



Joel Thedford

August 16, 1932 - January 3, 2007

Joel (Dick) Thedford, 74, loving husband, father & grandfather passed away in the home he built 50 years ago after a long struggle of Lewy Body disease & heart trouble. Services for Joel Thedford, of Tyler, will be held on Saturday, January 6, 2007 at 10:00 AM at Stewart Family Funeral Home Chapel. The burial will follow at Cathedral in The Pines. The family will receive friends from 6:00 ? 8:00 P.M. Friday, January 5, 2007, at Stewart Family Funeral Home 7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy, Tyler, Texas 75703. Joel was born in the Dixie Community on August 16, 1932 to Hubbard & Vivian Richardson-Thedford. He was a member of the Dixie Baptist Church for a number of years. He attended school in Noonday, Tyler High School, Dale Carnegie and TJC. He served in the U. S. Navy as a Seabee in the Philippines and Alaska from 1950-1953. After his discharge he married his sweetheart, Wilma Marlene Camp, July 18, 1953. They were married for 53 years and had 2 children, Randy Joel and Marlena. His great-great Grandfather William M. Thedford was one of the original settlers of Noonday ,Texas. Having migrated to Texas from Georgia in 1850 with twelve sons and two daughters. He was also the g-g-grandson of Benjamin Thomas who was a citizen of the Republic of Texas , having migrated to Texas in 1818. He fought at San Jacinto under Sam Houston & Wm. Kimbro for the Texas Independence from Mexico in 1836. Joel worked for Texas Power & Light in Tyler & Lufkin until March of 1977 with 23 years of service. He then started his own business building homes along with his son and then eventually began to work as a power line contractor for T P & L until

his retirement in 1996 while his wife and son continued to operate the business. He was associated with the Smith County Investment Group since 1984. He was always a hard & dedicated worker and very well respected businessman & friend. He was known affectionately as Dick, which was a name he gave everyone himself. He was best known for his generosity, love for playing dominoes, cards, hunting & fishing with his friends and most of all having his family and friends around. His children and grandchildren were very special to him. For ten years, his home was a Christmas show place with a live Santa giving out candy canes to all the children. Traffic backed up for a mile because of the lights and animated characters and Joel was always in the driveway or giving out the candy. Joel served as President of the Noonday Volunteer Fire Department for several years. He was a 32nd Degree Mason for 46 years in Tyler Lodge 1233 & currently in Henry Marsh Bell Lodge, Whitehouse. Joel is survived by his loving wife, Wilma, daughter & son-in-law Marlena & Ronald Bartlett of Flint and son & daughter-in-law Randy Joel & Kelly Thedford of Tyler. He was preceded in death by, parents & brother Jack Thedford of Woodbury, NJ. Two sisters also survive him, Donna Bacon of Oklahoma City, OK and Linda Jean Riddle of Houston. He is survived by 3 grandchildren, Chad Aaron Thedford of Tyler, Christopher Micheal Bartlett of Tyler and Eric Scott Thedford of Tyler. He also is survived by 3 great grandchildren, Collin McKenzie Thedford of Bullard, Kylie Elizabeth Thedford of Tyler and Brooklyn Nicole Thedford of Tyler. Also a very special buddy/nephew, Jr. Nunn of Tyler. Pallbearers will be Murray Lancaster, David Miller, Arthur Beeler, Glenn McTee, Steve Phillips, and Charles Oldham. Honorary pallbearers are the Employees of Thedford Construction Co., Inc. and Richard Anderson M.D. For more information or to express condolences, visit www.stewartfamilyfuneral.com.

Tribute Wall

FJ

“ *Dear Wilma and Family,*

Our Deepest Heartfelt Sympathy.

Our Love to all the Family.

*Florene Jackson
and
Bill Thedford*

Florene Thedford Jackson - January 03, 2007 at 12:00 AM

GS

“ *Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

Gilbert & Lynda Smith - January 03, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ *Our prayers are with you and your family. It is promised that we will all be together again. God Bless.*

Dale and Paula Rigsby - January 03, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ *Wilma & Family:*

Dick was a very wonderful man who always brought a smile to everyone's face. It is comforting to know that he will no longer suffer and is now at peace.

Our prayers are with you. Take care.

Bobby and Pam Russell - January 03, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ *Dick was a very handsome man and his obituary was beautifully written making him sound like the wonderful person that his family felt he was.*

He will always be in your hearts and your memories will keep him alive in your homes.

We must keep our faith in God and trust in His will, and ask His guidance in accepting and adjusting to our loss of this loved one.

Thoughts and prayers are with your whole family.

May God Bless You.

deb hauzie - January 03, 2007 at 12:00 AM

MD

“ *Dear Wilma and family,*

We are praying for you in your loss. We thank God for Joel's life and for the love you and your family and friends have for him.

May you be comforted in the days to come. In Christian love, Mary & Joe Dulany

Mary & Joe Dulany - January 03, 2007 at 12:00 AM

NC

“ Dear Wilma,

Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

I know that right now, the loss most seem overwhelming. But, I know that Joel will always be alive in your heart. And in time, the loss will be partly counterbalanced by the memory of the many wonderful years that you shared together.

*With the deepest symathy
Your friend,
Neil*

Neil Coleman - January 03, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ *I didn't really kinow Joel. I had seen him a few times, the latest being over 2 years ago when Donna and I came to a Southern Gospel Music Concert in Lufkin and stopped tio see Joel and Wilma while going and coming home. I know Wilma has worn herself out caring for Joel and I pray the Lord will give her and the rest of the family peace and rest at this time.*

Doris M Mann - January 03, 2007 at 12:00 AM