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**GRAPELAND MESSENGER**

Thursday, October 24, 2002

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**Mark Douglas Baker**

Mark Douglas Baker, 30, of Bedford, formerly of Abilene was killed in an automobile accident Monday, October 7, 2002. Mark was born April 25, 1972 in Ferris, Texas to Donald and Virgie Baker of Abilene. He is also survived by his sister and brother-in-law Leah and Ted Flowers of Midland and extended family and special friends. Mark is preceded in death by his grandparents Nathan & Olive Baker of Grapeland, Texas.

He graduated from Cooper High School in 1990. He received his LVN Certificate September 9, 1994 from Cisco Jr. College. He was employed by the North Hills Hospital in the Pediatric Surgery Center in North Richland Hills. Mark also completed training and was licensed as an EMT. He was enrolling in nursing school to obtain his RN license.

Mark was a man who demanded perfection of himself and who valued excellence in his friends. He would go out of his way to help anyone. He listened to people and was easy to talk to. He had a terrific sense of humor and delighted in joking with his friends. He loved all motor sports and enjoyed hunting and fishing with his dad and sister.

Mark was a Certified Texas Show Car

Association judge. His skills were sought all over the state. He last judged at the Vernon Car show. He was a member of the National Hot Rod Association, the Key City Truckers and also the Team Tailgate Racing Team both of Abilene.

Services were held, Thursday, October 10th at 2:00 p.m. at the Elliott-Hamil Funeral Home Chapel of Faith, at 5701 Hwy 277 South. Bill Alexander and Rev. David Black officiated. Burial was in Elliott-Hamil Garden of Memories.

Pallbearers were Steve Longmire, Walter Morrow, Mike Hall, Nathan Roger, Chris Zapata, Tony Hale and Dale Kincaid. Honorary pallbearers were the Key City Truckers and Team Tailgate Racing Team.

The family received friends at a visitation from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday evening at the funeral home on Hwy 277 South.

In lieu of flowers, the family requested that memorials and donations be made to the Ben Richey Boy Ranch P.O. Box 6839 Abilene, TX 79608, American Cancer Society 209 South Danville, Bldg "B" Abilene, TX 79605 or the charity or church of your choice.