



Donald Ross Patterson

September 9, 1939 - October 10, 2017

Services for Donald Ross Patterson, 78, of Tyler, will be held on Monday, October 16, 2017, at 10:00 AM at First Baptist Church of Tyler with Rev. Pike Wisner and Rev. Chris Legg officiating.

Burial will follow at Overton Cemetery in Overton under the direction Stewart Family Funeral Home.

Mr. Patterson passed away October 10, 2017, at his home, after a long journey with Parkinson's and Multiple Systems Atrophy (MSA).

He was born September 9, 1939, in Overton to Sam and Marguerite Robinson Patterson.

Growing up in a Gulf oil camp, he was involved in Boy Scouts, earning Eagle Scout and induction into the Order of the Arrow. He was always an avid reader. High School saw him serve as Band Captain, receive the Courteous Award, and perform in the junior and senior plays. At the age of 14, he obtained his driver's license.

Don's hobbies have included stamp collecting, photography, fountain pen collecting, watch collecting, model railroading, and traveling.

While in college he worked summers in the East Texas oil fields. Graduating from Texas Tech (BS Mathematics), University of Texas Law School (JD), and SMU Law School (LLM). He also taught part-time at several colleges.

Serving in the US Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAGC), he was stationed largely in the "desert Navy" with duty stations in Litchfield Park, Arizona; Bakersfield, California; and Morocco, as well as other locations, including the Philippines. His naval career included serving as the acting officer in charge of Naval Petroleum Reserve oil field near Tupman, California. After retiring from the Navy, he returned to East Texas and began a general law practice in Tyler and then transitioned to a focus on immigration law, becoming Board Certified in Immigration Law. The highlight of his career was arguing a case before the United States Supreme Court in 1997 [which was 1 of the 100-120 cases chosen (out of the 7000 applications for cases to be heard that year)].

Don is survived by his wife of 52 years, Peggy Schulte Patterson, two sons, Ross Patterson and Jerome Patterson, and a daughter, Gretchen Patterson Lees, as well as 8 grandchildren; brother, W. Wayne Patterson.

He has been involved in various churches and chapels around the world. He served on chapel boards, taught Sunday School classes throughout the years, was involved in the International Ministry at FBC Tyler, attended FBC South Campus and was a charter member of South Spring Baptist Church. Other organizations and memberships have included coaching soccer, YMCA Indian Princesses, Masons, Toastmasters, South Tyler Rotary (President/Harris Fellow), Smith County Bar, State Bar of Texas, Bar College, and American Immigration Lawyers Association.

Pallbearers will be John Breedlove, Jerry Cole, Alan Gardner, Sam Kennedy, Andrew Lake, David Lake, Kurt Massing, Mike Piercy, and Sharon Whitman.

Visitation is scheduled from 2:00 - 4:00 PM on Sunday, October 15, 2017, at Stewart Family Funeral Home, 7225 Old Jacksonville Highway, in Tyler.

If desired, memorials may be made to the Boy Scouts of America.

Cemetery Details

Overton Cemetery

Overton, TX

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **15**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

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

Service

OCT **16**. 10:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church Tyler
301 W. Ferguson St.
Tyler, TX 75702

Tribute Wall



“ I worked for Mr. Patterson from 1997 - 1999 and will forever be grateful to him and Peggy for the opportunity. I've continued to work as a paralegal for the past 20 years and still brag about Mr. Patterson's case before the US Supreme Court as one of the most fascinating things I've had the chance to be apart of throughout my entire career. I've taken great pride in the fact that I worked for such an ethical, honorable and generous man. Peggy and family - my deepest condolences for your loss.

- Lee Anne (Kirk) Johnston

Lee Anne Johnston - January 17, 2018 at 04:14 PM



“ Working with Don Patterson on real estate deals was always a pleasure, as he was so knowledgeable and easy to be around. Remember years ago with all his family at FBC & the boys in the balcony. Missed them lately as we were downtown and he and Peggy were south. Peggy, so sorry to miss the services, but nothing in the paper with all those details. Just call us at 903-571-2191. Dave and Carolyn Halbrooks Bain

Carolyn Bain - October 17, 2017 at 08:05 PM



“ My cousin. I have so many memories of growing up and visiting when we were kids. I never lived close by but loved getting to visit. He, his parents, and his brother were always people important in my life.

Peggy - October 16, 2017 at 04:45 PM

DP

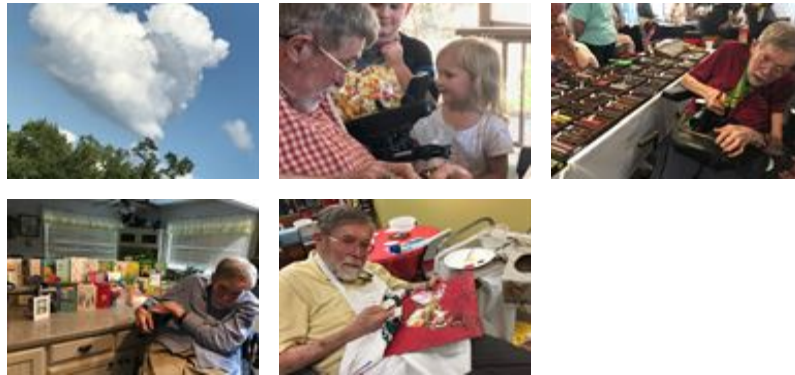
“ Dwayne Piercy purchased the *Fairest of All* for the family of Donald Ross Patterson.



Dwayne Piercy - October 14, 2017 at 12:42 PM



“ 60 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Stewart Family Funeral Home - October 14, 2017 at 11:28 AM

SR

“ *RIP, DONNIE.....*

shelby robinson - October 13, 2017 at 01:28 PM

WL

“ *Walter Lackey purchased the Tender Tribute for the family of Donald Ross Patterson.*



Walter Lackey - October 13, 2017 at 10:12 AM

WJ

“ I had the pleasure of practicing law with Mr. Patterson - a great lawyer, a man of integrity, and a gentleman. He will be missed. However, some of the lessons he taught me are still ringing true through the years. May the Lord comfort his family, and especially Peggy, during this difficult time.

Walter Lackey, Jr. - October 13, 2017 at 10:05 AM

CC

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. Mr. Patterson was always very kind to me when I was growing up. Sending peace, love and prayers to the entire family.

- Cher (Buchanan) Cope

Cher Cope - October 13, 2017 at 09:45 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Donald Ross Patterson.



October 12, 2017 at 03:03 PM

NC

“ I have only known Don for a few years. I knew him through Rotary. I loved listening to his jokes and found his life to be inspiring. He will most definitely be missed at South Tyler Rotary. Nancy Crawford, President, South Tyler Rotary

Nancy Crawford - October 11, 2017 at 05:13 PM