



Truman Fitzgerald

October 14, 1924 - March 19, 2006

Truman D. "Blue" Fitzgerald, a legend in the East Texas oil business, passed away March 19, 2006 at the age of 81. Born in Rains County on Oct. 14, 1924, he started in the oil business at the age of 18 and got his nickname, "Blue", from Burns & Winnie Brown who gave him his start in the oil business. He worked his way up as a roughneck, driller, toolpusher, and then formed and owned three drilling companies - Irish Drilling, Blue Drilling and Bluco Drilling. After suffering accidents, he had to learn how to walk again three times. On two other occasions, he overcame blindness. His family and friends regarded him as a true survivor with more than nine lives. Among his many enjoyments was watching his daughter, Jonna, play the fiddle. He especially enjoyed attending weekly cattle auctions with his best friends, Jack Burson, George Cooper, and Jason Murphy. Mr. Fitzgerald is survived by his wife of 58 years, Eddie Ruth Fitzgerald of Flint; daughter, Jonna Gail Fitzgerald of Tyler; sons, Randall "Randy" Fitzgerald of Northern California and Jerry Fitzgerald of Dallas; brother, C.T. Fitzgerald of Quitman; sisters, Peggy Fitzgerald of Tyler, Joyce Ashley of Tyler, and Opal Schroer of Jacksonville; and a number of nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents, William T. and Nannie Kate Fitzgerald, brothers, Alton, Cleburn Ray, and Dan, and sister, Katherine Caldwell. The family will receive friends from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tuesday at Stewart Family Funeral Home, 7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy., south Tyler. Funeral services are scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, Mar. 22, 2006 in the Chapel of Stewart Family Funeral Home with Rev. Jonathan

Fitzgerald and the Rev. Dr. David Dykes officiating. Burial will be held at 1:00 p.m. in Elm Cemetery near Emory under direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home. Pallbearers will be David Ashley, Daniel Fitzgerald, Will Fitzgerald, Kevin Fitzgerald, Riley Fitzgerald and Danny Fitzgerald. Honorary pallbearers are the members of Therapet Animal Assisted Therapy Foundation. The family wishes to extend special thanks to Dr. Tom Alexander, his longtime friend and physician. Memorials in honor of Mr. Fitzgerald may be made to Elm Cemetery Association, 12161 FM 514, Emory, TX 75440.

Tribute Wall

MF

“ *All hopes, thoughts, and prayers to the family of a man I can only wish I had known so much more than I do.*

Michael Fitzgerald - March 19, 2006 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ *We will truly miss seeing Mr. Blue driving across the pasture on his tractor or golf cart. If we were working at the barn or in the pasture he would drive across the street to see what we were doing! Our thoughts and prayers are with you all and if you need anything, just call.*

Mike and Carla Bacica - March 19, 2006 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ *To the loved ones of T.D. Fitzgerald, I offer to you my prayers of comfort, peace, and healing; knowing that God is holding each one of you right now and by His grace your sorrow will be replaced with beautiful memories. I believe the true testament of a man is not necessarily in what he does while on this earth, but perhaps more so by what he leaves behind. Jerry, you are one of the kindest, caring, selfless, intelligent people I have ever had the pleasure to know...a true "gentle"man. You have never said a cross word to anyone and speak lovingly about your Mom, Dad, brother and sister; therefore, even though I never met your Dad, I would say to him "job well done, sir. I would have been honored to know you."*

Carol West - March 19, 2006 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ *Jonna,
Joan and I are sorry to hear of your father's passing. Please know
that our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

Mitch Andrews - March 19, 2006 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ *Jonna,
My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.
Sincerly,
Sharon*

Sharon Counts - March 19, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ *Please know that my thoughts & prayers are with you during this
time. I enjoyed getting to know T.D. & your family through South
Tyler Animal Clinic, it is always a pleasure to see you come in. And
a special message to Jonna, I know how hard this must be for you.
You have always taken such good care of your mom & dad. You are
truly a blessing to them & they a blessing to you. Take good care of
your mom, you can lean on each other. I lost my precious daddy 2
years ago, & my mom & I lean on each other alot. Sincerly, Jodi
Dana*

Jodi Dana - March 19, 2006 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ *Just wanted to let you know that I was thinking of you. May God be
with you and your family during this difficult time.*

Mary Tomlinson Lewis - March 19, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ *Jonna:*

I was so sorry to read today about the loss of your Dad. You and your family will be in my thoughts and prayers. With heartfelt sympathy to each of you...

Jana Humphrey

Jana Humphrey - March 19, 2006 at 12:00 AM

AW

“ *Having only met Mr. Fitzgerald once many years ago while he was camping in Nashville with his wife and Jonna, I believe the testament to the man he was will be the wonderful daughter he and Mrs. Fitzgerald raised and loved. It is so evident how great a man is by the way he is loved by his family.*

Jonna, I pray that Jesus will comfort you in this sad time.

*Love,
Angela*

Angela Wheeler - March 19, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JN

“ *JONNA I AM SORRY ABOUT THE LOSS OF YOUR FATHER. I REMEMBER IN POOIE'S BIBLE CLASS HOW CLOSE YOU WERE TO YOUR MOM & DAD. PLEASE KNOW THAT YOU ARE IM MY PRAYERS.*

FONDLY,

JAN NORTON

JAN NORTON - March 19, 2006 at 12:00 AM

DA

“ Mrs. Fitzgerald and family, my prayers go out to you at this time of sorrow. Be encouraged. He was a fine man, Mr. Lindamood and I enjoyed his company those few mornings and enjoyed listening to The Ranch with him, he will be missed. If there is anything I can do, please call.

Drunita"Dru" Arps - March 19, 2006 at 12:00 AM

MG

“ I graduated from Oakwood High School in May 1955 and my first job was on a Mustang Drilling Co. rig located south of town. Blue was the toolpusher. I was able to work all summer on this rig and made enough money to begin college in the fall. For several years thereafter when I had holidays from school and Blue had a rig in the area, he always had a job for me which I always suspected he created just to help keep me in school. I had the privilege of expressing my appreciation to him face to face a few years ago. I will never forget the impression this man made on my life. My prayers go out for Eddie Ruth, Jonna and the family. God Bless You.

Marjoree Glover - March 19, 2006 at 12:00 AM

CG

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

Cade Garrison - March 19, 2006 at 12:00 AM

BG

“ *To the Fitzgerald Family.*

I will always remember the days back in the hay field in Yantis. Blue was such a good friend to my dad. I know you will miss him greatly, but you can take comfort in knowing that all a man leaves in this world is a good name and reputation. Blue left both.
Love in Jesus.

Byron George - March 19, 2006 at 12:00 AM