. He also would say that he was the best brother that I had. He was and still is and if I had many, he would be the best. I didn't have many kids come to visit, but I did have someone who played(pestered) and that was Donald. He wasn't home much of my life because I was 15 years younger, but what time we had was a lot of fun. I Loved my dear brother and will greatly miss him as will everybody that he knew.
Valrie Sharp

Valrie Sharp - July 08, 2015 at 10:23 AM

SM

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Smitty - July 08, 2015 at 07:11 AM

SP

“ *Smitty & Paula lit a candle in memory of Donald Ezell*



Smitty & Paula - July 08, 2015 at 07:04 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald Ezell.*



July 07, 2015 at 10:28 PM

KF

“ *Donald was one of the best men God created. His smile, laugh and sense of humor will be greatly missed. This earth is poorer with his passing but heaven has added an awesome angel*



Karen Gilliam Fifield - July 07, 2015 at 06:52 PM