



## Wesley Cockerham

December 17, 1926 - March 21, 2009

Services for Wesley E. Cockerham, 82, of Chandler, will be held on Wednesday, March 25, 2009 at 10:00 AM in the chapel of Stewart Family Funeral Home with Rev. Danny Buster officiating. A private burial will follow at Chandler Memorial Cemetery under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home.

Mr. Cockerham passed away on March 21, 2009 at Hospice of East Texas in Tyler. He was born on December 17, 1926 in Wills Point to the late Benjamin H. and Ada Cooper Cockerham. Mr. Cockerham was a retired insurance salesman and was the recipient of several awards for his outstanding service. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Tyler and he taught Sunday school for many years. He was also a member of Masonic Lodge 1233. In his spare time, he enjoyed playing golf. Mr. Cockerham is remembered as a wonderful husband, father, grandfather and brother.

In addition to his parents, Mr. Cockerham was preceded in death by two sisters and three brothers. He is survived by a loving family including his wife of 45 years, Bernice Cockerham of Chandler; a son, Michael Cockerham of Nashville, Tennessee; three daughters, Jeanie Hill and husband Mike of Cypress, Bobbi Nowell and husband Ron of Whitehouse, and Pam Griffith and husband Blane of The Colony; sisters, Helen Neill of Wills Point, Betty Furrh of Mesquite; brothers, John Cockerham and David Cockerham, both of Wills Point; seven grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Mr. Cockerham's grandsons and nephews will serve as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers will be members of the C.I.A. Class of First

Baptist Church in Tyler. Visitation is scheduled for Tuesday, March 24, 2009 from 5:30 – 7:30 PM at Stewart Family Funeral Home, 7525 Old Jacksonville Highway, in Tyler. Memorials in honor of Wesley Cockerham may be made to the First Baptist Church of Tyler, 301 West Ferguson St., Tyler, Texas 75702 or the Hospice of East Texas Foundation, 4111 University Blvd., Tyler, Texas 75701. For more information or to express condolences, visit [www.stewartfamilyfuneral.com](http://www.stewartfamilyfuneral.com).

# Tribute Wall

JP

“ *My Dear Bernice, I want to thank you for sharing such a wonderful person with me and all of our co-workers in the insurance business. I'll never forget Gene telling me about having found a wadded up insurance brochure with our phone number and address on it, and he followed up and came to Austin to get a job with this company that had TAN as one of their clients. I'm so glad he followed up. We must ALL remember how fragile and short this life really is. Regardless of how much we take our friendships for granted, we must stay in touch with those who mean so much to us. My dear friend Gene was one of those that meant that much to me.*

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**John Pavlica** - March 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DL

“ Dear Aunt Bernice, Bobbi, Michael, Pam, and Jeanie, and other family members.....

*My heart's thoughts and prayers are with each of you and your families during this time of transition and change, May your faith and knowing The Lord Jesus Christ has His plan for all of us, make this somewhat more bearable~!*

*My Uncle Gene was one that took a chance and opened his heart, mind, and soul to me; with love and acceptance that no other had ever done...I found an enormous part of myself once finding Him; and then His sharing with me.... stories, events, family pictures, trips to meet family members, trips to the cemeteries to learn history, and to understand many questions I had been asking for years~! I will always treasure the bond Uncle Gene had with his family and the love for each of you, that was full of so much love and pride~! My Universe was brightened by Uncle Gene in so many way this last 21 years...I think God for sharing Him with me, and am proud to have known this special man of character, humor and "great taste" from his "garden of memories" shared~! God's Blessings and my love to each of you, with BIG HUGS~!  
Debbie*

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**Deborah Cockerham Lumsden** - March 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ My wife and I are very sorry for the family's loss. I have happy memories of Uncle Eugene and will miss him. Sincerely, Derek Cockerham

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**Derek & Amy Cockerham** - March 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ Bernice, I was saddened to hear of Gene's "homegoing". He is no doubt with his Lord. I have so many fond memories of the both of you. I loved him dearly. Judy and I are unable to be with you at this time but you are in my prayers. If you need anything please do not hesitate to give me a call. (318-452-0091) I love you, Richard and Judy Sanders

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**Richard & Judy Sanders** - March 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ You have always been so nice to me and always a kind word. You will forever be in my thoughts. Love, Darlene.

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**Darlene DeSota** - March 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ We never heard you say an ill word about anyone, you were always there when needed. We will always love you.

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**Robert and Pat Whittington** - March 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM

JN

“ Our cousin, Winnie McManus, just called. She told us a "funny". Several years ago, Gene sent Winnie a card with a cute, fluffy, white lamb on the front. Inside the message was: YOU ARE NOT FAT, JUST FLUFFY!

Winnie said it gave her many laughs.

We will not make the visitation, but plan to get thee early on Wednesday morning. John Cockerham is going with us.

We miss him so much!  
John & Helen Neill

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**john & Helen Neill** - March 21, 2009 at 12:00 AM