



## Ronald Wayne Rather

June 10, 1949 - September 1, 2016

Ronald Wayne (Ron) Rather

On September 1, 2016, Heaven gained a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather.

Ron was born on June 10, 1949 in Marshall, Texas to the late Robert N. Rather Jr. and Margie Hamilton Rather. He was also preceded in death by his brother Robert N. (Bobby) Rather III.

Ron was a graduate of Marshall High School, Marshall, Texas and graduated from Texas A & M University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemical Engineering. After graduation he married Laura Catherine (Cathy) Hintz at the First United Methodist Church, Marshall, Texas on June 10, 1972. He and Cathy started their marriage with a move to Tyler, Texas where he had accepted a job with the Kelley Springfield Tire Plant. A few years later he was hired by LaGloria Oil and Gas (now Delek refining) where he was manager of Projects and Engineering for over 30 years. After retiring from LaGloria, he joined Goar Allison and Associates as a consulting Chemical Engineer.

Professional memberships included Texas Society of Professional Engineers, American Institute of Chemical Engineers, and National Society of Professional Engineers. Ron was a Texas State Board registered Chemical Engineer.

Ron was very active in the former Glenwood United Methodist Church where he served as Board Chairman, Trustee Chairman, Sunday School Teacher,

Lay Leader to annual conference and various other committees. When Glenwood merged with Walter Fair Methodist Church and became Fairwood United Methodist Church he served on the Building Committee for the new Sunday School Wing and a rotating teacher of the New Beginnings Sunday School Class.

In his early teens Ron became interested in a group of young men known as DeMolays, an organization for young men, sponsored by the Masonic Lodge. He was initiated into the organization and at that time started his path to becoming a Master Mason. He received the Chevalier Degree, the highest honor bestowed on an active DeMolay. When Tyler Chapter of DeMolay's needed a leader to spear head the group of young men Ron was asked if he would take over the leadership. He accepted and thus began the challenge of guiding and nurturing young men into adulthood. He was affectionately known as "Dad Rather" and he absolutely loved his boys. A bond was formed as he counseled many young men, and the girls who became Sweetheart of the chapter, on the ways of the world and life in general. Ron and Cathy's home was their home and there were many evenings and weekends that the "boys" would show up for visits, decorate the yard, play ping pong or show up for just plain fellowship and enjoy late night Pancakes! One of his proudest accomplishments was that many of "his boys" became Master Masons. Ron was awarded the Legion of Honor Degree, the highest degree conferred upon a Senior DeMolay for outstanding leadership and service to the Order of DeMolay.

Ron joined Marshall Lodge No. 22. He became a Master Mason in October of 1971. In 1994 he became affiliated with Tyler Lodge No. 1233. He retained dual membership in both lodges. He received the Golden Trowel Award in 1984 from Tyler Lodge No. 1233 and served as Worshipful Master in 2005-2006. Ron received his 40 year pin for membership in 2011. He was a member of the Grand Lodge of Texas, Waco Scottish Rite, Texas York Rite and the Sharon Shrine.

Besides his love of family, Ron loved photography. He has taken countless

photos of family, friends, weddings, scenery, and wildlife. Since he retired, he and Cathy enjoyed traveling and photographing the many places they visited. One of his greatest joys was teaching his love of photography to Cathy. He bought her a camera and then had to get her newer and more advanced ones as she learned and developed her own style of photography. Ron developed a great love of photography at an early age. He saved cereal labels and ordered his first camera from an offer on the back of a cereal box. By the age of 12 he had several cameras and became the family and vacation photographer. During high school years he worked in a camera and film shop and had a paper route in the downtown area of Marshall. This afforded him the opportunity to save his earnings and in 1967 he bought his first professional camera, a Nikon F, a 35 millimeter film camera, the latest and most up to date camera of its time. He also studied and learned dark room developing techniques and every home that he and Cathy moved into had to have a room that could serve as a dark room! He got his dream of a dedicated, outfitted, darkroom in their current home and spent many, many hours of enjoyment developing the photographs that he took. When the digital cameras came along, he couldn't wait to get one and learn all the aspects of digital photography. He always took his camera wherever he went because he would say, "You never know what you might see."

His grandchildren were the highlight of his life! He had a great love of trains and he would take them on little trips to see if one was due to come down the tracks. He taught Stephen and Caden to count by counting train cars as they went by. He was known as the "Sorcerer" of his family because he made all things happen. Another favorite event of his was the annual summer trip to the Ringling Bros. Circus. He loved nothing more than taking the family and watching the grans get so excited over all the acts. Everyone loved coming to Peanut and MooMoo's at breakfast time to sit on the counter, or stand on a stool and stir, mixing and making batter for Waffles. It was the Saturday morning menu. He loved attending Caden's baseball games, Stephen's

scouting events, and just having fun hanging out with the twins Zachary and Ella. He was such a good sport when Ella insisted that he learn the Mickey Mouse Clubhouse Hot Dog dance! These were priceless times for all!

Ron is survived by his wife of 44 years Cathy, daughters Catherine Rather Jones and husband Jason, of McKinney, Texas, Emily Rather Bohlin and husband Andrew of Katy, Texas, grandchildren, Caden Matthew Jones, Stephen Andrew Bohlin, Zachary David Bohlin and Ella Rose Bohlin, brother William H. (Bill) Rather and wife Terri, sister-in-law Wanese Rather and numerous nieces and nephews.

Services will be held on Wednesday September 7, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at Marvin United Methodist Church, Tyler, Texas with The Rev. Benjamin West officiating. Visitation will be held Tuesday,, September 6, 2016 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Stewart Family Funeral Home. Graveside service will be held at 3:00 p.m. at Scottsville Cemetery, Scottsville, Texas under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home.

If desired, memorials may be made to Hospice of East Texas, 4111 University Blvd., Tyler, Texas 75701 or Shriners Hospitals for Children, 6977 Main Street, Houston, Texas 77030.

## Cemetery Details

### Scottsville Cemetery

Scottsville, TX

## Previous Events

### Visitation

SEP 6. 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM (CT)

Stewart Family Funeral Home  
7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy  
Tyler, TX 75703  
(903) 581-2008

# Tribute Wall

PV

“ I first attended Texas A&M in Sept of 1969. Ron was like a big brother to me as a "Fish" or freshman Aggie. We both lived at Hart Hall as Hart Hall Hell Raisers.. Anyway he made me feel more comfortable there at the dorm and Texas A&M. I remember him later on taking your picture and making a large poster size picture that I could send to my girlfriend back home. for (a small fee ) I just learned of his passing in the Texas Aggie magazine,, My thoughts and prayers are for you, Cathy and the girls.  
May God Bless  
Pete Vanecek, class of '74  
Bryan, Texas

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**Pete Vanecek** - February 06, 2017 at 06:57 PM

LO

“ We were so saddened to hear of Ron's death. Remember the fun times we had. Cathy's baby shower, Ton taking photos in our back yard, church events and more.  
Would love to hear from you, Cathy. Linda Hair Ortman

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**Linda Ortman** - September 17, 2016 at 04:37 PM

PF

“ Much prayers to all of the family in your time of loss. I remember Ronnie well from our growing up years in Marshall. May the peace that comes from God Almighty be with each of you in the days ahead.  
Peggy Clark Foster

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**Peggy Clark Foster** - September 07, 2016 at 03:11 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Ronald Wayne Rather.*



September 06, 2016 at 12:07 PM



“ *Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Ronald Wayne Rather.*



September 06, 2016 at 12:06 PM



“ *Basket of Joy was purchased for the family of Ronald Wayne Rather.*



September 06, 2016 at 11:45 AM



“ *Bobby & Christy Knowles purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Ronald Wayne Rather.*



**Bobby & Christy Knowles** - September 06, 2016 at 11:19 AM

AM

“ Ron was a wonderful friend to our family. He was always there to listen or help with a project. Our best times were spent at Ron and Cathy's house enjoying the fellowship and wonderful meals. He loved Mickey Mouse and displayed them on his office walls proudly and always wore his Mickey Mouse watch which always put a smile on my face. Cathy, Catherine, and Emily, we are praying for you'll and are here for you.

*Love Arden, Reba and family.*

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**Arden & Reba Miller** - September 05, 2016 at 09:52 PM

JF

“ John Welch and Family purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Ronald Wayne Rather.



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**John Welch and Family** - September 05, 2016 at 11:32 AM

JT

“ Jon Tappan purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Ronald Wayne Rather.



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**Jon Tappan** - September 05, 2016 at 11:01 AM

WR

“ *Ron was a good man, and a kind man, and family was very important to him.*

*We will miss him very much.*

*Wanese Rather*

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**Wanese Rather** - September 04, 2016 at 09:32 PM

EB

“ *Elaine and Howard Bohlin purchased the Heart's Companion Bouquet for the family of Ronald Wayne Rather.*



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**Elaine and Howard Bohlin** - September 04, 2016 at 04:10 PM

 David  
McGregor

“ *Knew Ron many years ago after he moved to Tyler. He and my father were in the Industrial Management Club together prior to my dad passing in 1981. I once told my father a joke about John Wayne and he repeated it to Ron at one of the IMC meets at the YMCA and as my father related to me, Ron started laughing for some period of time and ended up in the floor laughing over the joke. That is the Ron I remember, kind hearted and humorous!*

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**David McGregor** - September 04, 2016 at 03:24 PM

CB

*Cathy, I was shocked to learn of Ron's passing. I always will have fond memories of you and Ron stopping by PhotoGem to show me what he had taught you how to shoot for best effect. Then one day he admitted he thought you learned too good and were showing him up. He loved it though! You and your family are in my prayers as you learn to adjust to life without Ron.*

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**Carolyn Batten** - September 04, 2016 at 10:26 PM

MU

*We are deeply saddened by Ron's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. We are praying for peace and understanding for you. God bless you!*

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**McMurrey Federal Credit Union** - September 06, 2016 at 09:48 AM

LM

“ *Love, Melissa-Stacy-Frances-Agatha purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Ronald Wayne Rather.*



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**Love, Melissa-Stacy-Frances-Agatha** - September 03, 2016 at 11:37 PM