



John A. Hays

November 21, 1935 - September 6, 2020

John Aral Hays, returned to his heavenly home on Sunday, September 6, 2020 after a valiant battle with septic shock and failing lungs. He was 84 years of age. John was born on Nov. 21, 1935 in Crane, Texas to the late John Fielding and Mildred Annie (Conklin) Hays.

John graduated from Crane High School in 1955. He enrolled at Odessa College the next fall. While there he struck up an acquaintance with Roy Orbison. John left college and enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was sent to San Diego, California. After a medical discharge from the Navy, John returned to West Texas, where he worked as a police officer in Monahans. He later became a Deputy in the Ector County Sheriff's Department in Odessa. After his career in law enforcement, he owned and operated an Esso (later Exxon) gas station in Odessa.

In 1977, John became a district sales manager for Reed Tool Company, delivering drill bits to the oil wells in Michigan, Illinois and Indiana. He retired in 1990 and moved to Jacksonville, FL with his bride, Leslie L. Hays. Together, they began a new venture as owners of MFL Lender Services. John retired from the mortgage business in 1996 and returned to Traverse City. He was an avid bowler, golfer and throughout his retirement he enjoyed working at Mitchell Creek, Mistwood and The Crown Golf Courses. "A Texan by birth, a Gander at heart", was John's motto.

John is survived by his loving wife, Leslie, two sons; Shawn (Anne) Hays and Bradley Hays, a stepson, Trevor Mattis and a brother, Richard (Lana) Hays. Also surviving are five grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and many extended family members.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers; J. Fielding Hays and Kennard Hays, two sisters Bobbye Byrl Trice Chenault and Jonquil Hays and his daughter, Tawny Lynn Hays.

The Hays family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the staffs of Munson ICU, Traverse Heart and Vascular, Pulmonology & Critical Care, Respiratory Care and Palliative Care for their outstanding care of our precious Texan.

Due to the covid-19 situation, a celebration of John's life is being planned for a later date.

Those planning an expression of sympathy may wish to consider a memorial donation to Horse North Rescue or Silver Muzzle Cottage.

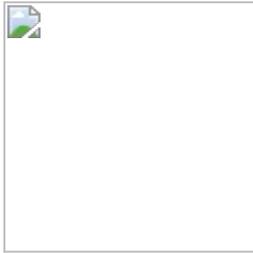
Please feel free to share your thoughts and memories with John's family at his tribute page at www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com.

The family is being cared for by the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

Comments



“ 1 file added to the album Celebration of Life



Reynolds Jonkhoff - September 19 at 11:35 AM



“ Leslie,

I am deeply sorry for your loss. I am truly saddened by John's passing. He was such a sweet, caring and funny man. I missed seeing him at the golf course after he retired, but was lucky enough to see him when he would visit the course. Prayers for you and your family.

Dawn Bondy - September 16 at 02:57 PM



“ I knew John through bowling and golf. My favorite Texan. What a good man. A good friend. This world was better with him in it. I will miss him.

Terry V McGowen - September 14 at 10:17 AM



“ Les you and the family are in our thoughts and prayers. He fought a brave fight and I'm certain he has won his reward! He was a friend and not only a loss to the family but to everyone he came in contact with. We are here for you feel free to call on us anytime. Hugs and condolences to you and yours. Hold on to the memories and may God give you peace Leo & Judie Richard

Judie Richard - September 12 at 02:50 PM



“ I didn't have the pleasure of meeting John but I'm friends with Richard and Lana Hays.
I'm very sorry for your loss, I have all of you in prayer for Gods comforting healing in the days to come.

Love, Judy Wilcox

Judy Wilcox - September 11 at 10:59 AM



“ Where to start ?? John was such a funny kind & man. We first met at his dental office he called me “ a talk drink of water “!! That was it game on!! We would go back & forth most of his appointment time ! I always kidded him about getting married so one day at his cleaning appointment I snuck out & put a Just Married poster on the back of his truck!! He drove around most of the day not knowing why people were congratulating him!! The shocked John drove back to the dental office to say I got him !! Leslie my prayers & thoughts are with you at this difficult time! John was such a super guy

cheryl marlin - September 09 at 07:26 PM



“ John was always so kind and friendly. He treated me like a friend always from the first day I met him many years ago. My friend from Bay City, Steve Lange, worked for John back then for Reed Rock bit, I believe. I would see John at the restaurant from time to time, and I truly enjoyed talking and visiting with him. He was so kind, positive and friendly, a joy to be around. I'm sure he will liven things up in heaven as they welcome him there! It was a pleasure to know you, John! Steve Arnot

Steve Arnot - September 09 at 12:19 PM



“ John was always supportive and sweet, a gentle Texan with a quick wit and always a kind word. I so enjoyed the time we worked together. Thoughts and love are with Leslie and the family through this difficult time.

Anja Gierlach - September 09 at 08:09 AM



“ One of the sweetest, humble, caring men I've ever know. You will be missed by so many. Leslie, I know your world is turned upside down right now. You have so many friends praying for you and willing to help in any way possible. Love, hugs and prayers.

Lura and Mike Ruede

Lura Ruede - September 09 at 12:05 AM

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“ There was never a bad day around you John your smile always seemed to brighten my outlook. Rest in peace

Jenifer Coyne - September 08 at 03:23 PM



“ John has always been a great guy and so fun to be around. My heart goes out to Leslie and the family. RIP, John!

Marilyn Horning - September 08 at 02:47 PM



“ John was a good friend when we were young. He lived in the Gulf camp. We did Crane kid things going to the 'Peak' on picnics. Meeting at the park hanging out. John was really good at drawing. I remember one he did of Bobby Russell in his football suit. He really was quite good. I think maybe I still have that one in my storeroom. I do remember once he is was home from the Navy. He was very handsome and all grown up in his Navy uniform. There was a time after some of us were married with babies we played a lot of 'penny-ante poker'. John was a regular, Jean, Mason, Joe Dan, and me. Right now I can't remember anyone else but that was over 60 years ago. We visited a lot when he was in law enforcement in Odessa.

He was a sweet, fun friend. The last time I saw him was at our all-school reunion in Crane.,probably 1995. I so enjoyed visiting with him. It was so good to see him. That was the last time.

I don't know any of Johns family but I know he loved you and I know you will miss him. His memory is for a blessing.

Joyce P Penn - September 11 at 05:28 PM



“ We were neighbors in the Gulf Oil Camp....Thanks for the memories...
Darrell Vines

Darrell Vines - September 12 at 09:11 AM



“ Leslie, my heart aches for you. John was a real treasure, always something funny to say and something to make you feel good about yourself. I will always remember his kind personality. You two were a great pair. Miss seeing both of you.

Sue Kelly

Sue Kelly - September 15 at 02:39 PM



“ Jerry and I are praying for you. We are sorry for your loss and our thoughts and prayers are with you. God is blessing you now, even if you can't feel it yet. We love you, honey.

Jerry Lauzon - September 15 at 03:27 PM