



Walter Waylon "Bud" Williams

November 12, 1933 - March 24, 2022

Walter Waylon (Bud) Williams was born November 12, 1933 to Jesse Nathaniel and Lola Fay (Matthews) Williams in Gause, Texas. Passed away Thursday, March 24, 2022, in Cuero, Texas. He was born in the community of Pin Oak, near Gause, Texas. His love for nostalgia was born there, in that simpler time and place. He often shared stories of adventures he and his friends and cousins had in the hollows and fields of that community. He always insisted on driving through Pin Oak whenever visiting the area to show the family the one room schoolhouse where he attended school as a boy. While still a young boy his father began working in the oil field as a driller and the family moved to West Texas. During their years in the oil field, they moved frequently with Bud attending a different school almost every year. By age 14, he was working in the summers, as a rough neck with his father. The family moved back to Milam County, where he attended Milano High School and he played football, basketball and excelled in track, graduating there in 1951. After graduation, he worked for a short while in the oil field, before enrolling in Blinn Jr. College in Brenham, serving as Freshman Class President.

After dating in high school, he married Velmalene Von Gonten of Rockdale, on March 6, 1953. Shortly after their wedding he was drafted into the Army, where he served in Virginia and was selected as "The Outstanding Soldier of the Second Army". In 1955, they were also expecting their first child. Bud, who was proud of his Texas heritage had no intention of his child being born

outside the Lone Star state, he insisted his wife be taken back home to Rockdale, where Diana Lee was born. After serving his country, he used his G.I. bill to attend The University of Texas where he received his BBA and went on to Law School graduating in 1960. After graduation he moved the family to Houston, Texas after securing a job with the Fulbright, Crooker, Freeman, Bates and Jaworski law firm. After a year he was then hired by Bates and Brock. In 1963, their second child, Virginia was born. Eventually he became a partner in his law firm, Brock, Williams and Boyd, and then later senior partner of Williams and Boyd.

In 1970 they had purchased a farm with a pecan bottom on the Guadalupe River in Concrete, Texas, south of Gonzales. They refurbished the farm and eventually built a new home and retired there in 1988. Horticulture was his passion and he worked closely with the Texas A&M Extension Service as well as the Texas Pecan Growers Association and also Federated Pecan Growers Association of the United States, becoming president of both organizations. He was one of the first growers in the County to mechanically harvest their crops. He worked very closely with the Texas A&M Extension Service and County Agents to promote raising pecans. He was also past President of Gonzales-DeWitt Landowners Association and was an avid collector of literature and books on agriculture, particularly old and rare books relating to orcharding and pecan production, having collected magazines from every Pecan Growers Association in the United States for many years.

His passion for growing things, extended to his large backyard garden, which he planted every year with fruits and vegetables, as well as caring for an orchard of fruit trees. He delighted in taking people to the garden to pick things and giving boxes of produce to friends and neighbors. His favorite times were when their children, grand and great-grandchildren would come to visit and enjoy the farm with hunting, fishing and riding through the pecan bottom.

Bud was a man who cherished the good ole days and was a walking, talking recorder of times past and full of nostalgia. All who knew him have heard the stories and it was his hope, that through them we would remember him.

Preceding him in death were his parents, sister Mary Sue Pratt and husband Odell Pratt, Frances Riley Jordan and husbands L.A. Riley and Arlie Jordan.

Surviving him is his wife of 69 years, daughters Diana Lee Weathersby of Concrete and Virginia Marie Leudo & husband Maurice of Mountain Home, Texas. Grandsons David Weathersby of Concrete, Matthew Weathersby of New Braunfels, Texas and David Leudo of Houston, Texas. Great-grandchildren are Kylee, Cason and Cody Weathersby of New Braunfels, Texas and nephews, nieces and cousins.

Visitation/Viewing will be at 12:30 P.M – 2:00 P.M. March 26, 2022, followed by a service at 2:00 p.m. at Phillips & Luckey Funeral Home in Rockdale, Texas. Burial will take place at Gause Cemetery in Gause, Texas immediately following.

Pallbearers: Steve Capo, Thad Titone, John Scott Von Gonten, Robert Von Gonten, Stanley Von Gonten, Karl Von Rosenberg, Kurt Von Rosenberg, Drew Cartwright

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you make donations in Walter Williams name to:

Gause Cemetery Association, checks may be mailed to: P.O. Box 426, Gause, Texas 77857

Or pay online by going to www.paypal.com and search for Gause Cemetery

Association.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 26. 12:30 PM - 2:00 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/>

Chapel Service

MAR 26. 2:00 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/>

Burial

MAR 26 (CT)

Gause City Cemetery
102 Oak St.
Gause, TX 77857

Tribute Wall



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Walter Waylon "Bud" Williams.*



March 25, 2022 at 07:19 PM



“ *Precious memories. I remember frequent visits with Bud, Velamalene, Odel and Aunt Gertie either at my grandparents (Alex&Alma) or at Aunt Lolas, Aunt Bernice and Uncle Melvin always included. Men talk in the living area and the women gathered in the kitchen. The smell of ciagar smoke bellowing thru the house as my brother and I played in and out doors. But and Velmalene comming to see when we brought our 1st baby home. I could go on with all the wonderful memories I have of the generations past. Will cherish each one always. I know he has joined our heavenly family watching over each one of us now. ❤️*

Stacy Urbanek Pasemann - March 25, 2022 at 05:39 PM

“ *Walter Williams....Texas Pecan Grower*

March 23, 2022

Walter Williams was a pioneer and national leader in the US pecan industry. Walter and wife Velma, own and operate 325 acres of improved and native pecans on the lower Guadalupe River at their home in Concrete, Texas. Walter was an avid student of pecan growing and collected the largest private library of pecan literature in the country. As a Houston lawyer with influence, he was instrumental in directing and supporting pecan educational programs at Texas A&M University and other Land Grant colleges across the south. Walter Williams and Warren Meadows of LSU initiated the first modern national pecan marketing projects in Washington DC which helped support all university pecan educational programs. He served as president of the Texas Pecan Growers Association and the Federated Pecan Growers of America which unified pecan growers and handlers throughout the US pecan industry. Texas has the finest county, regional, and state pecan show and grading demonstrations in the US and Walter Williams was one of the best pecan show judges in the state; and taught more than one or two pecan specialists and county extension agents how to grade pecans in these pecan shows. During lunch after the show, Walter would pay the tab and stick a couple of cigars in your pocket, if you liked them or not. The pecan industry, especially Texas, appreciates his significant contributions and will miss their friend and leader, Mr. Walter Williams.

George Ray McEachern, Professor of Horticulture Emeritus, TAMU, College Station, Texas.

George Ray McEachern - March 25, 2022 at 01:20 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of
Walter Waylon "Bud" Williams.



March 25, 2022 at 10:56 AM



“ *Ringed by Love* was purchased for the family of
Walter Waylon "Bud" Williams.



March 24, 2022 at 05:37 PM

AN

“*Velma and family members, I'm so sorry for your loss. I loved Walter Williams! When I moved to DeWitt County as County Extension Agent in 1995, I was young and dumb and didn't know much about pecans. Walter was so kind and so willing to share his wealth of knowledge of pecans with me. He truly was a mentor in those early years and helped me develop into a County Agent with a pretty good knowledge level of pecans. He taught me how to judge Pecan Shows, a skill that I still use to this date.*

Funny story about judging Pecan Shows. Way back in 1996 or '97 Walter and I were judging the Victoria County Pecan Show, which was one of the largest Pecan Shows in Texas in those days. Honestly, Walter was probably judging it, and I was just tagging along soaking up his knowledge. Anyway, we made it through all the varieties of pecans, placing them all, and had narrowed down to the best 4-6 varieties. It was now time to pick the Grand and Reserve Champion pecan entry. As I'm stooping over looking at those pecans, trying to decide which one I thought was best, somehow Walter managed to slip away and sneak out of the room. I looked around in disbelief and asked pecan committee members where he went and what do we need to do. They told me he left the room and that I needed to finish judging the Show. I was as scared as a whipped pup, but I proceeded to pick the overall Grand and Reserve Champion of the Victoria County Pecan Show. I guess I must have got it right because I don't remember hearing any complaints. That was Walter's way of saying "you got this, you are now ready to be a pecan show judge on your own".

God Bless you Walter Williams.....may you rest in peace!

*Anthony Netardus
DeWitt County Ag Extension Agent
Cuero, Texas*

Anthony Netardus - March 24, 2022 at 05:14 PM

TS

Mr. Williams as us kids all called him was a one of a kind renaissance man. My family and I began working in his pecan orchard along with Mrs. Williams back in the early 1970's through the mid 80's along with Mr. Eli Thomas (another amazing story) and several local families in the Concrete, TX area. Velma did all the bookwork and payroll, while Bud assigned tasks and oversaw the care of the orchard. He had so many interesting traits and was so accomplished in his professional (lawyer) and personal (pecan farmer) careers. My entire family worked for him for a time at the pecan orchard that he truly enjoyed. His wife, Velma was a keeper and put up with him when most women probably might have given up. She was a strong woman who always supported her husband through good and bad times. Mr. Williams was full of stories and personal antidotes that could hold any audience captive regardless of age. He was a master of making you feel welcome and always spoke to you as an equal regardless of your age. He never hesitated when assigning tasks, he studied his tasks well beforehand. He loved his reference books on any topic, seems he never stopped learning and sharing. Finally, he never let his personal success change his character. Everyone needs a Mr. Williams in their life, especially if you are a kid. He was one of most original people I have ever met, completely self-made.

Sincerely,

Thomas Stirneman.

Thomas R. Stirneman - July 03, 2023 at 11:58 AM