

## Billy Joe Smith

Mr. Billy Joe Smith age 76, of Grapeland, passed away Tuesday, March 27, 2007 in the East Texas Medical Center-Crockett. Funeral services for Mr. Smith will be held Saturday, March 31, 2007 at 2 p.m. in the Callaway-Allee Memorial Chapel with Dr. A. Charles Allen and Rev. Scott Matthews officiating. Interment will follow in the Parker Cemetery in Grapeland.

Mr. Smith was born November 30, 1930 in Forth Worth, Texas to H. H. "Buddy" Smith and Dorothy Grace Kent Smith. When he was about a year old the family returned to Grapeland where Billy attended school graduating with the Grapeland High School class of 1947. After graduation he attended East Texas Baptist College for two years before joining the U. S. Air Force in 1951. He made a career of the U. S. Air Force serving in the field of Flight Medicine and staying for two years retiring in 1972. He served on bases in Wichita Falls, TX, Austin, TX, Clovis, NM, San Antonio, TX, Orlando, FL, Goldsboro, NV, Anchorage, Al, as well as overseas tours in England and Taiwan. In 1959 he married Helen Quarles, also a native of Grapeland at Ellington AFB Houston, Texas. After Billy retired from the Air Force he moved his family to Houston, TX, working for Brown and Root in their First Aid and Safety Department, taking college courses at night receiving an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice from San Jacinto College, Pasadena, Texas. In 1979 Billy and Helen moved back to Grapeland and purchased Wilson's Stop and Shop renaming

it Smitty's Stop and Shop which they owned and operated for 19 years until Billy's health began to fail and they sold the business. Billy's family was the main focus in his life. He was a loving grandfather, father, husband and brother. Billy was a lifetime member of the VFW #15045 AND THE DAV Tx-63. He was part of the East Texas Tres Dias Community and a member of Wayside Bible Church.

Survived by his wife of 48 Years, Helen Smith of Grapeland; daughters Tami and husband, Ray Bruner of Crockett and Suzie and husband, Ronnie LaRue of Lovelady; son Mark Smith of Spring; grandsons Vance Bruner of College Station, Landon LaRue of College Station, Colton LaRue of Lovelady, Evan Bruner of Crockett and Malachi Smith of Spring; granddaughters Jennifer Corcoran of Baytown, Raechell Bruner of College Station, Ashley Smith of San Antonio, Lyndsey LaRue of Lovelady and Adrianna Smith of Spring; sister Anne and husband, Jack Spence of Grapeland; nieces Stacy Skeen of Grapeland and Stephanie Spears of Grapeland; nephew Michael Guercio and wife, Kit of Grapeland. He was preceded in death by his parents, H. H. "Buddy" Smith and Dorothy Smith.

Family will receive friends Friday evening 6 p.m. until 8 p.m.

Donations may be made to the National Kidney Foundation 30 East 33rd St., New York, New York 10016 or Wayside Bible Church Building Fund 1245 E. Goliad, Crockett, Texas 75835.