



## Ralph Byrd

December 21, 1939 - July 2, 2012

Services for Gorman Ralph Byrd, 72, of Troup, will be held on Thursday, July 5, 2012 at 11:00 AM at Stewart Family Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Joe Ballard and Rev. Kenny Ray officiating. Burial will be held at Pinecrest Cemetery in Troup under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home. Mr. Byrd passed away July 2, 2012 under the care of Hospice of East Texas. He was born December 21, 1939 in Lufkin to Gorman Clyde and Gladys Selman Byrd. Ralph served in the US Army entering in 1961. He was a member of Masonic Lodge of Tyler #233, and of Waco Scottish Rite and the Sharon Shrine Temple. In 1962, Ralph began his career with the Texas Department of Public Safety as a Highway Patrolman. In 1972, he joined the newly formed Motor Vehicle Theft section of the Criminal Law Enforcement Division, where he achieved the rank of Sergeant. He retired from the DPS in September 1993, and in October 1993 formed the East Texas Auto Theft Task Force where he served as coordinator for seven years. Ralph was a member of First Baptist Church in Troup. He was preceded in death by his parents and granddaughter, Kim Stevenson. . Ralph is survived by his loving family including his wife of 30 years, Judy Byrd of Troup; children, Teresa Byrd and Mari Naegli and husband James all of Tyler, and Gina Stephenson of Lewisville, John Braswell and wife Charlotte, Bryan Braswell and wife Suzzette, Terry Braswell and wife Mary and Carol Nelson and husband Matt all of Troup; sister, Margaret Forse and niece Linda Byrd, both of Lufkin. He is also survived by 13 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. Pallbearers will

be the DPS Honor Guard. Honorary pallbearers will be Royce Jordan, Chuck Moore, Joe Brown, Jim York, Lon Anderson, Wayne Hellen, Lee Tindall, Charles Smith, O.L. Guy, Kenneth Henson, Henry Lipe, James Cumby, Burl Reed, Jack Allen, George Kieney, Billy Vernon, Gary King, Joe Willmon, Darwin Fuller and David Page. Visitation is scheduled from 10:00 –11:00 AM, Thursday, July 5, 2012, 1 hour prior to the service at Stewart Family Funeral Home, 7525 Old Jacksonville Highway, in Tyler. Memorials in honor of Ralph Byrd may be given to the Salvation Army, 633 N. Broadway Ave, Tyler, 75702 or the American Lung Association, 1301 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC, 20004.

# Tribute Wall

KR

“ *Ralph Byrd*

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**kristy ross** - July 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TB

“ *I miss you. You and Judy were always so good to me. Thank you for taking care of me and being a wonderful boss and friend. Lots of wonderful memories. I love you Ralph.*

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**Terri Burleson** - July 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LK

“ *I just happen to see Mr. Byrd's passing in the online newspaper. It's been many years since we've been in touch but my thoughts and prayers are with all of the family during this difficult time.*

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**Lary Kellam** - July 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RP

“ *Ralph was a good man who inspired me after I promoted to MVTSS in 1989, working for Kenneth Henson. Ralph and I spent many nights working the border at McAllen. Ralph passed on to me lots of wisdom. My wife, Charlotte (Richardson) Parrack had lots of good memories of Ralph. Charlotte's dad was Bob Richardson, also one of the original twelve of MVTSS. Rest, my friend.*

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**Roy Parrack** - July 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SA

“ Dear Judy and family,  
Only yesterday did we learn of Ralph's passing. Therefore, we will not be with you this morning for the service but know that we will be with you in spirit. We know that Ralph has been ill for a very long time. Thankfully, he is resting and at peace. Fred and I will remember his friendly spirit, beautiful smile and loyalty to family and friends. Know that you have our deepest sympathy, our love and our prayers.

Sally and Fred

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**sally** - July 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM

WD

“ I want to extend my condolences to the Ralph Byrd family. I had the honor and privilege of knowing and working in the Motor Vehicle Theft Service with Ralph. Made a trip or two to the White River in Arkansas for some trout fishing with him. There are very few people who had the respect that Ralph had. May the blessings of our Lord be with each of you.  
Walter,LT(RET) TXDPS/MVTS

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**Walter Degner** - July 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ To Ralph's daughters, I am so sorry about the loss of your beloved father. The death of a loved one is so incredibly hard, and often the circumstances that accompany the death can lend another layer of grief to the situation. Know that everything that happens will pass, and you will have the love and memories of your dad to help you through your grief. God Bless and Keep You.

Alex

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**The Relend Family** - July 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BL

“ Gina, Just wanted to let you know that you and your family are in our prayers. We love you.

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**Brenda Lunsford** - July 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ Judy and Family,

*I am so sorry to hear of Ralph passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you. I regret that I will be unable to attend the service but I wanted to let you know I was thinking of you. If there is anything you need please let me know.*

*Cliff Babbitt  
Captain (ret.)  
TXDPS/MVTS*

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**Cliff Babbitt** - July 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ To: Gina, Miss Martha, Morgi & Karlee,

*I want to tell you ladies how very sorry I am for your loss. I will continue to pray and think of you beautiful and strong women, as you mourn such a great man. I love you all and please H Lmc Ycontinue to stay strong. May God bless you.*

*Brandy*

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**Brandy Hoffman** - July 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KA

“ Dear friends and family,  
We will all miss Ralph Byrd(papaw), but just be thankful that he isn't suffering anymore! Be thankful that you don't have to watch him go threw all his struggles. I bet you right now that Ralph(papaw) is glad to be in heaven so he can see all the people he loves at the same time. As a matter a fact, he is probally dancing to some Don Williams right now and eating all he can eat. He is probally as fat as a tick by now. We will never forget you Papaw! We will always have you in our hearts. We all love you bunches and never dought that.

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**Karlee** - July 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AN

“ Judy, Mari, Teresa, Gina and families, Our hearts are heavy, but Ralph is rejoicing. We are so sorry. We loved him. Our love, Arlin and Carol

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**Arlin and Carol Naegeli** - July 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ So very sorry for your loss. Ralph was a wonderful man and loved his family dearly. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you.

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**Tammie and Bryan Case** - July 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Teresa, Judy, Carol, and family,  
I am so sorry to hear about Ralph. I knew he had been ill but did not realize he was doing so badly and in hospice.  
My prayers are with you during this time.

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**Jan Barton** - July 02, 2012 at 12:00 AM