



Gowan Murphy

August 23, 1944 - September 20, 2025

The world lost a truly unique man when Gowan Murphy, 81, peacefully passed away on September 20, 2025, at his home in Corsicana, Texas, sitting in his recliner.

Born on August 23, 1944, in Corsicana to Bill and Vera Budai Murphy, Gowan grew up with a love of hard work and wide-open spaces. He graduated from Corsicana High School, attended Navarro College, and went on to earn a master's degree in education from Sam Houston State University. Throughout his life, Gowan was known for his work ethic, love of the land and devotion to family and community.

Gowan began his teaching career at Corsicana ISD, where he taught science and shop for seven years. In 1971, he started his own dirt excavation business, later worked in sales at the local Toyota dealership for eight years. Eventually he returned to the classroom in 1987 to teach special education at Wortham ISD for another seven years. He also delivered the Dallas Morning News across Navarro and surrounding counties, mowed roadways, and took on countless other jobs too numerous to list.

But of all his many talents and ventures, the role that brought him the most joy was driving a school bus. For 32 years, he safely carried generations of students to and from school. Gosh he loved those kids, and they loved him

right back.

Gowan's impact on Corsicana ISD also extended to advocacy—he played a key role in improving the district's pay structure, lobbying for increases for bus drivers, custodians, and teachers.

A true jack of all trades, Gowan could fix or build anything he set his mind to. He drove dump trucks, rode bulls, and farmed the land. He loved rodeos, and each year looked forward to the Houston Livestock Show and the Texas State Fair. He was the essence of a cowboy, he embodied the rugged, genuine spirit of Texas. He was happiest outdoors in his workshop and surrounded by the people he loved. He lived and died a contented and satisfied man.

Gowan is survived by his daughter, Courtney Murphy; his sister, Billie Weatherby, and her son, Wade Weatherby (Tammy) and the love of his life, Ruth Baker. Also survived by Mollie and Annie, his much-loved blue heeler dogs.

There will be an opportunity during the service to share memories and stories of Gowan—the man we all loved so dearly.

Visitation will be held on Friday, September 26, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home, 1530 N. 45th St., Corsicana, TX 75110. A memorial service will follow on Saturday, September 27, at 10:00 a.m. at the same location.

Cemetery Details

Hamilton - Beeman Cemetery

700 Farm to Market 2555
Corsicana, TX 75110

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 26. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home, Corsicana
1530 N. 45th Street
Corsicana, TX 75110
(903) 874-4774
info@griffin-roughton.com

Funeral Service

SEP 27. 10:00 AM (CT)

Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home, Corsicana
1530 N. 45th Street
Corsicana, TX 75110
(903) 874-4774
info@griffin-roughton.com

Tribute Wall

JF

“Gown, you had a very nice service at Griffin-Roughton today. Testimonies from many of your friends and stories they told were priceless. You were loved by many. I can say you are truly one of a kind and the only Gowan I have ever known. ❤️
Rest in the arms of Heavenly Father,
Your journey on this earthly plane is done. Enjoy the paradise on heavens shores, Welcome Home 🙏

Jim Ferguson - September 27, 2025 at 07:58 PM



“Courtney - Please accept our deepest sympathies. I knew your dad most of my life, as your grandfather and my dad worked together. I ended up having him for Science at Collins. We were always able to keep track of each other through the years. I always told him that he was my "favorite science teacher". Please know that you are being remember in both thought and prayer by many.

Marinelle Szenasy - September 22, 2025 at 11:33 AM

RT

Hello there Courtney your nickname was Coco I remember your dad and mother y'all lived out here in the country. I seen your daddy last year at the bus barn. He was a nice man he will be missed.

Renee Thomas - September 22, 2025 at 07:52 PM

CM

Hi Renee, thank you for the condolences. :)

COURTNEY MURPHY - September 23, 2025 at 07:09 PM

CA

“ Big hugs and big prayers to the family and friends of Gowan!! You will be missed my friend!! 💜🙏



Cordelia Albritton - September 21, 2025 at 06:51 PM

CM

Hi thank you so much. :)

COURTNEY MURPHY - September 23, 2025 at 07:10 PM

GM

We were friends for over sixty years. He was like the brother that I never had. I'll miss him!

George May - September 24, 2025 at 08:37 PM