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BILLY JOE SMITH

Mr. Billy Joe Smith, age 76 of Grapeland, passed away Tuesday, March 27, 2007 in the East Texas Medical Center-Crockett. Mr. Smith was born November 30, 1930 in Fort 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.

Mr. Smith made a career of the U. S. Air Force serving in the field of Flight Medicine and staying for two years retiring in 1972. Mr. Smith served on bases in Wichita Falls, Austin, Clovis, NM, San Antonio, Orlando, FL, Goldsboro, NV, Anchorage, AK, as well as overseas tours in England and Taiwan.

In 1959 he married Helen Quarles, also a native of Grapeland at Ellington AFB Houston. After Billy retired from the Air Force he moved

his family to Houston, 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 Mr. Smith 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 19 years until Mr. Smith's health began to fail and they sold the business. Mr. Smith's family was the main focus in his life. Mr. Smith was a loving grandfather, father, husband and brother.

Mr. Smith was a lifetime member of the VFW #15045 and the DAV Tx-63. Mr. Smith was part of the East Texas Tres Dias Community and a member of Wayside Bible Church.

Survivors include his wife of 48 years, Helen Smith, of Grapeland; daughters Tami and husband Ray Bruner, of Crockett, Suzie and husband Ronnie LaRue, of Lovelady; son Mark Smith, of Spring; grandsons Vance Bruner, Landon LaRue, both of College Station, Colton LaRue, of Lovelady, Evan Bruner, of Crockett, 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.

Preceded in death by his parents, H. H. "Buddy" Smith and Dorothy Smith.

Funeral Services for Mr. Billy Joe Smith will be held Saturday, March 31, at 2:00 p.m. in the Callaway-Allee Memorial Chapel with Dr. A. Charles Allen and the Rev. Scott Matthews officiating. Interment will follow in the Parker Cemetery in Grapeland.

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

Callaway-Allee Funeral Home

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