



Joe William "Muddkatt" Criner

October 28, 1958 - November 11, 2023

Joe William Criner, 65, of Lyons, Texas passed away at his home on Saturday, November 11, 2023.

Joe was born in Houston, Texas, on October 28, 1958 and was raised in Milano, Texas. He was the son of Evelyn Louise Cotten Criner Smith and Roy Howard Criner. Joe was the fourth child of six and the youngest son. Through his early working years, he earned the nickname "Muddkatt." He graduated from Milano High School in 1977.

Joe had a memory like a steel trap. He could remember the names of just about every person he ever met, every place he'd ever been, and everything that ever happened. He never missed an opportunity to pull someone out of the mud or do some "bat turns" on the water. If you were not an outdoorsman when you met Joe, he was going to make sure you were by the time you left.

Joe's career was the oil field where he worked for 30 plus years. During his oil field career, he and Debbie opened "MuddKatts" Country Store and Grill on F.M. 2000 in Caldwell, Texas, later selling the business and moving to Lyons, Texas, where he could enjoy the water.

Joe enjoyed fishing, hunting, making memories, and pulling pranks. He enjoyed a good hunting story and great fishing on the Brazos River. If you ever went over and visited Joe, you were guaranteed to hear some good

music and eat some good food. He also loved to fry fish and eat a good pot of chicken and dumplings.

More joy came into Joe's life when his grandchildren and great grandchildren were born. He shared his passion for the outdoors with them as well and took pride in being their "Pappy." Joe had the biggest smile and the toughest voice. He loved animals—most especially his dogs, Beaner and Buster. He always seemed to be at peace in the woods or on the water.

Joe was preceded in death by his daughter Brandie Jo Mireles; his parents, Evelyn Smith and Roy H. Criner; his brothers, Donald, Marvin, and Billy Criner; and his sister, Tammie Searcy.

He is survived by his wife, Debbie Criner, of Lyons, Texas; daughter, Christie Criner; son, Mark Rickerman, and daughter-in-law, Angela; grandchildren , Rolando "Little Man" and Riley Fernandez and her fiancée Rueben Rodriguez, Alyssa Martinez and husband Antonio, Cameron and Mia Mireles, Shelby Narro and husband Anthony, and Ryan Rickerman; six great-grandchildren; and sister, Pamela Perry and husband, Sam; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In keeping with Joe's wishes, those who want to honor Joe are encouraged to go fishing, gather with family and friends, and make good memories.

Express condolences at PhillipsandLuckey.com.

Tribute Wall

DS

“ I had quite a few good memories with Joe from going mudding on the Calfield land to riding back roads, doing a little hunting, lol to fishing on the Brazos river. One thing Joe hated was to be last, lol. Joe gave me a ride in a flat bottom boat In the river and it was and still the fastest I ever been on the water. An when he asked you to ride on a tube and your dating his daughter well that was a dumb idea. We were on Somerville Lake that day and I was probably 16 and with him trying to knock me off on a choppy lake he split a hole right in the bottom of the boat going back to shore. But I still had a blast.. Good times and so many stories with the air boat the first thing he said to me when I got on board was sit down, shut up and hold on an then he'd give ya that grin. I can go on and on. He will be missed but never forgotten.

Doug Stewart - November 13, 2023 at 10:12 PM

AS

I remember Joe when he was a very young boy. I was friends with his mother-in-law, Ruby Robison. I can always remember that smile on his face every time I ran into him. He was one person you never forget.

Anne Schnerr - November 25, 2023 at 06:57 PM

GJ

“ I sure didn't expect hearing from Debbie Saturday morning with the news of you passing away. Joe and Debbie had a love without end and will be together again one day. I used to love dancing with you back in the day, but Debbie got the most dances. You are now with Brandi Jo and the rest of your family. What a great reunion that must have been. You will truly be missed by all that knew you. Rest easy my friend💔



Gina Jatzlau - November 13, 2023 at 10:09 PM