



Johnnie Lee Holley Jr.

August 17, 1941 - December 22, 2025

Johnnie Lee Holley Jr. 84, passed away at his home in Hawkins, Texas on December 22, 2025. A devoted husband, loving father, cherished grandfather and loyal friend to so many – Johnnie was a true Texas gentleman and lived a life defined by kindness, integrity, and quiet strength.

Born in Waco, Texas to Johnnie Lee Holley Sr. and Erna Emma Kretzschmar as the youngest of three children, Johnnie grew up with a deep love for the outdoors, music, sports and the value of hard work. Johnnie attended LaVega High School, graduating as Valedictorian in 1959. After high school, Johnnie attended Texas A&M University where he was a member of the Aggie Corp of Cadets, The Ross Volunteers and the Fighting Texas Aggie Band. Johnnie excelled in leadership roles throughout his college career, rising to Sgt. Major of the Aggie Band. Johnnie graduated in 1963 with a BS in Aeronautical Engineering. Johnnie's love for Texas A&M would continue throughout the rest of his life. He credited his time at Texas A&M as molding his values and creating character traits and work ethic that would serve him throughout his adult life.

Prior to graduating from college, Johnnie married the true love of his life, Norma Jean Basham, also of Waco Texas.

After graduating from Texas A&M, he accepted his commission to the United States Air Force. Johnnie had a passion for flying, and he excelled as an Air Force pilot in C130 aircraft. While serving in the Air Force, Johnnie and Norma welcomed their two children, Darrell Wayne Holley and Tracy Lynn Holley.

In 1969, Johnnie made the decision to leave the Air Force and join Delta Airlines, a decision that he would always say was one of the toughest of his life due to his love for the military - made because he felt it was in the best interest of his family. He moved to Colleyville, Texas where he raised his kids, coached youth sports, served the causes that were important to him and pursued his passions for hunting, fishing, motorcycle racing, camping, canoeing and skiing.

Johnnie retired from Delta Airlines in August of 2001. After retirement, Johnnie decided to embark on a multi-year project to build his "log house by the lake". He and Norma moved to Hawkins and spent the next 24 years traveling, reading, attending Texas A&M football games, pursuing his passion for historical preservation and honoring those that served their country.

Johnnie was a wonderful storyteller, a patient teacher, a steady hand in times of uncertainty, and a man who believed that the best way to lead was by example. He was a brilliant man of the highest integrity who loved his family deeply and unconditionally and would do almost anything for his friends. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Norma; his son, Darrell Holley; his daughter Tracy Rueschhoff; and his five grandchildren, Tanner Holley, Logan Holley, Bennett Holley, Morgan Rueschhoff and Ian Rueschhoff. He is also survived by his sister, Patsy Emmert, and his nieces, nephews, and dear friends.

Graveside Services for Johnnie will be held on January 9, 2026, at 2:00 p.m at Aggie Field of Honor Cemetery in College Station, Texas, with Fr Greg Crosthwait officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Texas Prader-Willi Association [TXPWA.org].

Johnnie's legacy will live on in the lives he touched, the lessons he taught, and the love he gave so freely.

Previous Events

Graveside Service

JAN 9. 2:00 PM (CT)

Aggie Field of Honor Cemetery
3800 Raymond Stotzer Pkwy
College Station, TX 77845

Tribute Wall

AM

“ Norma. This Chack Menchaca offering you my deepest sympathy. It was an honor going to Aggieland and being in the band together. We experienced some great times. Meeting you both leaving Kyle Field after the South Carolina game and chatting for a few minutes not knowing that would be the last time I would see Johnnie. It's hard to fathom. Again our prayers and thoughts are with you during this difficult times. Our Love Chack and Hilda Menchaca.

Arnold Menchaca - January 09 at 02:41 PM

BD

“ Thoughts and prayers for you and your family.



Betty Denton - January 08 at 08:56 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Johnnie Lee Holley Jr..



January 07 at 03:40 PM

JW

“ Jill and Monte Wilson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Johnnie Lee Holley Jr..

Jill and Monte Wilson - January 07 at 03:40 PM

DR

“ DeHavens, Genards, Mahurts & Rodriguez purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Johnnie Lee Holley Jr..



DeHavens, Genards, Mahurts & Rodriguez - January 06 at 10:50 PM

TP

“ T m P. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Johnnie Lee Holley Jr..

T m P. - January 06 at 05:57 PM

SL

“ A true American, a true Texan, an man. He is and will continue to be missed by all who knew him. Steve L.

Steve Lyle - January 06 at 12:13 PM

MA

“ Michael A. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Johnnie Lee Holley Jr..

Michael A. - January 05 at 10:17 PM

BF

“ *Brunke, Burke, Higgins, Hildreth & Lowary Families purchased the Tender Tribute for the family of Johnnie Lee Holley Jr..*



Brunke, Burke, Higgins, Hildreth & Lowary Families - January 05 at 11:47 AM

JS

“ *Janice S. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Johnnie Lee Holley Jr..*

Janice S. - January 02 at 10:34 PM

TF

“ *Taylor Carter, and family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Johnnie Lee Holley Jr..*



Taylor Carter, and family - January 02 at 12:53 PM

TF

“ *Taylor Carter, and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Johnnie Lee Holley Jr..*

Taylor Carter, and family - January 02 at 12:53 PM