



Wesley Rivers

December 12, 1950 - July 26, 2007

A requiem mass for the repose of the soul of Wes Rivers, age 56, of Troup, will be offered at 10 a.m. Monday July 30, 2007, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Tyler, with Father Tim Kelley officiating. Graveside rites will follow in the Pinecrest Cemetery in Troup. A rosary will be held at 6 p.m. Sunday July 29, 2007, at Stewart Family Funeral Home with visitation following. Mr. Rivers died July 26, 2007, at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. He was born December 16, 1950, in McKinney to William Warden Rivers and Janette Edwina Rivers. He graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in 1973 and the University of Houston, Bates College of Law in 1976. Rivers began his career at the Jefferson County District Attorney's Office in Beaumont in 1971. He was an assistant U.S. attorney in Tyler from 1990 to the time of his death. Mr. Rivers was a dedicated servant both in his church and community. He served on the finance committee for the Diocese of Tyler, and was a member of St. Mary Magdalene's Catholic parish in Flint as well as the Knights of Columbus. He was a Little League baseball coach for many years, an academic mentor at Whitehouse ISD, and was a founder and president of the Academic Booster Club at Troup ISD. Mr. Rivers enjoyed spending time with family and friends. He loved playing golf, cooking out, driving his tractor, and going to the beach. Wes was loved by all that knew him. He was preceded in death by his father, William Warden Rivers. Survivors include his loving wife, Martha Ann Rodriguez Rivers; sons, Wesley and Matthew Rivers; mother, Janette Edwina

Rivers of Troup; father and mother-in-law, Frank and Frances Rodriguez of Beaumont; sister, Gail Huber and husband David of Nederland; sister-in-law, Rachel Carlton and husband Geoff of Deer Park; niece, Lori Bass and husband Andy of Terrell; niece Carre Shandor and husband Aaron of Death Valley, Ca.; and nieces, Kirsten, Katrina, and Kelsey Hilson of Deer Park. Pallbearers will be Jimmy Singletary, Robert Hobbs, Larry Eastepp, Ronnie Thompson, Jimmy Webb, Rick Bradshaw, Steve Zanolini, and Danny Smith. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to City of God, in care of St. Mary Magdalene's Catholic parish. For more information or to express condolences, visit www.stewartfamilyfuneral.com.

Tribute Wall

RG

“ Martha @ the Boys, You have our deepest sympathy, and you'll remain in our prayers. Always, Bobby & Gloria Gerard

Robert & Gloria Gerard - July 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ Our prayers are with Martha, Wesley and Matt. Wes was a man of great integrity, a great lover of his family, and a professional prosecutor. He is a person everyone will miss greatly.

Stuart Platt - July 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

CR

“ A great friend to all of us in law enforcement who will truly be missed.

Carl and Linda Rose - July 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ To Wes' Family:

I will always remember Wes as a friend and mentor. I met Wes when I came to the U.S. Attorney's Office in 1991. I was honored to serve under Wes when he was First Assitant and U.S. Attorney. Wes was always there with sound advice and encouraging words. While Wes prided himself on his "East Texas" style, he also knew his way around the Department of Justice. Whenever I tell people that I worked in EDTX, they would often ask if I knew Wes and then tell me what a great guy he is. I learned from Wes the virtues of civility and integrity. Many Dallas and Washington lawyers found out the hard way that Wes' cordial manner should not be mistaken for weakness. Most importantly, Wes always asked about my family, knew my sons' names and always talked with pride about his family. I am a better person for having known Wes Rivers.

Mike & Cindy Savage - July 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

KR

“ Wes was one of the finest, most genuine human beings that I have had the pleasure of knowing and I will forever cherish the wonderful memories of the times that we had together. My prayer is that God will bring comfort and solace to all of his family that he held so dear. What a wonderful legacy - devotion to God, his family and his country.

Karl Rivers - July 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ *Martha, Wesley and Matt*
We send our thoughts, prayers and condolences to all of you. We know that we can't pretend to know the pain that you are feeling, but our hearts are breaking for you. We are praying that our God will wrap His loving arms around each of you and comfort you as only He can do. We pray that you will feel the strength of the prayers from all of God's faithful who are lifting your family in prayer and with love. We hope that all your happy memories will be a source of comfort to you and you can find peace in the fact that you will be reunited with him one day!

Juliee, Billy, Derek & Brooke Denman - July 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ *My deepest sympathy to all of Wesley's loved ones.*

Wesley was a fine man and was respected and liked by all of us who were privledged to have known him.

Sincerely
Juby Winniford Horne

Julia (Juby) Winniford Horne - July 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ *I was so sorry to hear about Wes. I haven't seen him since 1974. His dad, Warden, and my dad went to school together in Chambersville.*

Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you!

Denice Burnside Webb - July 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

LJ

“ I worked with Wes both at the Jefferson County D.A.'s office and the office of the United States Attorney in Beaumont. I have known Wes for more than 30 years.

First, Wes was a great friend. With his many responsibilities, he was never too busy to visit and ask me how I was doing in my personal life, not just my work. Particularly so after my wife of 40 years passed.

Thought quite a bit younger than I, Wes was an inspiration to me. He made an impact on my life I will not soon forget. My prayers and thoughts will be with his family, even if I am unable to come to Tyler.

Lavon

Lavon Jones - July 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

RJ

“ Worked with Wes at Jefferson County DA's office. WAS A GOOD MAN..

Russell J.Landry - July 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ *Martha,*
You and your family have been in my thoughts and prayers and will continue to be as you deal with the loss of Wes. Please know that I am here if you ever need anything. Feel free to call my cell number is 903 780-9789 and our new home numbe is 903-894-5913.

Lisa Schwartz

Lisa Schwartz - July 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ Dear Martha,
We are so saddened and our hearts break for you and the boys. Wes was a very compassionate and caring man and I can see his big smile right now. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. We pray for Christ's strenght and comfort as you go through the days ahead.
Love,
Suzi & Brad Streit

Suzi & Brad Streit - July 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

KH

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. We are so sorry to hear of your loss. May God Be With You.

John Ross, Kristy Ross and Kathy Hanifin

KATHY Hanifin - July 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ I worked with Wes in the 70s and 80s. We once spent a week in New York together attending a seminar and were able to see 2 plays on Broadway. We also worked together on a case that was tried in Corpus Christi and lived together for several weeks during the trial. I considered Wes to be one of the most honorable and capable lawyers that I have ever known and also considered him a dear friend. I am so sorry for your loss.

Cal Blanchard - July 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Dear Martha, Wesley and Matthew: We are saddened by the news we heard of Wes' passing. We are out-of-town in San Antonio and we would love to be with you during this time. Our prayers are with you all and we just want you to know that, although Wes was reputable and outstanding in the legal community, for those of us who enjoyed Wes' company when our kids participated in activities together whether it be a church activity or swimming activity, he was an outstanding father and just overall good and kind person. Your family is faith strong and God Bless You all during this sad time. We love your family dearly.

Jeff & Sarah Holcomb - July 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ To Martha and Boys our deepest sympathy. I know there are no words to ease the pain of your loss. Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Melissa & Howard Charba

Melissa & Howard Charba - July 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ Martha, Wesley and Matthew,
May the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort be your strength during this hour. (2Corinthians 1:3-4)
I am praying for you.

Barbara Rivers - July 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ Boy Scout Troop 301 was the place to be in Scouting in McKinney in the 1960s. Here I met Wes and his father. Wes became a good friend on through junior and senior high school. We hiked and camped together and double-dated best friends. We boated and water-skiied some with other friends. The best memories though were after high school graduation when he went off to law school and I went off to med school and on Christmas or Spring breaks we were back in McKinney. We always made a point to get together to talk about the troubles and the triumphs of persisting through the intensity of the studies. I was always encouraged after these visits. God encourages us through the encouragement of others. We thank God for our good friend, Wes Rivers.

Sam Tressler III, MD - July 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ Wes will be greatly missed by all in the legal community. He was a great friend to my brother and I really appreciate all he did when he passed on. My prayers are with Wes's wife and children.

Richard W. Rienstra, Sr. - July 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ Dear Martha, Wesley and Matt, I'm so sorry for your loss. Wes was such a good person and all will miss him. My thoughts and prayers are with you all durning this time. May God Bless you.

Denise Smith Caillier - July 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Dear Family,

Wes will be greatly missed by all. It has been our pleasure for the past 16 years to work with him at the Credit Union. He the nicest person anyone could ever hope to meet. Our Credit Union family is here for Martha and the boys. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help.

Joan Smith

JOAN SMITH - July 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ Dear Martha, Wesley, and Matthew-

Our hearts go out to you as we lift you in prayer. We loved and respected Wes. As he was friend and mentor to many of us, there is now a void in the heart of the Eastern District of Texas that can never be filled. We will always miss him. With our abiding sympathy and prayers, Randy and Emily

JAMES R.(RICK)BRADSHAW - July 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

PH

“ Martha, Wesley and Matthew,

We are all deeply saddened by the passing of Wes. He was a great guy and I have wonderful memories of our family times together at "Fort Frank" cooking BBQ, having a beer and having a good laugh or two. Our heartfelt sympathies to all of you.

God bless,

Phil, Myoung Shin, the girls, Dawn and my Mom

Phil Hilson - July 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

NA

“ I was so saddened by the news of Wes' passing. He was such a wonderful person to work for and such a wonderful friend. I have many fond memories of Wes from both work and the soccer fields. My prayers are with Martha and the boys. Wes has touched so many of us along the way and will be greatly missed.

Nancy Edgar Allen - July 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ Martha, Wesley, and Matt,

We are so very sad to hear about Wes. Know you are in our thoughts and in our prayers as you go through this difficult time.

Michelle Rix - July 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ Wesley,

I'm so sorry to hear about your dad and just wanted you to know I was thinking of you and your family.

Derek Denman - July 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

GB

“ I was shocked and saddened to hear of the loss of Wes. I met Wes in 1979 when he worked at the Jefferson County District Attorney's Office. We later worked together at the U.S. Attorney's Office. Over the years I have tried cases with Wes and against Wes. He was an outstanding trial attorney. His ethics and professionalism were of the highest order. He was a good friend. I will miss him greatly.

G. Patrick Black - July 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ Wesley and I were old friends from high school days in McKinney. Wesley has always held a special place in my heart. I am saddened to hear the news of his passing. Please know that all of his family will be in my thoughts and prayers. Please let Mrs. Rivers, Wesley mother, know that I am thinking of her at this time.

Wesley was one of the nicest and kindest men I've ever known. He always made me laugh.

Our deepest sympathy,

Debra and Kent Horn
(Mrs. Rivers will know me as Debbie Hargroves)

Debra Hargroves Horn - July 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

LS

“ Martha, Wes, and Matt,

I am so sorry hearing about Wes. Just know that my heart goes out to you and my prayers do too. I thought alot of Wes. Always making me laugh everytime I saw or talked to him. He was a great man and will greatly be miss.

Love to you and your sons, Peggy & Jim

Larry, Leslie, Landan & Lauren Smith - July 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

GS

“ Martha, Wes & Matt we just wanted you to know that our thoughts and prayers are with you in this troubled time.

Gary, Deborah & Lindsay Souter - July 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

GA

“ I worked with him at the Jefferson County District Attorney's Office. A very nice man.

Gwen Anderson - July 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ You'll be missed

Jefferson County Sheriff's Dept. - July 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ My sympathy to Martha and family. Wes was highly respected in the law enforcement community. He was a gentleman and mentor to many, his opinions highly respected. God bless you all in this hour.
Norm

James Hawley - July 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

KH

“ Wes was a wonderful person to work with. I enjoyed working with him during his time at the Jefferson County District Attorney's Office. I went to work there in September, 1977 and he was one of the first people I met and he made me feel welcome. My prayers and thoughts are with you all at this time.

Kathy Hayes - July 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

LA

“ Wes was an absolute rock for our extended family. What an incredible man of kindness, strength, character & fun he was. Words are inadequate to express how much my heart aches for Martha, Wesley & Matt, Aunt Eddie, and Gail and her family. I pray that God will fold you in His arms & give you a peace that passes all understanding as He carries you through these difficult days.

Linda (Rivers) Attaway - July 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

WA

“ *A friend in need who was a friend indeed. Thanks to this good man who was a procecutor in the seventies, was one of the kindest people that we have ever had the opportunity to meet, our prayers go out to all family members and close friends. GOD BLESS*

woodley achten - July 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ *My thoughts and prayers and with you and your family. I know your Faith in God will carry you through. Just reach for His hand.*

Marie Ayala - July 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ *--Martha, we have been heartbroken for you and the boys and your wide circle of loved ones since we heard this terrible news.*

May the peace of Christ surround and comfort you and yours during this dark time--

*Mary Ferguson Bradford
Beaumont, Texas*

Mary Ferguson Bradford - July 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

ER

“ *To Wes' beloved Family and Friends,
Wonderful memories are often made without our realizing it at the time. Through the years our family has had many great times with Wes' family and today we realize anew how very special those times were. I have always been impressed with knowing how very proud Wes was of you, Martha, and he wanted others to know how special you were to him.*

US District Judge Leonard Davis said Wes "was the epitome of the dedicated and highly professional prosecutor. He was honest and had a high degree of credibility." The statement of Ryan Myers in the Beaumont Enterprise that Wes was "recalled by colleagues as a man of impeccable ethics and was embarrassed by his great intelligence. . . ." and the words of Judge Davis emphasize what a wonderful legacy your dad left for you, Wesley & Matt.

And Eddie, how filled with pride I know you must be, knowing that the son you loved so much grew up to be the kind of man that he was -- so fine and so well thought of.

Evelyn Rivers - July 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

GD

“ *Dear Martha, Wesley & Matthew,
We just want to let you know how very, very sorry we are to hear about Wes. Everytime we travel through Tyler we always think about you all.*

Just know you are in our thoughts and prayers, May God Bless you all.

Glenn & Mary Durst - July 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ I was deeply saddened to read of Wes's death in the McKinney Ex-Students newsletter. Although I had not seen him since graduation, I remember him as a fine young man. He always had a twinkle in his eye. Even then, in our youth, I knew he would be a fine grown man. You must miss him terribly.

Kay Layton Sisk - July 26, 2007 at 12:00 AM