



## William "Bill" Ray Bates

October 9, 1920 - February 20, 2014

Services for William Ray "Bill" Bates, 93, of Tyler, will be held on Monday, February 24, 2014, at 2:00 PM at St. Francis Episcopal Church with The Rev. Mitch Tollett officiating.

Burial will follow at Rose Hill Cemetery in Tyler under the direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home.

Mr. Bates passed away Thursday, February 20, 2014 in Tyler.

He was born October 9, 1920 in Fort Worth, Texas to Elmer Bates and Minnie Curtis Bates. His father worked on the 1st oil well in the Van field. As a child of an oil field worker, Bill lived in cities all over East Texas, including Tyler, where he attended Hogg Middle School.

Bill was a member of St. Francis Episcopal Church and the Masonic Lodge. He was a veteran of WWII, proudly serving in the United States Air Force as a B-17 Crew Chief in England.

Mr. Bates began his career in accounting for various oil companies. During his years with Ashland Oil, he moved to the Land Department where he managed Ashland's extensive lease holdings. When Ashland sold all of their leases, Lear Petroleum recruited him to manage their Ashland acquisition and develop their computerized lease records and division orders system.

He loved to play golf and had 4 holes-in-one. Bill loved woodworking and making things with his hands. He enjoyed fishing & hunting in his younger years, spending time with his dachshunds and traveling throughout the U.S. Most of all, Bill loved his family and loved spending time with his great-

grandchildren, his “pretty babies”, and taking them for scooter rides down the hall at Meadowlake.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents and his two brothers, Leroy and Charles Bates.

He is survived by his loving family including his spouse of 72 years, Bliss Mangum Bates; daughter, Laurie Bates Barham and her husband Michael of Tyler; grandchild, Melissa Schmoldt and her husband, Cary, and their children, Lucien Cary, Eden Grace and Ava Schmoldt of Frisco; nephews, Brian Bates of Buffalo, Texas and Bill Bates of Conroe, Texas.

Visitation is scheduled from 1:00 –2:00 PM on Monday, February 24, 2014 at St. Francis Episcopal Church.

If desired, memorials may be made to St. Francis Episcopal Church, 3232 Jan Ave, Tyler, TX 75701.

# Cemetery Details

## Rose Hill Cemetery

2400 S. Donnybrook  
Tyler, TX 75702

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 24. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

St. Francis Episcopal Church  
3232 Jan Ave.  
Tyler, TX 75701

## Service

FEB 24. 2:00 PM (CT)

St. Francis Episcopal Church  
3232 Jan Ave.  
Tyler, TX 75701

# Tribute Wall

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“ I just received a phone call from Laurie, Bill's daughter, that Bill had passed. What a wonderful man he was.

*Bill played a significant role at Lear, who in a few short years, was able to go from a small independent oil company to an oil company on the NYSE. He had the monumental job of setting up a staff of many people who maintained this leasehold, by setting up computer data systems for each lease so that his staff could monitor the status of each throughout the years. He performed this task for several years while Lear drilled wells on over a million acres in the gulf coast, rocky mountains and the mid-continent United States. We were extremely fortunate that Bill came over from Ashland when we acquired Ashland's domestic acreage position in 1979.*

*I worked with Bill for several years. Lear could not have had a better individual do this. He was well respected throughout the company. He not only had to interact with his own staff but also with upper management and other department heads. He was truly a joy to work with. I saw him every day and we would go to lunch often. He not only was a man of great integrity and intelligence, he also had a heart of gold.*

*I have missed Bill over the years. We lost touch when I left Lear in the mid 80's but I always have remembered his friendship, it was so easy to be his friend. He was truly a great gentleman and a man of great character. He had seen a lot and done a lot in his life, but most important he was a great family man. So long my friend, I hope you have many holes in one in heaven!*

*Bryan Pershern, Dallas, Texas*

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**Bryan Pershern** - February 25, 2014 at 05:27 AM