



Kenneth Douglas

February 17, 1927 - January 27, 2005

Hon. Kenneth A. 'Buck' Douglas Former County Judge and District Judge
Kenneth A. "Buck" Douglas passed away at about 8 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 27, 2005, in Corsicana. Judge Douglas was born Feb. 17, 1927, to Lawrence Douglas and Gladys Arnett Douglas of the Cryer Creek community in northwest Navarro county. Graduating from Barry High School, Douglas joined the U.S. Army and served in Panama. Upon discharge from the Army, he enrolled in Navarro College. Married in 1947 to Dorothy Jo Owen, he was admitted to Baylor University School of Law, receiving his law degree in 1951. Douglas returned to Navarro County and practiced law with an office in Corsicana. He was appointed judge of the municipal court of the City of Corsicana in 1951. Two sons were born to Judge and Mrs. Douglas, Kenneth "Ken" Douglas in 1952, and Brett Owen Douglas in 1959. Douglas continued to practice law and serve as municipal judge until his appointment as constitutional county judge of Navarro County in 1957. During his tenure, he was faced with numerous challenges, among them the renovation of an aging courthouse, and the finance of the county's contribution to the construction of Interstate 45. These and other projects required remarkable management skills at a time when county revenues were extremely low. As county judge, "Buck" Douglas practiced fiscal conservatism and dedicated himself to the effective management of public affairs. Also noteworthy is that the Navarro County Courthouse was made accessible to handicapped persons long before passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Judge Douglas left the county

bench in 1972 to become executive director of the Texas Association of Counties, then a struggling organization committed to the assistance of county government in numerous ways, from legislative issues to liability management and insurance. Under his direction, the association greatly expanded its scope of operations and influence. In 1976, Judge Douglas resigned as executive director of the association to seek the bench of the 13th District Court of the State of Texas. In this election he defeated the incumbent and served with distinction on the district trial bench for 20 years, never facing an opponent after 1976. As district judge, "Buck" Douglas heard all manner of family and civil disputes, as well as criminal cases including capital murder and organized crime prosecutions. Judge Douglas is remembered by the bar of Navarro County as a jurist who managed his considerable docket with firmness and fairness. After retirement, he continued to sit as an assigned visiting judge in complex and controversial cases. Other achievements for which Judge Douglas will be remembered are his participation in the founding of VFW Post No. 3366, and his service as president of both the Northeast Texas County Judges and Commissioners Association and the Texas County Judges and Commissioners Association. He also engaged in ranching and the independent trucking business. Judge Douglas will be deeply missed by those who believe that all persons are equal before the bar of justice as well as those who believe that the courts of America are the only institutions which stand between tyranny on one side and anarchy on the other. He will also be remembered as a loving father and grandfather. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy Jo Owen Douglas; his mother, Gladys Douglas; and his sons and daughters-in-law, Ken Douglas and Cindy Douglas and Brett Douglas and Dianne Douglas. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Allison Douglas, Ryan Douglas, Dustin Douglas, Daniel Douglas, Seth Douglas and Anna Middleton. Surviving relatives also include sisters and brothers-in-law, Marie Griffin of Carrollton, Dorothy Jean and Bob Ashford of Grand Prairie, Betty and Dan Lancaster of Athens and Wanda and Eddie McNeese of Kerens; sister-in-law, Bobbie Brown; nieces, Brenda Hodge and husband Coy and Kim

Andrews and husband Larry; and many other nieces, nephews and friends. Pallbearers will be Ted Warren, John Jackson, Pat Batchelor, Larry Andrews, Jimmy Dockery, Leslie Cotten, Alan Bristol and Rob Dunn. Honorary pallbearers will be David Ralston Sr. and Johnny Chirafis and grandsons Ryan Douglas, Dustin Douglas, Daniel Douglas and Seth Douglas. Visitation will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. today at Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home. Services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday at Griffin-Roughton Chapel with Dr. Gary Johnson officiating. A private burial will be held in a family cemetery. Arrangements by Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home.

Tribute Wall



“ *Kenneth Douglas*

October 08, 2023 at 12:04 PM



“ *My Grandfather, Sammie Saunders, was a commissioner when Buck was the County Judge. As a child, I loved to visit the "country judge", as I called him, when staying with my grandparents. I thought he was the best-looking man in the world. Then, after growing up, I found that he was just as wonderful inside. I know Buck was a great friend to my Grandfather and family. My sympathies to his family.*

Laurie Saunders Ledbetter - January 27, 2005 at 12:00 AM



“ *Sorry for your lost*

Troy Hudson, Jr. - January 27, 2005 at 12:00 AM



“ *I'm Minnie Ruth Douglas Kelly's granddaughter. Please accept my deepest sympathy at your loss. I was never fortunate enough to have met Mr. Douglas, and this is a profound regret on my part, as he was one of the few links to my Douglas relations. You are in my prayers.*

Yvonne Blalock - January 27, 2005 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Although I was married my parents lived next door and the Douglas and thought a lot of them. I also worked with{in the same company] with Mrs. Douglas. I also went to school with Bobbie Owen the sister of Bucks wife. I was very sorry to hear of Buck passing Vernon Fuller

Jim & Judy Hodge - January 27, 2005 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

We lived next door to Mr. and Mrs. Douglas and Wanda in Corsicana.

Maxine Fuller - January 27, 2005 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ I worked with Brett Douglas at ExxonMobil for 15 years. I am so sorry, Brett, Diane, Dustin, Daniel, Seth, and to the rest of the family, to hear about your loss. I met Judge Douglas at the hospital when my mother was in for a broken hip, and he was in one of the nearby rooms. I think a lot of Brett, Diane, and their boys. The family is in our prayers at this time. If we can be of any help, please let us know.

Jonathan, Jane, and Bill Batton - January 27, 2005 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ So sorry to hear about your loss. I went to school with Buck at Cryer Creek. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Jimmie Whorton Spain - January 27, 2005 at 12:00 AM

ST

“ *May the memories of your loved one and those special times you shared together be of comfort to you now and in the days ahead bringing peace to your heart.*

Sammy & Peggy Thomas - January 27, 2005 at 12:00 AM

KC

“ *Kenneth and I are so sorry to hear of your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family.*
Kenneth and Sharlotte Coker

Kenneth and Sharlotte Coker - January 27, 2005 at 12:00 AM

GA

“ *We all will miss a very good man.*

Gary Arnett - January 27, 2005 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ *Thinking about you Tammy*

Tammy Campbell - January 27, 2005 at 12:00 AM