

BAKER BIRDWELL

Mr. Baker Birdwell, passed away September 15, 2007. Mr. Birdwell was born in Fairplay, Texas January 24, 1935. Mr. Birdwell dropped out of school to go to work in the East Texas oilfields. Mr. Birdwell later worked for Layne Texas Company for before starting his own water well drilling company in 1961. Mr. Birdwell designed, engineered, and built drilling rigs without a degree in engineering; he ran a successful business for over 40 years without an MBA; and he modeled many important lessons for life without a teaching certificate.

One of Mr. Birdwell's most memorable assets was his ability to tell a good story-stories of his childhood in the Piney Woods, tales of hunting deer or fishing for flounder with his friends; or simply comments on the absurdities of our world. Mr. Birdwell's stories were filled with colorful idioms, great punch lines, and a few malapropisms.

The most treasured of Mr. Birdwell's qualities were his non-judgmental nature, his patience, and his trust in people. Mr. Birdwell never sized up a person based on his appearance or the amount of money in his bank account. Mr. Birdwell was never quick to dismiss or criticize a person who made a mistake or two. And he was one of a few people left willing to close a deal with a handshake based on

honor and integrity.

Mr. Birdwell was deeply loved and will be missed.

Survivors include his wife Kay; children Brenda Cheatham, Larry Birdwell (Susan), Gary Birdwell, Linda Birdwell, Brian Birdwell, Jack Taunton (Julia), and Adrienne White (Dustin); sisters Nell Soape (Larence) and Mary Ann Riddlehuber (Joe); sister-in-law Catherine Birdwell; step-brothers Henry Liles, Johnny Liles, Jessie Liles, and Billy Jack Liles; grandchildren Gary Birdwell, Jr., Kimberly Gonzalez (Chris), Alan Birdwell (Amber), Clay Cheatham (Amanda), Clarice Cheatham, Sarah Birdwell, and Cameron White; great-grandchild Kennedy Birdwell; a wonderful array of nieces, nephews, and great friends.

Preceded in death by his mother Mary Irene Witherpoon; father Henry Birdwell; step-mother Maude Birdwell; and brother John Birdwell.

Funeral Services for Mr. Baker Birdwell were held Wednesday, September 19, at 10:00 a.m. at Callaway-Allee Funeral Home. Interment followed at 3:30 p.m. at Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Henderson.

For those desiring, memorials may be made to the Waco Methodist Home Crockett Program, P.O. Box 984, Crockett, TX. 75835.

Callaway-Allee Funeral Home