



B. Ray Holifield

October 6, 1937 - July 20, 2017

Funeral services for Ray Holifield, 79, of Giddings, Texas, are scheduled for 2:00 PM on Tuesday, July 25, 2017 at Phillips and Luckey Funeral Home in Giddings with Doug Tipps officiating. Burial will follow in the Giddings City Cemetery. Visitation will be held on Monday, July 24, 2017 from 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. and on Tuesday, July 25, 2017 from 7:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at Phillips and Luckey Funeral Home in Giddings. The family will be present for visitation Monday evening from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Billy Ray Holifield, a/k/a B. R. Holifield, B. Ray Holifield, Ray Holifield passed away on Thursday, July 20, 2017 in Giddings, Texas after an extended illness with cancer.

Ray was owner of Holifield Oil, which had its base in Giddings, even though he had oil activities all over the United States and a few foreign countries.

Ray was born in Piggott, Arkansas on October 6, 1937 to Raymond and Hazel Throgmorton Holifield. Ray graduated from Gideon High School in Missouri in 1955, Ray completed his BS in Education in 1959 at the University of Missouri and his Masters from the School of Geology in 1964. He and his first wife, Maryanne, had three children: Shirley, Mark and Stephen, who all currently reside in various locations near Dallas.

Ray's highly successful professional life in the oil business is summarized in the book, *Gamble in the Devil's Chalk* (written by Caleb Pirtle III), where he is described as an innovative genius of a geologist who was blessed with unbridled optimism. His successes are far too numerous to be included in an obituary. His hobbies, social life and daily activities centered 24-7 around oil during his entire professional life.

Ray formed Ray Holifield and Associates in 1979, changed the name to Holifield Companies in 1984 and then to Holifield Oil in 1996. At one time he employed over 25 engineers and geologists (total staff around 70). Earlier in his professional life he had several oilfields in Russia. He was a leader in both of the oil booms (1976 & 1985) experienced in the Austin Chalk and was known as the "genius of the Giddings field". He had planned to be around for the third. The second boom was made possible after he and a partner formed BecField Horizontal Drilling Service. Ray developed the tools now used to re-enter medium-radius horizontal wells.

The total production from all wells for which he selected the locations for, either as an operator or consultant, has exceeded 200,000,000 barrels of oil. He was recognized as one of the best oil finders in the world. Ray was known as the "Genius of the Giddings Field". He had an ability to identify oil locations where other geologist could not. He was hampered only by the continuous drop in value of a barrel of crude oil, cancer and significant chronic back pain.

At one time he was chairman of the University of Missouri Development Board, received the Distinguished Alumnus Award, recognized by the U of M College Arts and Science for his service in geological science, and also received the Faculty Alumnus Award from that university. Some of the recognitions were received as a result of the knowledge he passed on to his peers in the many articles and speeches that he provided early in his career about his love of successfully finding oil.

Ray's three brothers, Dway, Jerry, and Paul wish to express their appreciation to long term employees Pamela Albrecht and Sharon Proske who worked for Ray for many years and has been there for Ray when he needed them. Therefore, we appreciate the service they provided to Holifield Oil and for their genuine concern for Ray's health and quality of life during the last few years. We would also like to extend a special thank you to Mary Johnson and Kortlynn Lovings for assisting in Ray's home health care.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Gideon High School Alumni Association in Missouri, the University of Missouri Alumni Association, the American Cancer Society or Hospice Brazos Valley in LaGrange which provided assistance to Pamela Albrecht and Sharon Proske in the last 16 months of his life and helped grant his wish to die at home and not in a nursing home.

Cemetery Details

Giddings City Cemetery (Section B)

900 West Austin Street
Giddings, TX 78942

Previous Events

Public Visitation

JUL 24. 7:00 AM - 9:00 PM (CT)

Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - Giddings
3950 East Austin St.
Giddings, TX 78942
(979) 542-3113
phillipsluckey@yahoo.com
<https://www.phillipsandluckey.com/>

Family Present for Visitation

JUL 24. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

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Chapel Service

JUL 25. 2:00 PM (CT)

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Tribute Wall



“ *Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of B. Ray Holifield*



Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - July 23, 2017 at 02:09 PM

RH

Great video. Ray was in my class at Gideon, Mo. He had a great disposition and wore a friendly smile. We were proud of his success. Condolences to his family from me.

Robert Herring - July 26, 2017 at 11:33 AM

NB

“ *Norma Orton Baker lit a candle in memory of B. Ray Holifield*



Norma Orton baker - July 25, 2017 at 08:39 PM

DH

“ I worked for the "Magician of the Austin Chalk", the "Genius of the Giddings Field" , the "Father of the Austin Chalk", for nearly twenty years. I've never known anyone that worked harder, worked more hours and loved their work more than Ray did.

Ray, I hope you live in peace this day, with God, with Mary, the Virgin Mother of God, with Joseph, and all the Angels and Saints.

Donna

Donna Hill - July 24, 2017 at 08:29 PM

PA

“ Ray was the most brilliant and hard working man I've ever know. It was an honor and a privilege to have had the opportunity to work for/with him for many years. He will be missed greatly. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

Pamela Albrecht



Pamela Albrecht - July 24, 2017 at 05:00 PM



“ *Pretty Please* was purchased for the family of B. Ray Holifield.



July 24, 2017 at 10:28 AM

RJ

“ Ray was a wonderful friend and colleague. We enjoyed many years together in the oil business. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family. God bless.

Sincerely,
Marge and Bob Schafer

Robert P Schafer Jr - July 24, 2017 at 07:38 AM

TS

“ I express great gratitude for the role Ray played in my life while working for him during the 1980's. My sincere condolences to the family. Teri Smith

Teri Smith - July 23, 2017 at 09:07 PM



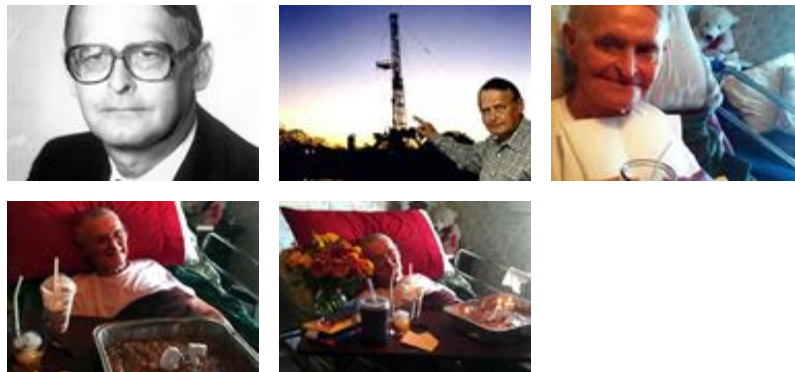
“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of B. Ray Holifield.



July 23, 2017 at 07:02 PM



“ 35 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - July 23, 2017 at 01:57 PM

MA

“ *Martin, Mary Beth & Trevor Arredondo purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of B. Ray Holifield.*



Martin, Mary Beth & Trevor Arredondo - July 22, 2017 at 12:46 PM

MB

“ 1 file added to the album *Ray*



Mary Beth - July 22, 2017 at 11:40 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of B. Ray Holifield.*



July 22, 2017 at 07:46 AM



“ *Ray Holifield was among those rare individuals who was exceedingly generous and kind. He gave of his time willingly and helped many prospective entrepreneurs get started in the oil business. Rest in peace, my friend.*

Carey Boethel - July 21, 2017 at 07:44 PM



“ *Sapphire Skies Bouquet was purchased for the family of B. Ray Holifield.*



July 21, 2017 at 06:37 PM



“ *Sandra Lawson lit a candle in memory of B. Ray Holifield*



Sandra Lawson - July 21, 2017 at 01:49 PM



May angels surround you and give you peace. You will be missed my many.

Sandra Lawson - July 21, 2017 at 07:26 PM



I have worked for and with Ray since 1981. He was a unique individual in an industry known for its individuals and characters. His record reflects his successes in doing what he loved above all other pursuits, finding oil. In his last days he was still making plans to find even more.

My condolences to his family, to his employees, past and present and especially to Pam Albrecht who unselfishly did so much to help Ray in his business and his personal matters during his last years. Condolences also to Sharon Proske and the other ladies who helped him during this time.

Don Foose

Don Foose - July 24, 2017 at 04:35 PM



“ *Shirley Melton sent a virtual gift in memory of B. Ray Holifield*



Shirley Melton - July 21, 2017 at 09:48 AM



“ *From Bette, Devin, Justin, Michael and Mark purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of B. Ray Holifield.*



From Bette, Devin, Justin, Michael and Mark - July 20, 2017 at 05:56 PM

MH

“ 1 file added to the album Ray



Mark Holifield - July 20, 2017 at 05:35 PM

MH

“ My father Ray was a true oil man from his head to his toes. Forever to be known as “The Magician”.

I've never known a harder (or dedicated) working man in my life. Its this attribute of his life that I teach my children. Don't think of him as gone away his journey's just begun, life holds so many facets this earth is only one.

Mark Holifield - July 20, 2017 at 05:27 PM

MJ

“ Mary Johnson lit a candle in memory of B. Ray Holifield



Mary johnson - July 20, 2017 at 09:34 AM

MJ

Meeting my friend Ray was truly a blessing. I will miss you my friend. Rest in peace my friend♡

Mary johnson - July 21, 2017 at 07:15 AM

JH

*Ray's highly successful professional life in the oil business is summarized in the book, *Gamble in the Devil's Chalk*. He is described as an innovative genius of a geologist who was blessed with unbridled optimism. That is the Ray most people in the area remember. However, as his brother, I remember that in high school he was very successful academically, was a boxer, distance runner, pole vaulter, and once played "The Little Brown Jug" solo on a bass horn during a convocation to the entire student body of Gideon High School. He also worked hard with his three brothers in the cotton fields. Extremely talented, smart, positive, caring, honest, and likable. What a life he lived! He "stood tall", whether in the cotton fields of Missouri or the oil fields in Texas. He certainly stood tall with me.*

Dr. Jerry R. Holifield

jerry Holifield - July 21, 2017 at 07:54 PM