



Billy Ray Locklin

September 13, 1936 - November 8, 2019

Billy Ray Locklin, age 83 of Rockdale passed away the afternoon of Friday, November 8, 2019 while in the Seton Medical Center in Round Rock. He was preceded in death by his parents J.V. and Clara (Jackson) Locklin. Siblings Ola Mae West, Mabel Upickson, Revy Jackson, Velma Mitchell, Lester Locklin, O.J. Locklin, Harvey Locklin, Arthur Ray Locklin. His wife Laura (Smith) Locklin and grandson Raylyn Julius Whiteside. He was a member and Deacon of Springfield Baptist Church for 65 years, a professional football player for 10 years and an Alcoa employee for 35 years.

Billy Ray led many of us to believe “where there is a will, there is a way.” He loved to tell the story of his journey as a football player. He started with the guidance and high expectations of Coach Johnson at the segregated Aycok High School in Rockdale. One afternoon while standing by the mailbox in front of his home, a New Mexico State Aggie recruiter came by and asked Billy Ray where he could find two of his fellow players so he could offer them scholarships. He replied, “What about me? How can I get a scholarship?” The recruiter told him if he came out to Las Cruces he could try out for the team and maybe get a scholarship. He hitchhiked his way to Las Cruces and was paired up against a huge Native American. With determination to make the team, he plowed his opponent down. He was a first-round draft pick as a defensive end for the Los Angeles Chargers. He continued his career with the Oakland Raiders in 1960. In 1961-1964 he played with the Montreal

Alouettes. From 1965-1970 he played with the Hamilton Tiger Cats and won two Grey Cups in the Canadian Football League (CFL). He was a CFL All-Star three times (1965, 1966, and 1968) and CFL East All-Star five times.

His three sons Ray (Las Cruces, New Mexico), Kerry (Las Cruces, New Mexico/Toronto, Ontario), and Kim (Fresno, California) followed in his footsteps to New Mexico State University and on to play professional football as well. He currently has two grandsons who were granted football scholarships to further their education. Tymon Locklin at New Mexico State University, and Torry Locklin at University of Kansas.

Billy Ray also leaves his daughter Lynn Whiteside (A.J.), Rockdale, Texas, granddaughters Dr. Candace Canady (Dr. Alton), Houston, Texas, Jaycinee Foster, Salt Lake City, Utah, Emma Locklin, Colchester, Vermont, Tishelle Locklin, Fresno, California and a host of nieces and nephews who loved and admired him as a father figure.

Services are scheduled for 12:30 p.m. Saturday, November 16, 2019 at Springfield Missionary Baptist Church in Rockdale, with Dr. Dennis L. Brooks, Sr. officiating. Burial will follow in the Oak Lawn Cemetery in Rockdale. Visitation will be Friday, November 15, 2019 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home in Rockdale.

Cemetery Details

Oak Lawn Cemetery

250 S. Pear Street
Rockdale, TX 76567

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **15**. 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home - Rockdale
1041 West Highway 79
Rockdale, TX 76567
(512) 446-5454
phillips_luckey@yahoo.com
<https://www.phillipsandluckey.com/>

Church Service

NOV **16**. 12:30 PM (CT)

Springfield Missionary Baptist Church
232 East Third Street
Rockdale, TX 76567

Tribute Wall

BD

“ I just learned of Billy Ray's passing. Billy Ray was my deceased husband's (Rev. Herman Davis) favorite cousin. We visited Laura and Billy Ray when we visited Texas and they visited us when in Michigan. I know he will be greatly missed by his loved ones. My condolences and prayers to the family.

Billie J. Davis

Billie Davis - November 17, 2019 at 03:55 PM

ML

“ Two years ago my girls and I were able to reconnect with Billy Ray and spent some quality time with him. That time was priceless. Your Aunt Minnie

minnie locklin - November 17, 2019 at 02:17 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Billy Ray Locklin.



November 15, 2019 at 06:13 PM

DY

“ *Billy Ray was an a example of a phenomenal athlete who suffered under difficult social/economic conditions in his teenage years, but because of his character, survival instincts, and courage, he successfully survived when others failed!*
I was his position backup in 1959 and 1960 and respected him greatly! Prayers and sympathy to his family.
Don Yanessa, NMSU, 1963

Don Yanessa - November 15, 2019 at 05:51 PM

AM

“ *Phoebe Lynn I want to send my condolences and prayers to you and your brothers. My memories are of him being a very big kind gentle person with a big heart that loved his family. Now Mr. Billy Ray has joined Ms. Laura for eternity. May God bless you all.*
Sincerely, Alvis B. Marsh

Alvis B. Marsh - November 14, 2019 at 03:56 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Billy Ray Locklin.*



November 14, 2019 at 03:44 PM

CM

“ Condolences and prayers for the family of Billy Ray Locklin. I have been honored to be a friend of Billy Ray for over fifty years after having met him and played college football with him at New Mexico State University. The world had lost a truly great man, and that NMSU team has lost a loyal and dedicated teammate. God bless!
Clem Mancini and wife Elcid

Clem Mancini - November 14, 2019 at 02:10 PM

ER

“ Wow. My condolences and prayers for the Locklin family of a man who stood TALLER THAN TALL His infectious smile 😊 will truly be missed RIP MR Locklin.



eldora richards - November 14, 2019 at 08:43 AM

JF

“ Your dad as well as your mom was a great inspiration to me and my children. Love all never met even a stranger and always had a smile a word laughter when I saw him at Walmart or out in the community . He will truly be missed but the love ❤️ that he has shared through his family and community will live on.

Joyce ford - November 14, 2019 at 01:18 AM

VB

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Billy Ray was such a great guy. We always enjoyed him and Laura when they attended the Aggie football games in Las Cruces. Your family is in our thoughts and prayers.
Vicki & Jim Bickel

Victoria Bickel - November 13, 2019 at 09:39 PM

RA

“ *My condolences to the family of Billy Ray Locklin - a great friend and a wonderful teammate who had many heroic moments in support of the NMSU Aggies. God bless you Billy Ray. Rick Alba*

Rick Alba - November 13, 2019 at 04:07 PM

CK

“ *So sorry to hear about the loss of your father. He is now in heaven with Ms. Laura watching over his family. Michael & Cathy Kubacak*

Cathy Kubacak - November 12, 2019 at 10:26 PM

MB

“ *Prayers for this awesome familyAs newcomers to Rockdale in the mid 70's, the Locklin Family is forever entrenched in my mind as a very disciplined, very athletic, and well respected family in Rockdale. Billy Ray raised some fine young men who were also awesome athletes. RIP Billy Ray.....You did your job and you did it well...!!*

Miller& Kathie Bassler

miller bassler - November 12, 2019 at 07:48 PM

AF

“ *Aretha Flores lit a candle in memory of Billy Ray Locklin*



Aretha Flores - November 12, 2019 at 06:58 PM

LB

“Kerry and family, sorry for your loss. I didn't know your dad but he did a great job in raising you boys. You might not know it but I've kept up a little and y'all have done great. Prayers!
Leonard Burnett and family.

Leonard Burnett - November 12, 2019 at 03:45 PM

KB

“Kerry, Kim and Family; Sorry for your loss. Prayers for your Daddy and the family.
A Good Man will now get to be with his wife once again.

Kip & Lynn Bullock - November 12, 2019 at 10:42 AM

SS

“Another great IGC employee gone. I worked with Billy Ray in the early 80's in the mines. I loved to here is football stories. Always had a smile on his face. RIP Mr. Locklin.

Scott Seaquist - November 12, 2019 at 07:10 AM



“I wanted to say that I am very sorry for the loss of your love one. He was a great man that I got to know growing up with Lynn and having known the sons though football games. I had brothers that played with the sons. He is going to be missed by lots of people. I pray for comfort and peace for your family.

Patty Koscielniak - November 11, 2019 at 08:30 PM