



## Jon Sparling Sr.

April 19, 1941 - August 23, 2014

The Honorable Jon Sparling passed away peacefully in his sleep at his home in Dallas on August 23, 2014, after a brief illness. He was born to The Reverend Jack and Vera Moseley Sparling on April 19, 1941, in Alvin, Texas. He grew up a handsome, intelligent, fun-loving boy, and graduated from Lamar High School in Houston, Southern Methodist University in Dallas where he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, and the S.M.U. Dedman School of Law. He fell in love with Dallas and made it his home.

Mr. Sparling was a skilled lawyer in the District Attorney's office in Dallas County where he was founder and chief of the specialized crime division, organized to fight white-collar crime. He also distinguished himself as a judge on the Texas Court of Appeals. He concluded his career in private practice as a commercial litigator with Sparling and Zadina Law Firm, but he liked to say that working in the District Attorney's office was the best job he ever had.

Jon was an avid traveler, fascinated by foreign cultures and unique experiences, but Dallas, Texas was undoubtedly his home. He enjoyed being on and below the water, and he always had a sailboat in his life. He built, and loved spending time at, his lake house, and found value raising cattle and working the land on a family farm near Corsicana. Jon was born into a long line of Methodist ministers and as an adult he was a member of University Park United Methodist Church. Without a doubt, his greatest joy was his

family and raising his children whom he loved with everything.

He leaves behind to mourn him his four children, Jon Jr. and wife Sarah, William, David, and Sarah, the mother of his children Helena Underwood Sparling, his sister Patty and husband Dr. Duane Andrews, two nieces and their husbands and children, and Terri Loney, his good friend who loved and cared for him in the final years.

A memorial service will be conducted at University Park United Methodist Church, 402 Caruth Boulevard in Dallas on August 28, 2014 at 4:00 pm by his niece the Reverend Dr. Allison Andrews Thompson. A graveside service will be held by his niece The Reverend Susan Andrews Hageman at Rose Hill Cemetery in Tyler on Thursday, August 28, 2014 at 10:00 AM, where he will be buried with his parents under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to SMU Dedman School of Law, Att: Janet White, P O Box 750116, Dallas, Texas 75275-0116, or to University Park United Methodist Church, 4024 Caruth Boulevard, Dallas, Texas 75225.

# Cemetery Details

## Rose Hill Cemetery

2400 S. Donnybrook  
Tyler, TX 75702

# Previous Events

## Graveside Serv.

AUG 28. 10:00 AM (CT)

Rose Hill Cemetery  
2400 S. Donnybrook  
Tyler, TX 75702

## Mem. Service

AUG 28. 4:00 PM (CT)

University Park United Methodist Church  
4024 Caruth Blvd.  
Dallas, TX 75225

## Visitation

AUG 28. 4:30 PM (CT)

University Park United Methodist Church  
4024 Caruth Blvd.  
Dallas, TX 75225



# Tribute Wall

JR

“ Jon was Mr. Wade's Ace and that's what The Chief called him and chose him to lead the Specialized Crime Division, Jon gave the finest jury argument I ever heard in a court room and it was in a third-degree felony theft case in which Dick Zadina was the lead lawyer, prosecuting two overweight "nurses" who were starving their 80 year old patient to death and stealing her blind. I was proud that he thought I was good enough to be in his unit.

---

**Joe Revesz** - August 27, 2014 at 09:53 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Jon Sparling Sr..



---

August 27, 2014 at 03:01 PM

P(

“ My deepest sympathies to Jon's family for your loss.

*A memory: one day I got the famous note we all cringed over, from "The Chief", "see me".*

*Of course I wondered what I did wrong now, but he asked me if I wanted to go to the Specialized Crime Division. When I said sure, as it was a promotion, he told me to go see Jon Sparling. I'll never forget our very first meeting. He said, " so you want to come work out here? I said yes. He then said " well you better know that I run this place, not you, you get it". I said of course, and I enjoyed every minute working with him. Jon reminded me of George Custer. That courageous, brazen, go getter, with that twinkle of mischievousness in his eye. He held the reins but he encouraged bravery, competitiveness, and winning; something we all were trained to do.*

*He trusted me with several confidential investigations that were important to him personally and I will cherish those memories of him.*

*Prosecutor Michael M Rubbinaccio (ret)*



---

**Prosecutor Michael M Rubbinaccio (ret)** - August 26, 2014 at 06:24 PM