



Vernon Edward Faulconer

June 4, 1939 - August 7, 2015

Memorial services for Vernon Edward Faulconer, 76, of Tyler will be held on Tuesday, August 11, 2015 at 10:00 AM at Marvin United Methodist Church in Tyler with Dr. Doug Baker officiating.

A private graveside service will be held at Rose Hill Cemetery in Tyler, prior to the service, under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home.

Mr. Faulconer passed away Friday, August 7, 2015 at Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas.

He was born June 4, 1939 in El Dorado, Kansas to Guy and Mary Agnes Parks Faulconer. He grew up on a small family dairy farm where he and his family took care of the cows, bottled the milk and sold it door to door in the hours before and after school. Through the help of his high school librarian and with support from his family, he was able to attend Grinnell College, a small but remarkable liberal arts college in Grinnell, Iowa. While he was always deeply grateful for the education he received from Grinnell, he felt the more important discovery for him was Amy Hamamoto, a student who had come from Hawaii to study at Grinnell.

In December of 1959, Amy and Vernon married and moved to Marion, Kansas where there was nearby oil and gas activity. Having always wanted to be in the oil and gas business, Vernon was unable to find an oil company that would hire him so, with a small bank loan he began buying and selling oil and gas leases and used drilling equipment. During those early years, he and Amy had three children, Grant, Sara and Galen. After eleven years in the slowly

declining gas fields of Kansas, Vernon moved his family and his business to Tyler, Texas in 1970 seeking better opportunities. In Tyler, he was able to improve his business and hired David Enright, his first employee, in 1974. In 1981, he formed Vernon E. Faulconer, Inc., an operating company and named David Enright as company President. Today, the company operates hundreds of wells in nine states with offices in Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana.

As he became more successful, Vernon began to help others realize their dreams. He had a very strong belief that education could help lift people out of struggle and found the arts to be another avenue to personal growth. In 1984, he became an active member of the Board of Trustees at Grinnell College and with others, helped the school build a substantial endowment. Today, the school's Faulconer Gallery serves as a centerpiece for the Bucksfaum Center for the Arts at Grinnell College. In 1990, Vernon established the Faulconer Scholarship for students in Tyler and the surrounding area. In the 25 years since he established the scholarship, he helped more than 750 students realize their dreams of attending college. One of Vernons' greatest joys was watching of his Faulconer scholars realize their dreams. Today, Faulconer Scholars are working as teachers, counselors, lawyers, business professionals, nurses, engineers, physicians, and pharmacists, among a host of professions. In addition to these efforts, Vernon Faulconer served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Dallas Museum of Art and was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Chinati Foundation

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Richard Faulconer.

He is survived by his loving family including his wife of 54 years, Amy Faulconer of Tyler; son, Grant Faulconer and wife Catharine of Houston and their children, Clark and Sara; daughter, Sara Faulconer Sands of Dallas and her children Peyton, Lauren and Ryan and son, Galen Faulconer and wife Renee of Tyler and their children, Grayson, Clayton, Carolyne and Frances; brother, Don Faulconer of Kansas and sister, Gylaine Zimmerman of Oklahoma City.

Visitation is scheduled from 6:00 to 8:00 PM on Monday, August 10, 2015 at Stewart Family Funeral Home, 7525 Old Jacksonville Highway, in Tyler.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made the Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood, Dallas, Texas 75201, the Chinati Foundation, 1 Cavalry Row, Marfa, Texas 79843 or a charity of your choice.

Cemetery Details

Rose Hill Cemetery

2400 S. Donnybrook
Tyler, TX 75702

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **10**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall

MO

“ I am sad to hear that Vernon Faulconer passed away. I have not been on news about Grinnell College in years. I was class of '96, and I knew Vernon well from his visits to Grinnell House, where I worked and assisted in guests' needs. He was kind, a great listener, and offered me much counseling as a student for my future visions. I am sorry this message reaches your family so much later after he passed, but I just heard about his passing. He was an incredible person in my years there. I was a minority student, and he always encouraged me to follow my dreams. He met my boyfriend at the time, my mother, and some of my good friends there. You had an amazing family member, and that goes without saying. I am sad that he has left the planet, but I am sure that he is now a guardian angel for all of you. My regards and my condolences go to you all. Thank you, Marcela O'Bryon, California

Marcela O'bryon - January 02, 2018 at 05:38 PM

JW

“ From the children of James and Mildred Worrell, Jim, Kiki Aanestad, Mary Schulte and Tom, we offer our condolences to the Faulconer family for their loss. My memories of Amy begin with the pretty and vivacious Furumoto cousin from Hawaii coming to Iowa and going with the family to take her to Grinnell. We were all present at Vern and Amy's wedding and recall meeting his mom and dad. Kiki played the harp at the ceremony and I think Bob Carpenter officiated. I also recall the Faulconer visits to the Furumoto family when Grant was just a tiny little boy. Once on a business trip to Tyler in the late 70's, I spent an evening with Vern and Amy in their home when Sara was about nine or ten. Vern and Amy were warm and gracious hosts. We wish all of the Faulconer family comfort in your loss.

Jim Worrell - May 12, 2016 at 12:07 AM

CW

“ Catherine Walsh lit a candle in memory of Vernon Edward Faulconer



Catherine Walsh - August 15, 2015 at 05:05 PM

MD

“ My heart goes out to your family. I met Vernon several times over the years, and remember most vividly our meeting in Dallas a couple of years ago when I was there for an alumni event, this time working on behalf Grinnell College. May your memories of him keep him alive in your hearts and minds.

Melanie Drake (Grinnell College class of '92)

Melanie Drake - August 14, 2015 at 02:58 PM

SB

“ This picture of Vernon says it all. I look at it and see his kindness, gentleness, sincerity and humility...and the grin that was on his face every time you saw him. What an inspiration he was to all of us who had the opportunity to work for him. I can't tell you how empty the halls of the office seem and how greatly he will be missed there. May God give all of his family comfort, wisdom and unity to continue on in the days ahead.

Susan Bradley

Susan Bradley - August 11, 2015 at 11:24 PM

GZ

“ My heart goes out to the Faulciner Family, prayers for comfort be with you all. I worked for Vernon Falconer for eight years and during those eight years I lost a daughter, Vernon came to our house and spent time with my husband & I and our family and we were all so touched that he would take time out of his busy schedule to come and personally show his heart felt sympathy. Vernon was a wonderful man and will be sorely missed by all those that he touched each & every day of his life. I'm truly honored to have known and worked for such an amazing and selfless man! May the perpetual light shine upon him and may he rest in peace.

God give you peace & comfort during this time of great sorrow.

Grace Zanolini & Family

Grace Zanolini - August 11, 2015 at 08:49 PM

MS

“ Dear Falconer Family,

Over the past decade and a half I have only had the pleasure of meeting Vernon a few times. However, his kindness and generosity have changed my everyday life and the lives of many others in ways that are simply uncountable.

I am certain that I speak for countless others when I say that we owe a great deal to Vernon Falconer.

Obviously, his gifts have enriched us all here at the Falconer Gallery, as well as tens of thousands of Grinnell students and visitors from Iowa and around the world, who have all shared the benefit of a wonderful art gallery named for an extraordinary and wonderful man.

Personally, he has made it possible for me to enjoy a dream job in my beloved home town and alma mater. There is simply no adequate way to express my thanks to him and to Amy for all that they have done for me

Heartfelt condolences to Amy and the entire family. Please be assured that Vernon's memory will live on and be revered by those of us fortunate enough to work in the place which bears his name.

Peace and blessings to you all.

*Milton Severe
exhibition designer, Falconer Gallery
Grinnell College*

Milton Severe - August 11, 2015 at 02:04 PM

SJ

“ *To Amy and the Faulconer Family,
Today's funeral service was a beautiful tribute to a wonderful human being - a husband, father, business man, community leader, and philanthropist. I appreciated the warmth and sincerity of his friendship. He loved Grinnell College and we are forever grateful to Vernon and Amy for their generous investments in their alma mater. We are a better place because of you. While we have lost a great person, we can carry his spirit and passion for life to future generations.*

With deepest appreciation and sympathy,

*Shane Jacobson
VP at Grinnell College*

Shane Jacobson - August 11, 2015 at 12:14 PM

KP

“ *My heart goes out to each family member and employee of Vernon's. Vernon was one of the kindest, most giving gentleman I knew. I had the privilege of working for him five years. Once Vernon met you, he never forgot your name. Each time I met him in the hallway, or took something to him for his signature, he always called me by name and asked how I doing. Vernon and his love and compassion for our community will be deeply missed.*

Blessings to all family and employees.

Krista Peterson

Krista Peterson - August 11, 2015 at 10:18 AM

CW

“ *Chuck and Nancy Wallace purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Vernon Edward Faulconer.*



Chuck and Nancy Wallace - August 10, 2015 at 09:16 PM

CB

“ *I can't begin to express what a privilege it has been to work for Vernon some 28 odd years. Driving to work this morning I was thinking about how much I would miss his enthusiastic personality and his visits to my office inquiring as what deals we were working on. Vernon was a visionary and a true leader with a great big ole heart to boot! His legacy speaks for itself and he will most certainly be sorely missed by all. My heart and prayers go out to Amy, Sara, Grant, Galen and family during this difficult time. May God bless you all.*

*Sincere condolences,
Cindy Boatman*

Cindy Boatman - August 10, 2015 at 05:48 PM

SK

“ I have had the honor of knowing Vernon for about thirty years. We started this great art adventure together when I was hired to help him find some art for his, at that time, small office in Tyler. As his interest in contemporary art grew, he began collecting what he liked and placed it where he could fit it. When the Dallas house was conceived, I was honored he asked me to help him with the art for the "townhouse" as he liked to call it. His enthusiasm was boundless. When I met Vernon and Amy in Basel, Switzerland for the art fair, he was like that kid in the candy store. He wanted to see everything. Once the Dallas house was finished, groups began visiting and admiring the collection. Vern and Amy became more involved with the Dallas Museum of Art, taking many trips with them. He broadened his art experiences, became involved with different organizations, began the gallery at his beloved Grinnell and on and on and on, as so many have discussed. I was lucky to know him at the beginning and so proud to see what he accomplished. I will miss my friend.

To Amy, Sara, Grant, Galen and the rest of your family, you have my sincere condolences . If I can help with anything, please let me know.

Shel Kasmir - August 10, 2015 at 04:38 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Vernon Edward Faulconer.



August 10, 2015 at 04:07 PM

WW

“ *Waldman Bros, Stephen Waldman purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Vernon Edward Faulconer.*



Waldman Bros, Stephen Waldman - August 10, 2015 at 04:07 PM

MC

“ *I had the opportunity of working for Vernon for four years. He was always very kind to me and it was appreciated. I was always impressed with his contributions to the community and the concern he had for his employees. I extend my condolences not only to the family who I know are extremely shocked and saddened but also those who continue to work for the company that are my friends who I know are also grieving. Such a terrible loss for all.*
Marla (Marshall) Cherry

Marla Cherry - August 10, 2015 at 02:39 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Vernon Edward Faulconer.*



August 10, 2015 at 02:35 PM

SF

“ Shelley Sudderth and Family purchased the A New Sunrise Spray for the family of Vernon Edward Faulconer.



Shelley Sudderth and Family - August 10, 2015 at 02:03 PM

DK

“ Amy, my deepest sympathies to you and your family. I remember when Vern visited me and my family in small-town Perry Iowa when we were students at the College and how my parents liked him. Since then Vern and I occasionally shared emails, and I always wanted to see him and you again.

Duane Krohnke, Grinnell, 1961

Duane Krohnke - August 10, 2015 at 01:55 PM

RO

“ Amy and all the Faulconers, Vernon was a great friend to me and of Grinnell College while I was the President. He inspired all of us with his program for promising kids and also for his discerning taste in art. He was both oversized and humble. Russell K. Osgood

Russell K. Osgood - August 10, 2015 at 01:02 PM

AH

“ I once had the privilege of working for Vernon E. Faulconer, Inc., and I remember well how impressed I was that Vernon dropped by my office on my first day of work there to greet me and introduce himself. Certainly he was a man of unequalled kindness and generosity, and he had a fine, subtle sense of humor. His love of fine art is well known, and the art which decorates the Company's offices continues to enrich the cultural milieu of Tyler.

Art Hughes - August 10, 2015 at 12:36 PM



“ Rose Tribute was purchased for the family of Vernon Edward Faulconer.



August 10, 2015 at 11:43 AM

PC

“ When I worked as a Gallery Director in Tyler, TX for a brief spell in the late '90s, I chanced to meet Vern at an Art opening. He mentioned this small school in Iowa he went to and we realized quickly we were both Grinnellians, and both involved in the arts. He was instrumental in the design process and vision towards the major expansion of the Grinnell College Art building and the building of the Gallery that bears his name. So many in Grinnell have benefited from his leadership. I had previously heard from one of my Grinnell studio professors that "a trustee", who turned out to be Vern, had lent his plane in the mid-nineties to get the committee from Iowa to three locations around the country quickly-- to help complete the choice from the design finalists for what turned out to be the beautiful, new Art Building. Vision and leadership and generosity were his hallmarks. Sincere condolences to the family and all his friends, Peter Calvert, class of 1979, Grinnell College, Alumni Council member.

Peter Calvert - August 10, 2015 at 11:35 AM



“ Gift of Grace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Vernon Edward Faulconer.



August 10, 2015 at 11:35 AM

JG

“ Vernon was an exemplary man in his humanity and generosity. He was - in the best sense of the word - an absolutely cool guy - and the world is a much poorer place in his absence. My deepest condolences to you Amy and to all the Faulconer Family on the loss. Vernon will be deeply missed. With kind regards. John Gerrard

John Gerrard - August 10, 2015 at 11:13 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Vernon Edward Faulconer.*



August 10, 2015 at 11:12 AM



“ *Jessica B. purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Vernon Edward Faulconer.*



Jessica B. - August 10, 2015 at 10:01 AM



“ *VEFI Greenwood LA Office and New Mexico Office purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Vernon Edward Faulconer.*



VEFI Greenwood LA Office and New Mexico Office - August 10, 2015 at 09:58 AM

JC

“ Dear Family and Friends of Mr. Faulconer,
This is very sad news. I am so sorry for your loss. As a studio art professor here at Grinnell College, every time I enter the Faulconer Gallery I am thankful we have this beautiful space for experiencing art. It is a wonderful gift he and Ms. Hamamoto gave to the students, faculty, staff and community here in Grinnell. I wish I could have met this man who was such an ardent lover of art. Peace be with all of you at this difficult time.

Sincerely,
Jeremy Chen

Jeremy Chen - August 10, 2015 at 09:47 AM

MC

“ I was so sad to hear of Vernon's passing. He was a special person that made everyone feel special when they were around him. A true gentleman. As a customer of mine at Bank of Oklahoma, he was held in the highest regard. I will miss him.

Mickey Coats, Bank of Oklahoma

Mickey Coats - August 10, 2015 at 09:46 AM



“ Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Vernon Edward Faulconer.



August 10, 2015 at 08:56 AM

BE

“ *Breaux Bridge Office VEFI Employees purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Vernon Edward Faulconer.*



Breaux Bridge Office VEFI Employees - August 09, 2015 at 10:42 PM

SC

“ *The most wonderful, generous, kind hearted man I know. It has been a privilege to have worked with Vernon the past 8 years. I will miss him dearly.*

Sharon Claxton - August 09, 2015 at 09:22 PM



“ *Rose Tribute was purchased for the family of Vernon Edward Faulconer.*



August 09, 2015 at 09:05 PM

PF

“ *I had the honor of working for Vernon for four short years and appreciated his insight and wisdom. What he and his wife and family gave back to the community will have an affect on the lives of many people for years to come. Our thoughts and certainly our prayers are with each of you as well as with the ones who will continue his good work. Blessings to you all.*

Paula Fleming

Paula Fleming - August 09, 2015 at 07:58 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Vernon Edward Faulconer.*



August 09, 2015 at 06:51 PM



“ *David and Jessie Enright. purchased the Tropical Tribute Spray for the family of Vernon Edward Faulconer.*



David and Jessie Enright. - August 09, 2015 at 04:54 PM



“ *Quiet Expressions was purchased for the family of Vernon Edward Faulconer.*



August 09, 2015 at 03:29 PM

RM

“ To Amy & family,

Thinking of you in your time of sorrow. I have very fond memories of working for VEF, Inc. as Chief Pilot from 1987 to 2009. Vernon always loved to tease me about how much older I was - (32 days). He loved talking about airplanes with me and never failed to ask about my family. It seemed he always had a camera in his hand and a smile on his face. We know he will be missed by all who were fortunate enough to know him.

*With tender regards,
Ron and Virginia Meeker*

Ronald Meeker - August 09, 2015 at 09:09 AM


Faralyn
King

“ *Faralyn King purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Vernon Edward Faulconer.*



Faralyn King - August 08, 2015 at 10:33 PM

CG

“ *I knew Vernon through a business relationship. My company supported the computer needs for his company for many years. I never did business with a better company and his employees at that time, Rob and Jo Ann, were great to work with. Vernon was one of the good guys and he will be missed by all who knew him.*
Carl Garrett

Carl Garrett - August 08, 2015 at 09:18 PM

KD

“ I worked for Andres Construction company at the time he had his Dallas home being built. I was fortunate to be the superintendent for the project. I've never met a man more generous than Vernon, he was so ecstatic about his new home for all his art pieces. Even after we completed the project and had I left Andres Construction, Vernon would call me to do maintenance or inquire about the house in general. I really enjoyed and cherished our unique relationship. My wife (Kathy) and I prayed for him and Amy when we would hear about their health struggles. We know God has truly blessed them both and we will still continue to lift Amy and the family up in prayers. We will miss you Vernon and know that your are in Jesus's hands in perfect health. Blessings to you, Amy. Much love from Kirk & Kathy Dobson.

Kirk & Kathy Dobson - August 08, 2015 at 09:16 PM

JC

“ Words cannot express the sadness that is felt in our hearts today for the loss of our mentor, friend and founder of our company. Vernon has touched the lives of so many and will always be remembered for his kindness and generous heart. His Legacy will live on for many years to come. We will miss him greatly. Our hearts are heavy and our expressions of sympathy go out to his precious wife Amy, his daughter Sarah, his sons Grant and Galen and their families.

Jean Crawley - August 08, 2015 at 08:48 PM

JC

“ Jean and Wayland Crawley purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Vernon Edward Faulconer.



Jean and Wayland Crawley - August 08, 2015 at 07:08 PM

 Lesley
Wright

“ *It has been an honor to direct the Falconer Gallery at Grinnell College since it opened 16 years ago. The chance to work with Vernon over all those years has been a great gift. Vernon was blessed with a mind that was quick, unpretentious, and curious. He was such a pleasure to talk with because ideas were, for him, very real treasures. He often downplayed his intelligence but I never accepted his self-assessment. He was a very smart guy. When I learned that asking questions was one of his delights in experiencing art, it made perfect sense. Art, the oil and gas business, and travel were his life-long liberal arts education. His philanthropy to his Tyler scholarship program, to Grinnell College, to medical research, and to arts organizations including ours were manifestations of his generous spirit, his commitment to education, and his abiding belief that those who have much are responsible for giving back to everyone.*

May all that he did for others be his legacy for all who knew him. On behalf of the staff of the Falconer Gallery we send our condolences to Amy and their family. Lesley Wright

Lesley Wright - August 08, 2015 at 05:12 PM

TM

“ *Vernon was an inspiration to me in each of my 25 years with Vernon E. Falconer, Inc. He was kind, cheerful and optimistic in all weathers. He enjoyed so much looking forward to the future. My family and I will miss him deeply, and our prayers are with Amy, Grant, Galen and Sara during this difficult time.*
Tom Markel

Tom Markel - August 08, 2015 at 04:29 PM

JL

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the Faulconer family and to the employees of Vernon E. Faulconer, Inc. I had the privilege of working for Vernon for seventeen years. Vernon will be missed by many.

Jo Ann Loftin - August 08, 2015 at 03:47 PM


Faralyn
King

“ My family's thoughts and prayers are with the entire Faulconer family during this time. Vernon was a man loved and respected by all and he will be sorely missed by all of us-The King Family

Faralyn King - August 08, 2015 at 11:44 AM

RH

“ *Robert Hebert*
My wife Sheila and I would like to express our deepest sympathy to the Faulconer family. I have been employed by VEF for 35 years and yesterday was the saddest day in the history of VEF. Mr. Vernon and Mrs. Amie have always treated my family as family. My wife said it best, we grew up with the Faulconer family because I was only 21 with a young family when I became employed at VEF,Inc.

Robert Hebert - August 08, 2015 at 11:23 AM

SE

“ Our thoughts and prayers go to Mrs. Amy and the family during this difficult time. Vernon was like no other and was one the finest individuals I have ever met. He cared about all at VEFI and will be greatly missed by everyone. Sincerely Sheila Elliott/family and BB Office

Sheila Elliott - August 08, 2015 at 09:09 AM

DL

“ *Debbie, Jaime, & Gerald (Jerry) Lagneaux send their deepest sympathy to Amy and the family. Vernon has a special place in our hearts. He will be remembered in our thoughts and prayers.*

Debbie, Jaime, & Gerald (Jerry) Lagneaux - August 08, 2015 at 06:01 AM