



## John Thomas Olney

February 7, 1935 - November 16, 2021

Funeral services for John Olney, 86 of Ledbetter, will be held on Saturday, November 20, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at Phillips and Luckey Funeral Home in Giddings with Tim Pitts officiating. Burial will follow in the Ledbetter Cemetery in Ledbetter. Visitation will be held on Saturday, November 20, 2021 from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

John Thomas Olney was born on February 7, 1935 in Pampa, Texas to William and Alta (Walker) Olney. He received his associates degree from Mainland University in electronics. John enlisted in the US Air Force on November 12, 1953 and served during the Korean War. On December 1, 1956, John married the love of his life, Betty Stephens. Four years later, he and Betty were baptized together in Houston. He continued his education at the FAA Academy and received certifications in 18 systems. Working for Lockheed Martin at the Man Space Center (Johnson Space Center), he was responsible for maintenance and repair of the terrestrial electronics systems that enabled the receiving and recording of all telemetry (Data) from the space craft utilized for the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo missions. John also worked for the US Navy in the Department of Defense and helped install the command and control equipment in the USS Enterprise. He then worked for the Federal Aviation Administration installing and repairing navigational aid equipment in the Rocky Mountain Region. His skill and knowledge also put him on the ground floor for deploying the first operational three-dimensional

radar for military aircraft. His greatest adventure was taking a scooter to the top of Mount Fuji Japan. This Adventure was a much-needed break after completing his tour of duty in Korea. His last assignment before retirement was helping close the Bergstrom AFB. After retirement, he and Betty moved to Ledbetter, Texas where they became members of First Baptist Church in Giddings. He was involved in the Baptist Men's Association and helped at the Giddings Food Bank. John loved watching college football and would reminisce about the Houston Oilers. He also enjoyed gardening, working with landscaping stones, and grilling. John loved his country, loved his family, and was very proud of his children.

John passed away the morning of Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at his home in Ledbetter.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William & Alta Olney; four siblings, Louise Hardy, Glen Olney, Kenny Olney, and MC Olney, and brother-in-law, Bob Malloy.

John is survived by his wife of 65 years, Betty Olney of Ledbetter; daughter, Tommie & Geoff Choules of Bastrop; son, John & Judith Olney of Waxahachie; six grandchildren, Stephen & Jennifer Bradley of Giddings, Sean & Karla Visser of Bastrop, Christina & Josh Vasquez of Plano, Michael Choules & Alexi Villareal of Arizona, Nicki Visser & Eric Whitworth of Bastrop, and JT Olney of College Station; five great grandchildren, Zeke Bradley of Giddings, Maggie Bradley of Giddings, Thomas Visser of Bastrop, Eugene Whitworth of Bastrop, and Kinsley Choules of Arizona; sister, Joeann Malloy of California; brother, Jeff Olney of Georgia, and numerous nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends.

Serving as pallbearers will be John Olney, Goeff Choules, Stephen Bradley, Sean Visser, JT Olney, and Eric Whitworth.

Memorials may be made to the charity of one's choice.

# Cemetery Details

## Ledbetter Cemetery

600 Prospect Road  
Ledbetter, TX 78946

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 20. 7:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Phillips and Luckey Funeral Home - Giddings  
3950 East Austin Street  
Giddings, TX 78942

## Funeral Service

NOV 20. 10:00 AM (CT)

Phillips and Luckey Funeral Home - Giddings  
3950 East Austin Street  
Giddings, TX 78942

# Tribute Wall



“ *Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of John Thomas Olney*

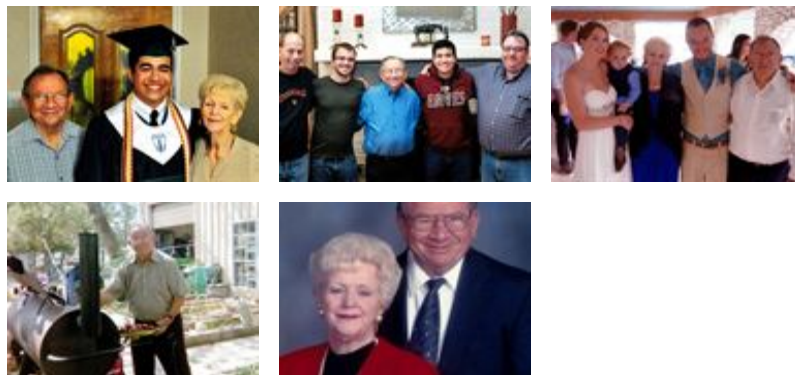


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**Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home** - November 19, 2021 at 02:52 PM



“ *45 files added to the album Life Tributes*



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**Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home** - November 19, 2021 at 02:46 PM

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“ Betty and family, I am so sorry for your lost. After reading his accomplishments I never knew any of this. He was quite a patriot. Betty I pray your health will improve and you will be able to adjust to life without John. We know he is in a much better place in heaven and will receive his rewards there. Please know that FBC of Giddings loves you and you can call on any of us at any time for comfort and prayers.

*Ollie Siegeler*

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**Ollie Siegeler** - November 18, 2021 at 10:12 AM