



## Melba "Butch" Bower

July 16, 1957 - January 18, 2021

Melba Lois Bower, Jr., better known as Butch, 63, passed away at Baylor Scott & White in Waxahachie, Texas on Monday, January 18, 2021. He had battled the Covid-19 virus with courage, dignity, and grace before being called home by God.

Butch was born on July 16, 1957 to Melba Bower, Sr. and Mary Eleanor (Green) Bower in Corsicana and was a lifelong member of the Corsicana community. Butch graduated from Corsicana High School in 1975 and later attended Navarro College and Lubbock Christian College which is now Lubbock Christian University.

He married Terry Bower in 1982 and they just reached their 39th Wedding Anniversary January 16, 2021.

Butch was a man of impeccable integrity and character. He dedicated his life to his family and work. He worked at least two jobs for the majority of his life. Those jobs included being an administrator at New Encounters Residential Treatment Center in Mildred, Texas and as a teaching assistant at Mildred Independent School District. He loved helping others and was a mentor to countless young men at New Encounters.

Butch never met a stranger and was always there to talk to you if you had a problem or was just needing someone to listen. He loved sports and his favorite past times included watching the Dallas Cowboys, Texas Rangers, Dallas Mavericks, cheering on the Texas Tech Red Raiders, and supporting the Mildred High School and Corsicana High School athletic programs.

Butch was a steadfast family man and was the best father and husband anyone could have hoped for. His passing was unexpected and heartbreaking to all that knew him. There will never be another Butch Bower and he will be deeply missed.

Butch is survived by his wife Terry (Willingham) Bower; father Melba Bower Sr.; mother Mary Eleanor Bower; sister Rexanne Thomas and husband Wade Thomas of Van, Texas; daughters Kristy Johnson and husband Chris Johnson of Farmers Branch, Texas; Cheryl Jennings and husband John Jennings of Rockport, Texas; Shelley Hill of Lubbock, Texas; son Gary Bower and wife Rebecca Esquivel of Lubbock, Texas; grandchildren Ethan, Elise, Elijah Medina of Farmers Branch, Texas; John-Eric and Catherine Jennings of Rockport, Texas; Jacey and Luke Hill of Lubbock, Texas; father-in-law Billy G. Willingham; mother-in-law Genell Willingham; brothers-in-law Tim Willingham of Colorado; Tony Willingham and wife Gay Willingham of Frisco, Texas; nephew Josh Willingham and wife Courtney Willingham of Carrollton, Texas; and niece Jordan Welch and husband Max Welch of Frisco, Texas.

Visitation will be held at Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home in Corsicana, Texas Friday, January 22nd from 6-8 pm and funeral services will be held at Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home Saturday, January 23rd at 11am. Burial will be at Oakwood Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Mildred Independent School District where a memorial will be set up in honor of Butch.

Link to livestream of service:

<http://webcast.funeralvue.com/events/viewer/46231>

# Cemetery Details

## Oakwood Cemetery

900 North 19Th Street  
Corsicana, TX 75110

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 22. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

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

## Funeral Service

JAN 23. 11:00 AM (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall



“ *Melba "Butch" Bower*

October 08, 2023 at 12:04 PM



“ *Cilkay Jessie lit a candle in memory of Melba "Butch" Bower*



**Cilkay Jessie** - February 20, 2021 at 06:20 PM



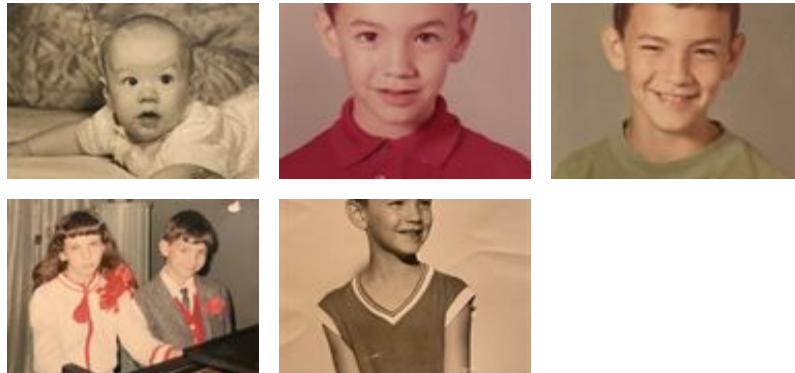
“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Melba "Butch" Bower.*



January 22, 2021 at 11:49 PM



“ 55 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



**Griffin-Roughton Funeral Home** - January 22, 2021 at 05:22 PM



“ Dear Melba, Eleanor, Gary , Terry, and all Butch's family, We are so very sorry for your sad loss. We have known and loved the Bower family so many years. We worshipped at Westside Church of Christ in the 1960's. I used to baby-sit Butch and then had the pleasure of having you, Gary, in 7th grade Language Arts. You are all in our prayers, Patty and Louis Williams

**Louis Williams** - January 22, 2021 at 04:58 PM



“ Deborah Collins lit a candle in memory of Melba "Butch" Bower



**Deborah Collins** - January 22, 2021 at 03:54 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Melba "Butch" Bower.*



---

January 22, 2021 at 01:26 PM



“ *Karon Klahr lit a candle in memory of Melba "Butch" Bower*



---

**Karon Klahr** - January 22, 2021 at 11:34 AM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Melba "Butch" Bower.*



---

January 22, 2021 at 11:27 AM



“ *Tiffany Skinner lit a candle in memory of Melba "Butch" Bower*



---

**Tiffany Skinner** - January 22, 2021 at 09:43 AM

MS

“ *The Bower family you are all in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time 🙏🙏🙏*



---

**Mike & Marsha Stearman** - January 21, 2021 at 08:41 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Melba "Butch" Bower.*



---

January 21, 2021 at 12:16 PM

MS

“ *Marnelle Kesinger Szenasy lit a candle in memory of Melba "Butch" Bower*



---

**Marnelle Kesinger Szenasy** - January 21, 2021 at 08:38 AM

AB

“ *Sending much love to all of family and friends. Butch was a long time school mate and friend since 1st grade. Many found memories.*

*Alan & Elaine Barnes*

---

**Alan Barnes** - January 21, 2021 at 07:24 AM

FW

“ Terry sending you and all your kids our love, thoughts and prayers. Wishing we could be there and wrap our arms around you. Butch was a great guy and all the family will miss him. Love you much, Freddie & Jim

freddie wells - January 20, 2021 at 10:55 PM

DM

From Deloris and family. Sorry for your loss 🙏🙏🙏

deloris meiske - January 23, 2021 at 12:02 PM

MT

“ Terry, I am so sorry for your loss. Please know that you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.



Morgana Terry - January 20, 2021 at 04:25 PM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Melba "Butch" Bower.



January 20, 2021 at 01:19 PM

DW

“ Don And Marla Wofford lit a candle in memory of Melba "Butch" Bower



Don and Marla Wofford - January 20, 2021 at 01:14 PM



“ Was a friend with Butch through middle school and high school. So very sorry to hear of his illness and death. Butch was always smiling and really was one of the good guys! I'm sure he grew to be a good man. My sympathies to his family ~ holding you all in thought and prayer. Kelly Allen French

Kelly French - January 20, 2021 at 01:13 PM

PH

“ We are so saddened at the passing of Butch. What a wonderful man! He will be missed by his family, church family, friends, co-workers, and the boys at Pleasant Hills. Butch impacted so many lives. He has left a huge void in so many areas..... Although we will be unable to attend the service know that you continue to be in our prayers. With much love and sadness, Pat and Robert Harper

Pat Harper - January 20, 2021 at 11:24 AM

CG

“ Carrie Golden lit a candle in memory of Melba "Butch" Bower



Carrie Golden - January 20, 2021 at 11:08 AM

RK

“ *Butch will be missed so much. He was a funny and wonderful man with good values. My heart goes out to his whole family.* ”

Rhonda Kitchens - January 20, 2021 at 10:41 AM

MP

“ *Mary Palmeri lit a candle in memory of Melba "Butch" Bower* ”



Mary Palmeri - January 20, 2021 at 09:57 AM

LI

“ *Lisa Garber and Lauriston L Crockett III purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Melba "Butch" Bower.* ”



Lisa Garber and Lauriston L Crockett III - January 20, 2021 at 08:53 AM

ST

“ *Butch will be truly missed by our family. My prayers and love is with all of the Bower family during this time.* ”

Steve Taylor - January 20, 2021 at 07:47 AM

SM

“ Butch was a dear friend to me in Junior High and High school. He was such a source of kindness, compassion and caring. He was a true friend when I needed one most. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. What a blessing to have such a wonderful man in your lives for so many years. God bless you all-and it’s true, he’ll never be forgotten...🙏💔

Sheila Cantrell Moeller - January 20, 2021 at 12:08 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Melba "Butch" Bower.



January 19, 2021 at 10:53 PM



“ Ghirardelli Gift Basket was purchased for the family of Melba "Butch" Bower.



January 19, 2021 at 10:49 PM

JW

“ Julie Waller lit a candle in memory of Melba "Butch" Bower



Julie Waller - January 19, 2021 at 10:03 PM

CI

“ *It was such a joy and honor to work with Butch. He always had a kind word and a helping hand. He had such a big and beautiful heart. He will be sorely missed.*

Cindy - January 19, 2021 at 09:01 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Melba "Butch" Bower.*



January 19, 2021 at 08:33 PM

DB

“ *Diana Bugg lit a candle in memory of Melba "Butch" Bower*



Diana Bugg - January 19, 2021 at 07:51 PM

PC

“ *Butch was such a sweet guy in school and he carried his sweet personality into adulthood. Butch was a friend to so many and was there when needed. He loved sharing passages from the Bible and I will miss seeing them. He reminded us daily that God was there for us in the verses he shared. Prayers lifted for comfort, peace and strength for his family.*

Pam Hatley Caldwell - January 19, 2021 at 05:55 PM

KB

“ *Kimberly Bottoms lit a candle in memory of Melba "Butch" Bower*



---

**Kimberly Bottoms** - January 19, 2021 at 12:50 PM

RB

“ *My Condolences to the Butch Bower family. I've known Butch since the early days of the YMCA. Always a friendly face, always cracking some kind of joke. Just an exceptional GREAT Man, who will be missed. Peace & Blessings.*

---

**Richard C. Barte** - January 19, 2021 at 10:21 AM

IB

*My Condolences to the family and may the Lord Bless his Soul. I havnt seen Butch in many years. Happy Salis, the Jersic's, Butch and myself use to play Volleyball every week at the YMCA in Corsicana, back in the late 70's. His was always a nice guy.*  
*Ira Bradford, jr*

---

**Ira Bradford,jr.** - January 19, 2021 at 11:15 PM

CH

“ *Carol Horvath lit a candle in memory of Melba "Butch" Bower*



---

**Carol Horvath** - January 19, 2021 at 01:20 AM

PW

“ I moved to Corsicana at the beginning of my sophomore year in high school, and I still remember Butch as one of the most gracious and welcoming people I met when I was getting used to my new environment. His kindness and generous spirit are still fresh in my memory almost 50 years later. God bless your family Butch, and rest in peace.

---

**Phillip Ward** - January 18, 2021 at 08:27 PM