



## William Holmes

April 11, 1931 - August 15, 2011

Services for Dr. William Morris Holmes, 80 of Bullard, will be held on Friday, August 19, 2011 at 11:00 AM at Stewart Family Funeral Home Chapel with Pr. Paul LeBlanc and Chris Bailey, III officiating. Burial will follow in Rose Lawn Cemetery in Tyler under direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home. Dr. Holmes passed away, August 15, 2011 in Tyler. He was born April 11, 1931 on a “dust bowl” farm in Lycan, Colorado to Paul and Lela Rae Hammock Holmes. He was raised in Amarillo where he attended Amarillo High School. William earned his BS Degree in Geology and Geography from West Texas State University. He later received his Masters Degree from the University of Tennessee and then his Ph.D. in Geography and Earth Science from the University of Texas in Austin. In addition, William performed post doctoral work in horticulture and soil science at Texas A&M University as well as remote sensing and satellite imaging at Georgetown University in Washington D.C. He served as a Professor of Earth Science at the University of North Texas for over 30 years. Of his many accomplishments through out his career and lifetime, William was extremely proud of being the Silver Beaver Recipient of the Longhorn Council of the Boy Scouts of America, in 1975. Another activity close to his heart was the Literacy Council of Tyler, where he volunteered for more than 15 years. He held more than 15,000 hours of volunteer service as an ESL teacher. William served in the U.S. Army from 1951 – 1953 as a CPL (T) Meteorologist, ERC, ARTY, Fourth Army Area during the Korean Conflict. William was an author and co-author of several

books and had numerous maps published in many publications with one of those being the Historical Atlas of Texas. He had many hobbies including wood working and was a member of the East Texas Woodturners. Dr. Holmes was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his loving family including his wife Ellen Holmes of Bullard; son, Gary Holmes and wife Patty of Temple; daughters, Katherine Miller of Garland, Charlotte Fobert and husband Dan of Rowlett, and Kelley Bates and husband Jimmy of Wiggins, MS. He is also survived by six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Visitation is scheduled from 6:00 PM- 8:00 PM, Thursday, August 18, 2011 at Stewart Family Funeral Home, 7525 Old Jacksonville Hwy., in Tyler. Memorials in honor of Dr. William Holmes may be made to The Literacy Council of Tyler, P.O. Box 6662, Tyler, 75711. For more information or to express condolences, visit [www.stewartfamilyfuneral.com](http://www.stewartfamilyfuneral.com).

# Tribute Wall

KM

“ Dad:

*I am going to miss you more than you know. Thank you for always listening, for offering much needed advice, and for proofing my many papers. You always believed in me, pushed me to do what I didn't think I could do, but you knew I could. I will see you when Jesus comes.*

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**Kathy Miller** - August 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ *Bill was one of my Olympic water aerobic pool friends for almost 2 years and I miss visiting with him about West Teas and swapping stories. He was a very talented and intellectual person with a wonderful sense of humor. Ellen, I know your grief will be healed by God and Bill will not soon be forgotten by a lot of us.*  
*Dave Welch*

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**David L Welch** - August 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ *Ellen, I was saddened to hear of Bill's passing. I really enjoyed knowing the two of you from water aerobics. Bill was such an interesting man and a joy to be around. My prayers and thoughts are towards you both during this journey.*

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**Susette Slaughter** - August 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DG

“ My condolences and best wishes to Gary Holmes and family on Bill Holmes' passing. We were for many many years close friends and shared many memories and I am sorry to see him go. May God give you comfort at a time like this.

*Dieter Gaupp*

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**dieter gaupp** - August 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ I mainly knew Dr. Holmes through you two, Kathy and Charley two of his daughters. I got a picture of him through your eyes. You saw him as strong, dedicated to his family, active in the community and a person who made a difference in the lives of many people. He made a difference in your lives I can tell when you speak of him and as a result you loved, respected and appreciated him and who he was. I know that he will be missed greatly by you and the rest of your family. God blessed you with many years together. Your dad can now rest from the cares of this life until the resurrection morning when Christ will return. God bless all of you. I love you.

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**Sue FORd** - August 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BG

“ As a kid growing up in Denton, Bill was my Scoutmaster, friend and father to my good friend Gary. It was a blessing to have known him during those formative years. My thoughts and prayers are with his family during this time of loss. *Bill Gaupp*

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**Bill Gaupp** - August 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ Save journey, cousin Bill. Sorry we never met in person. Glad you had contacted me when my brother died, earlier this year. Had hopes of getting to know you, through email.

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**Linda (Cooper) Miley** - August 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ *Our loss is heaven's gain. Rest in the arms of God. You were a blessing to all who knew you.*

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**Sharon Foreman** - August 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ *We are praying for all of you. I am glad I got to meet your dad. I know how very fond you are of him. Please take comfort in the fact that we will be reunited one day soon.*

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**Melody Fletcher** - August 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

GT

“ *Dear Ellen & family,*

*So sorry to hear of the passing of Bill...he will be missed greatly.*

*God Bless,  
Gay*

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**gay tyra** - August 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ *I have been blessed to have you as my Dad. You have been my "Rock". I will miss you. I love you so much. I will see you again when Jesus comes.*

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**Kelley Bates** - August 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ Thank you Dad for all the wonderful times we had together, the many firsts, the hours we spent together but most of all, thank you for your endless love.

Words cannot express how much I will miss you or how much I love you.

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**Charley Fobert** - August 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM