



Mark Henry Whiddon

August 2, 1966 - May 26, 2026

A memorial service for Retired Fire Captain Mark Henry Whiddon, 59, of Frankston will be held on Saturday, June 6, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. at Flint Baptist Church with Pastor Sam DeVille officiating. Visitation is scheduled from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. preceding the service.

Mark passed away Tuesday, May 26, 2026 while flying his treasured Fokker Drl, a replica of the World War I German fighter triplane. He was born and raised in Denton, Texas, the son of Henry L. Whiddon and Sonya S. Whiddon. After graduating from Denton High School in 1985 and taking courses in criminal justice at the University of North Texas, Mark soon decided to pursue becoming a firefighter. He graduated from the Fort Worth Fire Academy and began his tenure with the Denton Fire Department in 1990, serving first as a tail board, then Driver and eventually promoted to Captain in 2005. Mark also served part-time in the Argyle Fire Department and Gainesville Fire Department. He had a strong faith in God, was a dedicated member of Flint Baptist Church, and above all, was a deeply devoted husband, son, brother and father.

With their respective careers bringing them together, Mark married the love of his life, Jayda, a paramedic ER nurse, on April 7, 2001. Mark and Jayda made their home for many years in Gainesville with their three sons Brad, Koby and Konnor before retiring in East Texas in June 2023. Throughout his 33 years of service, Mark received numerous awards of commendation, including one of the Department's highest honors, Officer of the Year, in 2017, for his

exceptional leadership and service. Mark earned the respect and admiration of those within the Fire Department and with whomever he knew and worked. Fittingly known as “Hulk” by his peers and crew, Mark was both physically strong and mentally tough, commanding respect through his grounded, steady demeanor and fearlessly “going in first” to render aid no matter the degree of danger. For more than half his life, he led by example and served his community selflessly and courageously. As Captain, he was beloved by his crew and for his way of fostering camaraderie, leading with integrity, honesty, bravery and humility. He never expected from his crew what he wouldn’t do himself. Mark will be remembered for his unwavering kindness, loyalty, willingness to help anyone, and his keen sense of resourceful craftsmanship, able to fix, build or create anything.

Beyond his duties as firefighter, Mark pursued many interests and hobbies, including earning a fifth-degree black belt in laido, an ancient Japanese martial art entailing drawing and cutting with a sword, and requiring controlled movements and exceptional mental focus. In his last 20 years, Mark’s interest in aviation and the love of flying became his sole passion. He earned his sports pilot certification and later private pilot certification and soon began acquiring his small fleet of single-engine planes. He was happiest spending time with Jayda, his family, and his pilot friends at “fly-ins,” air shows or simply flying whenever the weather permitted.

Mark is preceded in death by his father, Henry L. Whiddon. He is survived by his mother, Sonya S. Whiddon of Denton; wife of 25 years, Jayda Whiddon of Frankston, and their three sons, Brad Mitchell of San Antonio, Koby Parks and fiancé Cary Garcia of Manor, and Konnor Parks and girlfriend Leah Barletta of Denton; Jayda’s birth son Jason Hennesey and wife Becky and children Thomas, Hudson and Emily of Seguin; and sister, Shelley Whiddon-Bartek, her husband David Bartek and son Zach Bartek of McKinney. Mark is also survived by many brothers- and sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews who loved him dearly.

Honorary pallbearers will be Firefighter Bradley Burger; Firefighter Raymond

Harder; Driver Steve Davis, retired; Driver Shane Robert; Driver Eric Woods; Chief Brian Glenn, retired; and Driver Danny Benson, retired; along with his other brothers and sisters in the Denton Fire Department.

Arrangements are being made by Stewart Family Funeral Home. If desired, memorials may be sent to the Flint Baptist Church Mission Fund. Flowers may be sent to Flint Baptist Church.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 6. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Flint Baptist Church
11131 FM 2868
Flint, TX 75762-8733
(903) 894-7649

Memorial Service

JUN 6. 2:00 PM.

Flint Baptist Church
Flint, TX

Tribute Wall

AF

“Denton, Tx 1970s - I met Mark Whiddon when he was about 6-7 years young. I was a student at TWU and NTSU, babysitting for the Whiddon family. Cheerios in the carpet. Mark's beautiful little boy blue eyes rimmed in tears as his little sister ran circles around him, testing his patience at every turn. Bows and arrows, rocks and American Indian artifacts and books. So concerned about Farah Fawcett's decision to leave the Charlie's Angels TV show as he tried to hide his little boy crush over Farah. Mark sitting in the TV room, telling his sister, in his little boy voice in a slow drawn out "Shelleeeee, Mom and Dad are gonna get mad, don't do that". Mark was sensitive, wicked smart, analytical, keenly observant and gifted in assessing people. Zoom to the 1990s. Mark transformed into a lean machine full of muscle and a barbed wire arm tattoo as he practiced his liato sword motions in the back yard. Always interested in how things worked as he restored an old truck. Always respectful of his parents and others around him. Quiet. Unselfish. Not one mean bone in him. All this and more on his way to becoming everyone's hero. Mark, your one life was multiplied so many times over bc of all you brought to this planet. Your light shines in so many touched by you. I will see and hear you every single day, in my mind's eye, when I remember your voice in our last conversation. You are unforgettable. Anna thanks you for the privilege of knowing you.

Anna Farias - June 06 at 07:34 AM

JW

He loved you and respected you so much. Thank you for your kind words and memories. Sending you love and hugs 🤗

Jayda Whiddon - June 07 at 03:55 PM

LE

“ Love, James and Earlena purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Mark Henry Whiddon.



Love, James and Earlena - June 05 at 07:48 PM

LE

“ Love, James and Earlena planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mark Henry Whiddon.

Love, James and Earlena - June 05 at 07:48 PM

JW

“ Jeff and Tracy Weed purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mark Henry Whiddon.



Jeff and Tracy Weed - June 05 at 12:28 PM

BF

“ Brandon Cady & Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mark Henry Whiddon.



Brandon Cady & Family - June 05 at 09:28 AM

SC

“ *Shauna and James Carpenter purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Mark Henry Whiddon.*



Shauna and James Carpenter - June 03 at 12:34 PM

RC

“ *There are so many wonderful memories we've shared with Mark. From dinners out together, evenings at the lakefront, pickleball games, flyouts for lunch. Thank you for sharing your love of your raccoon posse with us. I will never forget when you lost Bella and couldn't find her and was afraid to tell Jayda. There was Bella! Stuck behind your garbage can! Mark, you will be missed so very much. We love you.*

Robbie and Brenda Culver - June 01 at 06:55 PM

RC

“ *Robbie and Brenda Culver purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Mark Henry Whiddon.*



Robbie and Brenda Culver - June 01 at 06:45 PM

RC

“ *Robbie and Brenda Culver planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mark Henry Whiddon.*

Robbie and Brenda Culver - June 01 at 06:45 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mark Henry Whiddon.*



June 01 at 06:08 PM



“ *Cullen & Amy Hinshaw purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Mark Henry Whiddon.*



Cullen & Amy Hinshaw - June 01 at 09:36 AM



“ *Cullen & Amy Hinshaw planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mark Henry Whiddon.*

Cullen & Amy Hinshaw - June 01 at 09:36 AM



“ *Clinton Lax purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Mark Henry Whiddon.*



Clinton Lax - May 31 at 01:09 PM

CD

“ Chad D. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mark Henry Whiddon.

Chad D. - May 30 at 12:00 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Mark Henry Whiddon.



May 29 at 11:29 AM

NL

“ NT Daily Ladies purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Mark Henry Whiddon.



NT Daily Ladies - May 29 at 08:34 AM

NL

“ NT Daily Ladies planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mark Henry Whiddon.

NT Daily Ladies - May 29 at 08:34 AM

LS

“ Love, Mike and Joan Sprouse purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Mark Henry Whiddon.



Love, Mike and Joan Sprouse - May 28 at 06:45 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mark Henry Whiddon.



May 28 at 06:13 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mark Henry Whiddon.

May 28 at 06:13 PM