



Ernest "Ernie" Sweat

March 19, 1947 - August 16, 2021

Ernest "Ernie" Sweat, age 74 of Lexington, passed away Monday night, August 16, 2021 at his home in Lexington. Ernie was born March 19, 1947 in Hearne to Milton Dewitt and Lela (Closs) Sweat. He is a 1965 graduate of Calvert High School. He later moved to Rockdale where he worked as a plumber and pipefitter at Alcoa Rockdale Operations for 32 years until his retirement in 1999. On May 19, 1978, he and Marian Kay Ahrendt were married in Lexington where they made their home. He enjoyed making and selling knives and enjoyed fishing. He was a member of United Steelworkers Union #4895 and a former Chairman of the Lee County Democratic Party.

Ernie was preceded in death by his parents, Milton and Lela Sweat; daughter-in-law, Kim Sweat on November 2, 2020 and his mother and father-in-law, Frank and Myrt Ahrendt.

Surviving is his wife of 43 years, Kay Sweat of Lexington; four sons, Ernest Sweat, Jr. and wife Malinda of Salt Lake City, Utah, Jeff Ormsby and wife Stacey of Lexington, David Sweat of Lexington and Michael Sweat and wife Michelle of Lexington; daughter, Cara Boynton of Fairfield, ten grandchildren, Megan Raney and husband Nolan, Chelsea Elliott, Shelby Ormsby and husband Joan, Macy Sweat, Levi Sweat, Max Sweat, Trinity Wagner, Brittany Bergeson, Shelby Moulton and Mackenzie Moulton; three great grandchildren, Ella Tello, Ezra Tello, and Ben Raney, along with a number of nieces and

nephews including a nephew that was like a son to Ernie, Jarrett Ahrendt.

Following Ernie's wishes, he wanted to be cremated, and there are no services at this time.

Tribute Wall

BR

“ *Ernie I will miss you for the rest of my life. I remember when we had to be friends because we didn't know anyone else. How many games of cards we must have played. If we had a deck of cards we could entertain ourselves for hours on end. We each had to have our own deck of cards. Lots of different kinds of solitaire too. I use to dread getting the call from you that I needed to go beat someone up for you. How many friends of yours I taught to dance. Remembering the year we had to move 17 different times. Our mother really loved our daddy. I will always love my baby brother. Rest in peace until we see each other again one day.*

Barbara Sweat Ray - May 05, 2022 at 11:23 AM

MM

“ *Melanie And Rodney Meyer lit a candle in memory of Ernest "Ernie" Sweat*



Melanie and Rodney Meyer - August 22, 2021 at 05:52 PM

JF

“ *Kay, our condolences to you and your family. Ernie was a great man.*
Sherwood and Janet

Janet Sommers Frosch - August 21, 2021 at 01:52 PM

EJ

“ My dad was in many ways a gentle giant. He was strong physically but also in his convictions. He was a craftsman who excelled in virtually everything he attempted. He also was extremely funny and I could probably spend hours telling stories about himself. I live many miles away but my coworkers felt like they knew him from the tales I told of growing up in rural Texas with such a gregarious father and family. He will be sorely missed. For those who have posted such nice words here, thank you. For those who didn't get a chance to know him...you missed out.

Ernest Sweat Jr. - August 21, 2021 at 12:40 PM

SB

“ I am so sorry to hear of the loss of Ernie. We spent many elections sharing stories. You are all in our prayers.

Sharon Blasig - August 20, 2021 at 11:05 AM

MB

“ Uncle Ernie,
*I know you are up there and just maybe you're reading this...
I'm no holy roller, but the man, the legacy you leave, the huge heart
you had, it's just the way it is...*

*I didn't know you well as a child and never questioned why...
Then I grew up and figured out it wasn't due to you or I...*

*I will cherish all the stories you shared of our family, eating breakfast
together and working together...
Those memories we had fishing, sharpening knives, throwing dice
at the nugget, they'll be with me forever...*

*The way you loved my mama, my wife, my sister, me & the boys...
I'm forever grateful for you and the time that we all enjoyed...*

*To Aunt Kay, Ernest, David, Michael, Kara, Megan, and the littles...
THANK YOU for sharing him, if you're reading this riddle...*

*Your loss and pain, the memories, the love, they'll never go away...
And I hope and pray that we all see Uncle Ernie again some day...*

Mike Burroughs - August 19, 2021 at 12:26 PM

VV

“ *I shared many good times and laughs with Ernie and Kay at state
conventions and other events over the course of at least twenty
years. I also enjoyed talking to him and listening to him. He made
beautiful knives.*



Vickie Vogel - August 19, 2021 at 11:57 AM

VV

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Vickie Vogel - August 19, 2021 at 11:55 AM

LD

“ *Larry and I have missed all the good times we had in the past. We are thinking of you at this time.*

Kay

Larry and Sharon Davis - August 19, 2021 at 09:28 AM

JB

“ This is for those who did not know Ernie very well. Ernie and I were classmates from 5th grade through high school, in a very small school. There were 16 in our graduating class in 1965. We were good friends all along the way, but I was not alone; Ernie was very active in school and popular with everyone. However, after graduation, we all scattered in 16 different directions, pursuing our respective careers. Then, in what seems like the blink of an eye, we were old and mostly retired. It was then my great fortune to reconnect with Ernie during the last 7 years, and it was as if it was the day after graduation all over again. We picked up right where we left off almost exactly 50 years later. Ernie was a big man in stature and heart, with wide range of talents, from building his home, being a Master Plumber and being able to fix anything humanly possible. Additionally, he was quietly one of the brightest and smartest people I have ever known, with a balance of intelligence, common sense, wisdom and kindness, which seems increasingly rare to find in one person. His generosity was legendary. If Ernie had it and you needed it, it was yours. Along the way, Ernie began making handmade knives, and like everything he did, he excelled in this art, converting a hobby into a business, with his partner, and son, Michael; creating knives that were works of art, becoming collectable treasures. He could often be found in the late-night hours or small hours of the morning toiling over a knife in his workshop. This is the definition of an artist, whether a writer, painter, or sculpturist. Ernie enriched all who knew him, and I count myself to be in that fortunate company. I have had many regrets in my life, and one of the greatest was not spending more time with Ernie while I had the chance. He was a good friend who I greatly admired and will miss.

My wish for Kay and the family is peace, love, and comfort in these difficult, dark days ahead.

James Brien - August 19, 2021 at 08:07 AM

RC

*No one can replace a loved one who is gone. It is an emptiness that doesn't go away. But as long as we remember and tell stories about that person he continues to live. There are so many stories to share about Ernie know that my heart and prayers are with your family today. We will remember the good times
Ruby and Lonnie*

Ruby Clinard - August 19, 2021 at 01:04 PM

CS

“ *May he rest in peace. He will be missed. May the love of our Savior surround family and friends.*

SINCERELY, Cheryl Friedrich Iselt Sanders

Cheryl Sanders - August 18, 2021 at 11:39 PM



“ *Eloise Cass lit a candle in memory of Ernest "Ernie" Sweat*

Eloise Cass - August 18, 2021 at 11:29 PM



MG

“ *Sending Condolences to you and your family.*

*Maxine Golightly
Harrison County Democratic Party*

Maxine Golightly - August 18, 2021 at 10:43 PM

SB

“ Steve &kathy Bright lit a candle in memory of Ernest "Ernie" Sweat



steve &kathy bright - August 18, 2021 at 10:34 PM

LM

“ Sorry to hear about the loss of Brother Sweat. His family is in our prayers.

Lee Medley, United Steelworkers

Lee Medley - August 18, 2021 at 10:29 PM

CW

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you Kay and your family. Ernie had lots of good stories to tell. You just needed to make sure that you had nothing else to do, because you are drawn into the stories. He was such a talented man, I loved looking at his collection. May he Rest In Peace.

Love, Curtis & Paula Worley



Curtis & Paula Worley - August 18, 2021 at 09:01 PM

AH

“ Kay, I am so sorry! Ernie was a great guy and we need more like him. Take care and know that we are all thinking about you and your family.

Alieca Hux

Alieca Hux - August 18, 2021 at 07:41 PM