



## Bill DeLong

February 7, 1940 - June 7, 2011

A memorial service for Bill DeLong, 71, of Tyler, will be held on Thursday, June 9, 2011 at 3:00 PM at Stewart Family Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Von Dawson and Mario Zandstra officiating. Mr. DeLong passed away Tuesday, June 7, 2011 at ETMC in Tyler. He was born on February 7, 1940 in Texarkana, TX to Verna Pate and William Ernest DeLong, Sr. He graduated from Texarkana High School in 1957. Bill was an entrepreneur. He and his family moved to Tyler in 1968 where he opened the Smart Buyer Beauty and Barber Supply. Later, he and his wife, Flora opened the "Blue Store" in Noonday. For the past 20 years, many customers have been greeted by his infectious smile. He never met a stranger. Bill enjoyed playing golf with his friends at Willowbrook Country Club and was an avid hunter and fisherman. Bill was a member of Marvin United Methodist Church. He is survived by his loving family including his wife, Flora DeLong of Tyler; son, William DeLong, III and wife Evelyne of Noonday; grandchildren, Lamar and Ruben; and sister Jane Kellerman of Hooks. If desired, memorials in honor of Bill DeLong, Jr. may be made to Pinecove Christian Camp, 15790 CR 1113, Tyler, 75703; Breckenridge Village, 15062 Pleasant Retreat, Tyler, 75706-7516; or Marvin United Methodist Church, 300 West Erwin, Tyler, 75701 The family would like to thank Dr. Gene Earl and Dr. Brent Kerns and the staff and nurses at East Texas Medical Center as well as Dr. Doug Baker and Dr. John Robbins at Marvin United Methodist Church for their much needed support. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be

dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

# Tribute Wall

AW

“ *Flora, Billy, Evelyn & sons: We were so sorry to learn of Bill's death. He was a special person and I know he will be missed by many. We will always remember good times with you (Flora) and Bill, when Chris & Whitney were young. Allen still loves to tell the story of Whitney's first "tour" of Bill's museum and running into the big bear. He loved playing golf with Bill. Our prayers are with all of you. May God comfort you and give you peace. We love you.*

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**Allen & Sherry Bobbitt, Chris & Whitney** - June 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ *Our prayers are with you during this difficult time! We will definitely miss seeing Bill every morning in the store! May God comfort you during this difficult time, with love Brad&Misty*

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**Brad and Misty Kinnett Family** - June 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with the family during this difficult time. Bill has been such a big part of the Noonday community for so many years. He will be missed.*

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**Tracy & Mary Lewis & Family** - June 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ *There will never be another! Much a GENTLEMAN and a Fantastic Business man. My Prayers and thoughts will be with Flora, Billy and Family. May God's blessing be with you all.*

*Jack*

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**Jack Whitfield** - June 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ *Bill was always smiling and talking with all the people at the store...will miss him a bunch even though we are not in Emerald Bay anymore. Prayers go out to all the family.*

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**Bob & Cathy Fuller** - June 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ *We are so sorry for your loss. Bill and I spoke frequently about his family and he was always so proud of his children and grandchildren. Going fishing early to lake palestine just wont be the same. God Bless your family and thanks for the many years of service to the community.*

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**DEAN STEWART** - June 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM

NT

“ *Dearest Flora, Billy and family,*

*Upon returning home from a trip, we were extremely saddened to hear of "Big Bill's" passing. Our hearts are so heavy, knowing the grief you are experiencing. Hopefully you can feel the hugs from others like us that extend our most heartfelt sympathy.*

*It was always so pleasant to walk into the Blue Store and see Bill's smile and hear a funny story or joke. That will be missed more than we can express!*

*Praying for God's healing comfort for all of you!*

*Fondest Regards,*

*Neal and Becky*

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**Neal and Becky Thompson** - June 07, 2011 at 12:00 AM