



RJ "Jamie" Woodward Jr.

July 22, 1941 - April 10, 2023

Just as he lived, R.J. "Jamie" Woodward Jr. peacefully left this world on his own terms on April 10, 2023 due to complications of COVID pneumonia.

In accordance with his wishes to have "no big deal," the immediate family will conduct a private memorial service. At a later date, with Jamie's full permission, a celebration of his life with "some beer drinking and storytelling" will be held.

As the only child of Rufe and Wilma Woodward, he was a one-of-a-kind from the time he arrived on July 22, 1941. While he had no biological siblings, Clyde "Beck" Bexley Jr. was his brother by choice and they made Huckleberry Finn and Tom Sawyer look tame. When they graduated from Lexington High School in 1959, the teachers may have heaved a sigh of relief.

Jamie's appreciation for working dogs, working horses, and cattle started young. As a child, he spent his nights in the woods trailing beagles and hounds with a host of men who welcomed him to their campfires and schooled him in woodsmanship. Throughout his life, he was a passionate, ethical hunter who respected the game he pursued, ate what he bagged, and did not tolerate carelessness with guns. A chorus of baying dogs was his favorite music, but Tammy Wynette was a close second.

Raised in the era of screwworms, Jamie did a man's work horseback and carried a man's responsibility long before he reached legal adulthood. He grew into his profession as a rancher on the family's W Bar Ranch just south of Lexington. He could train a horse to stop on a dime and turn a pack of unruly cow dogs into a disciplined team. Cowmen throughout the area called him to come help "pen the bad stuff"—and he never failed. His animals always ate before he did.

Jamie lived in Lee County all of his life except for a stint in Fort Worth as a student at the TCU Ranch Management Program from 1960-1961. One of his favorite stories from this time involved a late night, unauthorized visit to the Fort Worth Zoo just because "none of us had ever ridden a water buffalo." One person got it done before the police arrived.

His standards for his dogs, his horses, his cattle, and people, including himself, were high. Respect and trust were to be earned and never squandered. People were measured by the content of their character. His handshake was more binding than any contract a lawyer could draw up. He was authentic and didn't suffer fools or pretense.

And he laughed, often and loud. His wit was quick and woe to the person who brought a dull knife to a fast gunfight. He could tell a story and gather a crowd. The party came to him. He loved country stores, old-time dance halls, auction barn cafes, and deer camps—and the people who gathered there.

For him, God didn't live in a church, but in the cathedral of nature and in the relationships between people. He took care of both. If wealth is measured in friends, he was a rich, rich man. If wealth is measured in love, his wife, children, grandchildren, and extended family are rich beyond comprehension.

He invested in young people through his service with the Lexington ISD Board

of Trustees, the Lee County Junior Livestock Show, the Lexington Youth Rodeo Association, and as a Scout Master for Troop 141 in Lexington. He was also a Director at First National Bank-Giddings and a founding member of the Lee County Independent Cattlemen's Association and the Lexington Cemetery Association.

Jamie was preceded in death by his parents, Rufus J. and Wilma Woodward. He is survived by his wife and well-matched partner in life of 59 ½ years Annette (Perry) Woodward; his children, Lorie A. Woodward of Brenham, Tracey P. Woodward of Lexington, Bill and Tracy (Bradshaw) Woodward of Lincoln; and his grandchildren, Kate Cantu of Seabrook, Makayla (Woodward) and Caleb Vinyard of Abilene, Will Cantu of Fort Worth, and Miranda Woodward of College Station.

In lieu of flowers, please celebrate Jamie's life with a contribution to the charity of your choice.

Cemetery Details

Lexington Cemetery

5900 County Road 326
Lexington, TX 78947

Tribute Wall

CS

“ Cheryl Sanders lit a candle in memory of RJ "Jamie" Woodward



Cheryl Sanders - April 16, 2023 at 10:23 PM

CW

“ Our thoughts and prayers to Annette and family in the passing of Jamie.



Curtis & Paula Worley - April 16, 2023 at 08:51 PM

BF

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with Annette and the rest of the family.
David, Joanne Tally and Samuel Bergsten



Bergsten Family - April 14, 2023 at 12:15 PM

MM

“ I'm so very sorry to hear of Jaime's passing!! He was such a sweet man! I met him at the Lexington Livestock Auction and loved visiting with him! I would tell Jimmy Joe, lets go to Lexington so I can see Jamie! He will truly be missed. Praying for the family for comfort and strength during this difficult time!

Marie Morton - April 13, 2023 at 09:21 AM

KT

My deepest condolences. Prayers for the family.

Kelvin Teel - June 10, 2023 at 02:12 PM

RM

“ *There’s never been a more noble king in the Live Nativity! Annette, he never let me forget and I’ll always be honored to have called him friend! Thank you for sharing him with us all! He was extra special!*



Ruby and Grady McGill - April 12, 2023 at 07:38 PM

PL

“ *Our deepest sympathy to the Woodward family.*

Alan and Peggy Lindner

Peggy Lindner - April 12, 2023 at 05:35 PM