



David Mathis Fender

September 2, 1947 - January 20, 2024

Services for David Mathis Fender, 76, of Tyler will be held on Saturday, February 3, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. at Stewart Family Funeral Home with The Very Reverend M. L. Agnew officiating.

Father Agnew married David Mathis Fender and Jane McKnight Fender 42 years ago in Fort Worth, TX. Shortly thereafter the couple moved to Tyler, TX, where they raised their family.

Mr. Fender passed away Saturday, January 20, 2024, in Tyler after a series of strokes. He received excellent care by the U.T. Health Intensive Care Unit and doctors at 2 West, and after a month moved up to the Long-Term Acute Care Hospital on the 5th floor west of U.T. Health for another two months and a half where he again, received compassionate and devoted professional care by the respiratory techs, nurses, attending doctors, and Palliative Care Doctors. We are very appreciative of their attention and support of our entire family.

David was born September 2, 1947, in Tyler to Harris Roberts Fender Sr. and LaVelle Dunwoody Fender. David was a member of Trinity Episcopal Church, Jacksonville, TX where he was a lay reader, St. John Episcopal Church, Tyler, TX where he was also a lay reader, and Christ Episcopal Church, Tyler, TX. He was a member of the University of Texas Texas Exes, he was a US Army and National Guard Veteran, a 32nd-degree Free Mason, and Shriner. He

graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor of Journalism and graduated from The Southwestern Graduate School of Banking at Southern Methodist University with a master's degree in Commercial Banking. He was president and CEO of Fender Exploration and Production Company as well as a co-founder of Airedale Royalty.

David was preceded in death by his father Harris R. Fender and mother LaVelle Dunwoody Fender. He is survived by his loving family including wife Jane McKnight Fender, son Mathis McKnight Fender, daughter Abigail Anne Fender, brother Dr. Harris R. Fender Jr. and wife Keri, nephews Hammond Fender and wife Amanda, Bailey Fender and wife Kim, Wade Fender, niece Cassidy Fender, great-nephews Harris, and Hunt Fender, great-nieces Hadley, and Emmy Fender, cousins Julia Duffy, Jay Duffy, and Reanne Trotter Barber, John and Rob Stow.

Memorial service is scheduled from 1:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. on Saturday, February 3, 2024, at Stewart Family Funeral Home, 7525 Old Jacksonville Highway in Tyler.

If desired, memorials may be made to Hospice of East Texas (www.hospiceofeasttexas.org) 4111 University Blvd., Tyler, TX 75701; St. Jude's (www.stjude.org) 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105; or SPCA (www.spcaeasttx.com) 3245 W. Grande, Tyler, TX 75703.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

FEB 3. 1:00 PM (CT)

Stewart Family Funeral Home
7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy
Tyler, TX 75703
(903) 581-2008

Tribute Wall



“ *Stewart Family Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of David Mathis Fender*



Stewart Family Funeral Home - February 03, 2024 at 12:23 PM



“ *Stewart Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of David Mathis Fender*



Stewart Family Funeral Home - February 02, 2024 at 03:59 PM

AF

I love you so much, Daddy. I cannot put into words how much I miss you and how often throughout the days and nights I think of things you would say or do if you were here. I see so much of Mathis in you. I see so much of Mathis in you too. Mom says life is not the same without you. None of our lives are the same. Gosh, just when I think I have grieved as much as I can, I break out into tears again. I am so much like you, and you were the only one in the family who really understood me, probably because we were so very much alike. Things are in perspective now, the things that seemed so important before, are meaningless, and the things I thought were meaningless then, mean so much now. I know I have not written anything to you recently and I know I talk to you all of the time, but I wanted to take today to tell you how very missed and loved you are, in this family, and that I cannot wait to see you again one day. Love you, Daddy. I will always be your little girl, a title I will always be proud to carry. You mean the world to me, and it is just not the same without you here, please visit me in my dreams, I would really love to see you again. Love you, Abby

Abigail Fender - October 19, 2024 at 06:06 PM

MF

“*Dearest Jane, Abbey, and Mathis,
My heart breaks for you. Mr. Fender was the kindest man I knew. He always treated my daughter and me with such respect. Your marriage is the stuff that fairy tales are written about. Such a beautiful example of a Godly, giving relationship. Your loss is heaven's gain but that certainly doesn't take away the pain. May you find comfort in your cherished memories of one of the very best people the world has had the privilege of knowing. You are in my prayers.
Maryann*

Maryann Ferns - May 06, 2024 at 02:38 PM

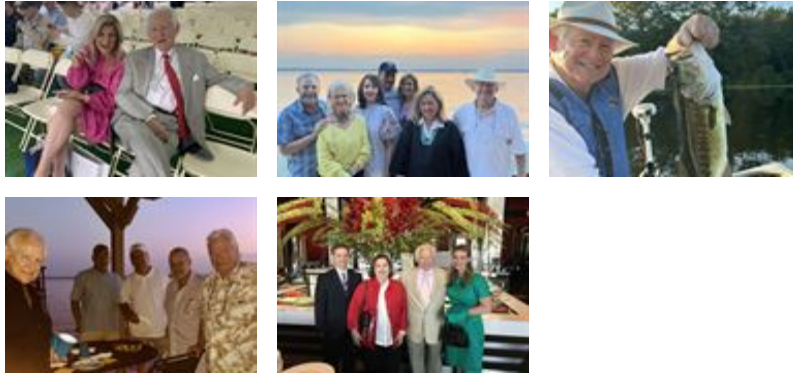
AF

Thank you so very much, Maryann, I apologize for just now seeing this and getting back to you. It is touching that you let us know we are in your prayers. It has changed our life drastically not having him here anymore, but life goes on whether we like it or not. I hope you are doing well and give a big hug for me! Love, abby

Abigail Fender - October 19, 2024 at 06:10 PM



“ 120 files added to the album LifeTributes



Stewart Family Funeral Home - February 02, 2024 at 04:01 PM

GG

“ Gus Gordon planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of David Mathis Fender.

Gus Gordon - January 31, 2024 at 11:51 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of David Mathis Fender.



January 31, 2024 at 11:51 AM

BS

“ I know it has been a rough journey for the family. Please know that you are all in my prayers.

Bishop Strickland - January 28, 2024 at 05:45 PM

JF

Thank you so much, Bishop Strickland. You are very kind to reach out to us.

Jane Fender - February 01, 2024 at 01:49 AM

DF

“ My prayers are with you during this sad time. Jane, Mathis, and Abby, I pray that you feel God's loving arms holding you up. May God's strength help you through this time. Debbie Fuller

Debbie Fuller - January 28, 2024 at 10:10 AM

SA

“ Jane, Mathis & Abby; we are so sorry for the passing of your David from this earth. But you will forever have him in your heart and memory. We love y'all. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Sherri & Charlie



Sherri Autrey - January 27, 2024 at 03:49 PM

MH

“ Jane and family, I am so sorry for your loss. I am a friend of Jane's from years ago. Prayers and God give you strength during this time. Mary Ann Jackson Harvey



Mary Ann Jackson Harvey - January 24, 2024 at 09:28 PM



“ *Sherry Kent lit a candle in memory of David Mathis Fender*



Sherry Kent - January 23, 2024 at 10:51 AM