



## Frank Creath

December 2, 1941 - June 15, 2008

Our beloved husband, father, brother, PaPoo and uncle Frank Creath left his earthly bounds on Sunday, June 15, 2008. He graduated to glory to be with his Lord and Savior. Frank had recently been re-elected to his fourth term as Smith County Precinct 2 Constable. Frank was born in Amarillo, Texas to James Frank and Opal Corbitt Creath on December 2, 1941, five days before the attack on Pearl Harbor. His mother once quipped he was “trying to beat the Japanese.” The family moved back to East Texas during World War II, and it is there that Frank became known to everyone as “Peewee” because of his slight build as a child. Growing up a country boy on the old family farm, Peewee was a master of mischief and was forever bringing home small animals and reptiles he rescued and kept in his closet. It was here in this rural setting that Frank honed his slightly sarcastic sense of humor on his two younger sisters and two older brothers. After graduating from Glover High School in 1959 and attending Stephen F. Austin State College, he moved on to Houston and began a career in the automotive repair industry. While in Houston, Frank married Carolyn, now his wife of 45 years. Houston was the birthplace of Frank and Carolyn's two boys, Greg and Christopher. His automotive repair career eventually brought him and his growing family to Tyler in 1968. After working for various auto dealerships as a mechanic and repair shop manager, he started his own automotive repair business, Front Street Tire & Service. Soon afterwards, in 1972 his daughter Tiffany was a welcomed addition to the family. The move to Tyler

started two formative events which occurred in short order. First, in the late 1960s Frank became involved in the Tyler Police Department's Reserve Unit and served with them for many years. It was also during this time that his youngest son, Christopher, suffered a tragic accident. This loss spurred Frank to refocus his life into serving not only his family, but his community as a whole. In 1996 Frank ran for, and was elected to the position of Smith County Precinct 2 Constable. Since that first victory, he enjoyed three more successful elections, the latest in March of this year. Frank would be the first to tell you he had the perfect job ~ he absolutely loved his position as Precinct 2 Constable. While Constable, Frank continued his law enforcement training, eventually receiving his Master Peace Officer Certification and served over 39 years in law enforcement. He was also awarded endorsements by the East Texas Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge 51, and Tyler Patrolman Association. He also provided volunteer services to the community through the MDA Jailathon, Special Olympics, Susan Komen Breast Cancer Run, Rose Parade, Beauty and the Beast Bike Race, City of Bullard parades, and many other non-profit organizations. Frank's priority was to lend a hand when called upon to serve the community. In addition to his community service, he provided security at the High Caliber Gun and Knife Show.

Frank called Teaselville his home. It was here on their beloved "little farm" that he and Carolyn relished in their hobby of raising cows and watching their grandchildren grow up. Frank was preceded in death by his parents, James and Opal Creath, and his son, Christopher Lee Creath. He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Carolyn Creath of Flint; a son, Greg Creath and his wife, Mary, of Whitehouse; a daughter, Tiffany and her husband, Zach Riddlesperger, also of Whitehouse; five grandchildren, Mary Helen Creath, Foster Creath, Amanda Creath, Zane Riddlesperger, and Caleb Riddlesperger; a brother, J.C. Creath and his wife, Andrea, of Houston; two sisters, Ann Curry and her husband, Virgil, of Flint, and Mary Julian and her husband, Ralph, of Asheville, N.C.; and several nieces and nephews.

Services are scheduled for 2:00 p.m., June 18th at Stewart Family Funeral

Home, 7525 Old Jacksonville in Tyler with Bro. Ron Moore officiating. Burial will follow in Cathedral in the Pines Cemetery. Pallbearers will be Gary Middleton, Pat Hendrix, Glenn Potter, Chris Draffkorn, Jeff Hall, and David Peddy. Honorary Pallbearers will be doctors and staff of East Texas Medical Center Cancer Center, Steven Curry, Damon Creath, Aja Julian, Jackie Creath, Tyler Police Department, Smith County Sherriff's Department, Smith County Constables' Offices. If desired, memorials may be made to Light the Night at [www.lightthenight.org](http://www.lightthenight.org) or 866-812-WALK or the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, North Texas Chapter, 8111 LBJ Freeway, Suite 425, Dallas, Texas 757251, [www.Leukemia-lymphoma.org](http://www.Leukemia-lymphoma.org) or 800-955-4572.

# Tribute Wall

PR

“ We were neighbors for years-Shannon and I send our heartfelt condolences to the family-Frank was a good man-he will be missed by a lot of people

---

**Pat Riley** - June 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ FRANK WAS A GREAT MAN WHO ALWAYS TREATED PEOPLE LIKE HE WOULD WANT TO BE TREATED. I THINK HE IS SMITH COUNTYS BEST CONSTABLE EVER AND HE SET THE STANDARD FOR ALL THE CONSTABLES WHO FOLLOW.

---

**randy staples** - June 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SW

“ God is with your family at this difficult time of your life. It is always very hard to lose a loved one but we know that he is in a better place and not suffering anymore. He is one of God's guardian angels. He will be watching over you as you continue your everyday lives because he would not want you to stop living like God wants you to live. Prayers are with your family at this time. Peace and comfort to all.

---

**Susan Wolf** - June 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Dear Creath Family and friends:

*I was greatly saddened to learn Frank had passed away. I was so encouraged by his upbeat spirit and determination to continue on even in the face of such adversity.*

*I first got to know Frank when I was District Exploring Chairman back in the early 90s and he was organizing a law enforcement Explorer Post. My admiration for him grew as he took on the role of Precinct 2 constable and made it a point to take a proactive approach to his work. Through it all, he just remained a great guy -- the kind of person we could use a lot more of. I will miss him greatly but am very glad to have known him.*

*Sincerely,*

*John Sims*

---

**John M. Sims** - June 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM

TL

“ *I was quite sadden to hear of Franks passing. It had been a couple of years since I had the opportunity to visit with Frank in person.*

*He was always a kind and giving person who I greatly admired. Frank stood for what was good in Tyler.*

*We are all a bit poorer today with the loss of our friend...*

*My thoughts and prayers go to Franks family and friends.*

*God bless you all!*

---

**Tim Lowndes** - June 15, 2008 at 12:00 AM