



J. Mike Rowan

June 15, 1920 - August 30, 2019

J. Mike Rowan peacefully passed away Friday morning, August 30, 2019, at the age of 99. Services will be held to celebrate his long and successful life on Friday, September 6, 2019, at 10 a.m. in the Chapel at Stewart Family Funeral Home. Visitation with his friends and family will be on Thursday, September 5, 2019, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Stewart Family Funeral Home.

Mr. Rowan was born on his family's farm near the former community of Mars, Texas in Van Zandt County on June 15, 1920. His parents were Samuel N. Rowan and Stella Hobbs Rowan. Mike grew up on that same farm with his four sisters, Nell Rowan Slade, Sue Rowan Justice, Jean Rowan Saunders, and Joan Rowan Dixon. He attended the Arc Ridge School, where his parents also taught, for 8 years (1926-1934). He then attended and graduated at the age of 15 from Van High School in 1936. At the University of North Texas, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1940. At the outbreak of the Second World War, he served as a pilot in the United States Air Force from 1942-1946. He was discharged in 1946 as a Captain.

Mr. Rowan married Maurine Duncan Rowan in 1945, while stationed in San Angelo, Texas. At the end of the war, Mr. Rowan attended the University of Texas School of Law in Austin and received his Doctor of Jurisprudence in 1949. Mr. Rowan became licensed to practice law in 1949 and practiced law for 70 years. Upon graduation from UT Law, he worked with both Houses of

the Texas Legislature to write Legislation that created the Texas Veteran's Land Program, which provided low interest loans for Texas veterans to buy land. He became the Executive Director of the Texas Veterans Land Board in 1949 and closed the first loan of that agency to a veteran in Texas. In 1951, he became the Chief Attorney for the Texas General Land Office. Then, in 1952, he returned home to Athens, Texas and joined the firm of Justice, Justice & Rowan as a Partner until 1955. In 1955, he moved to Tyler and set up the Law Offices of J. Mike Rowan where he practiced for ten years. In 1965, he became a partner in Rowan & Davis, then later joining Loftis, Rowan & Files with Judge Harry Loftis and F.R. "Buck" Files, Jr. He was the President of the Smith County Bar Association in 1972-1973. In 1972, he was appointed by Governor Preston Smith to be the Judge of the Court of Domestic Relations in Smith County (now the 321st Judicial District Court). He later retired from the bench and returned to private practice. He was a Life Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation and was named to Who's Who in American Law in 1982. In 1987, he was asked to serve on the American Advisory Committee of the U.S./ China Joint Session on the subject of Investment and Economic Law.

Mr. Rowan and his wife, Maurine, raised two children, Dr. Mike Rowan, Jr, and Martha Rowan Stafford. As was his tendency, he was very active in the community. He was a founding Member of Green Acres Baptist Church, where he served as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Superintendent of the Sunday School Department. He was the President of the Mother Frances Hospital Advisory Board and remained an active and passionate advocate for the Christus Trinity Mother Frances Health System throughout his life. He served on the Tyler City Planning Commission for 7 years, was an active member of the Rose City Kiwanis Club (where he served as President) and Kiwanis International as the Laws & Regulations Chairman for the Texas-Oklahoma region. He was a member and served on the Boards of the Tyler Chamber of Commerce, Christian Record Braille Foundation, March of Dimes

(where he served as County Chairman), Tyler Human Relations Council, Lighted Window, Inc., Texas Ex-Students Association, Cal Farley's Boy's Ranch, Junior Chamber of Commerce, Smith County Farm and Ranch Club, and the Henderson County Levee Improvement District. He was also the co-Founder of the East Texas Junior Miss Pageant. He particularly enjoyed serving as a judge and the Show Announcer for the Tyler Saddle Club, the East Texas Horse Show Association, the East Texas Riding Club Association and the Henderson County Livestock Exposition for many years.

In 2009, Mr. Rowan was awarded the Justinian Award from the Smith County Bar Association for outstanding community service, legal ethics, and professionalism.

Mr. Rowan is survived by his two children, Dr. Mike Rowan, Jr. and wife Margaret of Tyler, and Martha Rowan Stafford of Tyler; his four grandchildren, Matt Rowan and wife Kathryn of Tyler, Jon Rowan and wife Andrea of Tyler, Will Stafford and wife Tiffany of Houston, and Mandy Stafford Nielson and husband Adam of Alexandria, Virginia; his seven great-grandchildren who he greatly loved, Caroline Rowan, Michael Rowan, Elizabeth Rowan (2010-2014), Piper Rowan, and Landry Rowan, of Tyler, Charlotte Stafford and Tucker Stafford, of Houston; many extended family he cherished; and myriad dear friends who he considered as family.

A special thank you from the family to Quincy Mitchell for his dedicated care.

Cemetery Details

Rose Hill Cemetery

2400 S. Donnybrook
Tyler, TX 75702

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 5. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

Service

SEP 6. 10:00 AM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall



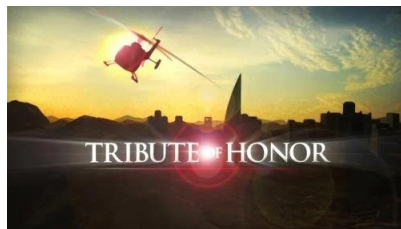
“ Stewart Family Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of J. Mike Rowan



Stewart Family Funeral Home - September 06, 2019 at 10:59 AM



“ Stewart Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of J. Mike Rowan



Stewart Family Funeral Home - September 04, 2019 at 10:07 AM



“ Loretta Martinez lit a candle in memory of J. Mike Rowan



Loretta Martinez - September 07, 2019 at 02:21 AM

SN

“ *Mr. Rowan was one of the finest men I ever knew. He was my attorney at a time when he was very much needed. He gave me the wisdom and support that helped me through a very difficult divorce. He was also a family friend. His son Dr. Mike Rowan and myself and my brother went to Lee together and shared some very special times. I will never forget his kindness and big smile. He will be missed by all who knew him. God Bless. May God's Grace be with his family and friends*

Susan Spence Norvell and family

Susan Norvell - September 05, 2019 at 12:42 PM



“ *Heavenly Heights Bouquet was purchased for the family of J. Mike Rowan.*



September 05, 2019 at 10:54 AM



“ *2 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Stewart Family Funeral Home - September 04, 2019 at 04:24 PM

JW

“ Mr. Rowan was a wonderful mentor and the best example of what a lawyer could be. I first met him in the early 1980s when I was a landman. He found out I wanted to go to law school, but was having to work full time and go to school full time. He took me under his wing and became such a supporter, by offering encouragement more times than I can count. He offered advice when I needed it and insisted that I not give up; he also bought my lunch many times during that time period. I have now been a lawyer in Longview for over 30 years, but I never forgot Mr. Rowan's kindness. His humor, sense of decency and professionalism have influenced me during my entire career. In short, I don't know if I would have made it without him. I am thankful Mike Rowan came into my life, and I try to live my life with the principles he held dear. Don Westbrook

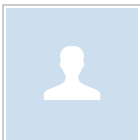
Jimmy don Westbrook - September 04, 2019 at 02:06 PM



“ 1 file added to the album LifeTributes



Stewart Family Funeral Home - September 04, 2019 at 12:21 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of J. Mike Rowan.



September 04, 2019 at 11:59 AM

SH

“ *Very grateful and thankful for knowing Mr. Rowan. I met him back in 1980 when I applied for a secretarial job with his firm "Rowan, George and Parker". He hired me and, although the firm dissolved over time, I'm still working for the "George" of that firm - now 35 years later. I am very grateful for my interview with him and his little pranks he tried to pull on me when he initially met with me. Very upstanding and nice man to work with and I'll never forget him.*

Sarah Holcomb - September 04, 2019 at 11:34 AM

YM

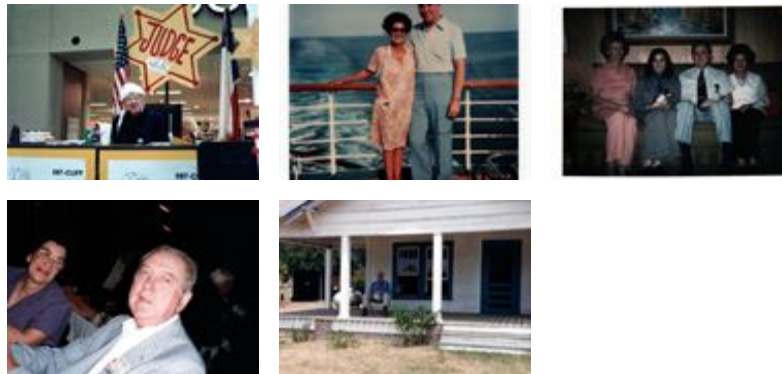
“ *Your friends at Potter Minton. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of J. Mike Rowan.*



Your friends at Potter Minton. - September 04, 2019 at 10:05 AM



“ *81 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Stewart Family Funeral Home - September 04, 2019 at 10:03 AM



“ *Truly Beloved Bouquet was purchased for the family of J. Mike Rowan.*



September 03, 2019 at 08:09 PM



“ *Mike and Martha: Sorry to hear of your loss. Mike was a dear friend. We enjoyed being in the Kiwanis club together, attending many horse shows together, drinking coffee together in downtown Tyler and actually doing some legal work for me. And a good quail hunt together in Van Zandt county. Loved that dry sense of humor. We will all miss him.*
Dale Eppler

dale eppler - September 03, 2019 at 03:55 PM



“ *Dan and Becky Stafford purchased the A New Sunrise Spray for the family of J. Mike Rowan.*



Dan and Becky Stafford - September 02, 2019 at 04:27 PM



“ *Franklin & Fran Duncan purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of J. Mike Rowan.*



Franklin & Fran Duncan - September 01, 2019 at 04:35 PM

LG

“ *Martha, I am so sorry for the loss of your dear Father. He sounds like a great man of God.*

Lisa Gottlieb - September 01, 2019 at 02:32 PM

SW

“ *Mike:
Sorry to read of your dad's passing.*

STANLEY J WAGHALTER - September 01, 2019 at 12:53 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of J. Mike Rowan.*



August 31, 2019 at 08:36 PM