



Growing Our Future Podcast – Episode 18 Lesson Plan

<p>Lesson Title: “Served and Led Then ... Serving and Leading Now”</p>	
<p>TEKs: (c) Knowledge and skills.</p> <p>(3) The student demonstrates professional development related to effective leadership in agribusiness. The student is expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) describe the importance of positive self-concept, social skills, and maintaining a professional image with respect to cultural diversity; (B) identify leadership styles; (D) use positive interpersonal skills to work cooperatively with others from different cultures, genders, and backgrounds. <p>(7) The student demonstrates the factors of group and individual efficiency. The student is expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) define the significance of personal and group goals; (B) demonstrate leadership traits when solving a problem such as risk-taking, focusing on results, decision making, and empowering and investing in individuals when leading a group; (C) discuss the importance of time management and teamwork; (D) list the steps in the decision-making and problem-solving processes; <p><i>Note. TEKs taken from the Professional Standards in Agribusiness Course. However, similar TEKs can be found within any of the AFNR courses.</i></p>	
<p>Terminal Performance Objective:</p> <p>Through class instruction and the evaluation of the Growing Our Future podcast episode, students will compose their own obituary according to the criteria outlined in class.</p>	<p>Enabling Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify quotes made by past prominent FFA members. 2. Write three postcards to past prominent FFA members. 3. Study the poem <i>The Dash</i>. 4. Evaluate Episode 18 of the Growing Our Future podcast. 5. Analyze Angela Lee Duckworth’s TED Talk concerning “Grit”. 6. Compose your own obituary.
<p>Vocabulary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competitive Edge - it is that special “something” .. the “it” ... that gives an advantage to a person or business over their peers. Many times, we don’t know what “it” is, but we know they have it. Students involved in the agricultural education and FFA generally have a competitive edge over their peers who do not participate in the program. Their edge is evident in soft skills, work ethic, teamwork, problem solving, and communication. 	<p>Bell Work:</p> <p><i>Match the following quotes with the person who stated them.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>There are two things that make goose bumps go up and down my back: one is Old Glory flying over the nation’s capitol when I walk by it at night, and the other is when I see FFA members in their blue jackets. I get an emotional feeling because FFA lifted me out of</i>

- **Consistency** – provides credibility.
- **Core Values** - everyone has a business ... it is themselves. Core values are personal beliefs, ideals or practices that direct the way you live your brand, both personally and professionally.
- **Gratitude** – “The opposite of gratitude is entitlement.” – Tom Ziglar
- **Grit** - Grit is passion and perseverance for very long-term goals. Grit is having stamina. Grit is sticking with your future, day in, day out, not just for the week, not just for the month, but for years, and working hard to make that future a reality. Grit is living life like it's a marathon, not a sprint.
- **Hope** - an internal feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen.
- **Persistence** – brakes resistance.
- **Obituary** - serves as a tribute to the deceased’s life by sharing his or her accomplishments with the public.
- **The Dash** - refers to the dash between a person's date of birth and their date of death on their tombstone. The dash represents the time that the person spent on earth and serves as a symbol for their life.

the depths of poverty and personal problems to the halls of Congress.

2. *Whether evaluating opportunities for the university, making public speeches, or interacting in committee meetings, I use the skills learned through my agricultural education program and FFA. . . . I am who I am today because of those experiences.*
3. *The first time I had ever learned about setting goals was when I joined FFA in the eighth grade. I set a goal to be Miss Oklahoma after that. The public speaking skills developed in FFA were key to winning the Miss Oklahoma title where I had to be comfortable in interviews and talking on stage in front of thousands of people.*
4. *. . . the one thing FFA taught me was determination. I learned that when you don’t win, you must dust yourself off and try again.*
5. *FFA was one of the most enjoyable things I had going through school. I played sports, but I always looked forward to having the forestry contests, land judging and livestock judging. I was on all those teams, plus all the other stuff – parliamentary procedure and public speaking.*

- A. **Elizabeth Kinney Stidham**, Miss Oklahoma 2004 and former Oklahoma State FFA Reporter
- B. **Harry Birdwell**, Chief Administrative Officer, Commissioners of the Land Office (Oklahoma); former Athletic Director at Oklahoma State University; and former National FFA President
- C. **Herbert Perry**, former professional baseball player and former FFA member in Florida
- D. **Matt Lohr**, Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- E. **Wes Watkins**, former U.S. congressman from Oklahoma and former president of the Oklahoma FFA Association

Answers:

1. **Wes Watkins**
2. **Harry Birdwell**
3. **Elizabeth Kinney Stidham**
4. **Matt Lohr**
5. **Herbert Perry**

<p>Explain to the class, “As you listen to the podcast episode, write key takeaways from the dialog in the headstone titled ‘Episode 18 - Growing Our Future Podcast’. If you need more space to write, you may use the backside of the handout.”</p>	<p>Provide students with the “The Headstone” Handout.</p> <p>Episode 18 - Growing Our Future Podcast Link: - https://youtu.be/28UctEwEL_o</p>
<p>Application</p>	
<p>Instructor Notes</p>	<p>Activity Notes</p>
<p>Ask the class, “What were some of your key takeaways from today’s episode?”</p> <p>(Initiate class discussion)</p> <p>Tell the class, “During the podcast episode, Barbie mentioned a TED Talk by Angela Duckworth, which talked about ‘Grit’. Let’s watch this TED Talk and see what she was talking about.</p> <p>Write your takeaways from the episode in the headstone titled ‘Angela Lee Duckworth’s TED Talk – Grit’.”</p> <p>Tell the class, “You have one last headstone left on your paper.</p> <p>Linda Ellis was working a corporate job when she was inspired to write ‘The Dash.’ Her co-worker’s wife, who was terminally ill, wrote a letter in which she reflected on her life. The woman lamented the fact that she had spent time worrying about life instead of living it and explained if she had the chance to do it again, she would have been more present and less concerned about the future. The letter caused Ellis to reflect on her own life. In 1996, Ellis wrote the poem and shared it with a syndicated radio program based in Atlanta, Georgia. The radio host read “The Dash” on the air, where it reached and inspired many listeners.”</p> <p>Tell the class, “In the last headstone on your paper, write your takeaways from the poem. Then answer the conclusion questions at the bottom of the page.”</p> <p>Explain to the class, “In the poem, Linda explains the dash as seeming insignificant, but it actually represents the time a person spends alive on earth. ‘The Dash,’ therefore, calls on us to reflect</p>	<p>Show the following TED Talk Episode – “Grit: the power of passion and perseverance Angela Lee Duckworth”</p> <p>- https://youtu.be/H14bBuluwB8</p> <p>Pass out the “The Dash” Handout by Linda Ellis to the class. Ask one student in class to read the poem aloud to the class.</p>

on what kind of life we are presently living and to think about how that life might be idealized after we die.”

Evaluation / Summary

Instructor Notes

Ask the class, “In the Growing Our Future Podcast Episode, Steve talks about obituaries from past FFA Members. Who knows what an obituary is?”

(Wait for responses)

Explain to the class, “An obituary serves as a tribute to the deceased’s life by sharing his or her accomplishments with the public.

For your final assignment, you are going to write your own obituary, documenting the achievements and goals you see yourself accomplishing in your lifetime.

The assignment will be graded based on the criteria outlined in the instructions.”

Activity Notes

Print one set of the “FFA Obituaries” and spread them around the room for the students to reference.

Pass out the “WRITING AN OBITUARY” Handout.

Read the assignment instructions aloud to the class.



NATIONAL
FFA ORGANIZATION

Prominent Former Members

AGRICULTURE

“There are two things that make goose bumps go up and down my back: one is Old Glory flying over the nation’s capitol when I walk by it at night, and the other is when I see FFA members in their blue jackets. I get an emotional feeling because FFA lifted me out of the depths of poverty and personal problems to the halls of Congress.”

– Wes Watkins, former U.S. congressman from Oklahoma and former president of the Oklahoma FFA Association

Flavius Barker	President, Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation (1995-05)	Tennessee
Taylor Brown	Owner, Northern Ag Network; President of National Association of Farm Broadcasting (1992)	Lewistown, Montana Fergus FFA Chapter 1974-75 state FFA secretary; 1974 national beef proficiency winner
Bill Even	CEO, National Pork Board (2016-) <i>*see also business and government sections*</i>	Hartford, South Dakota West Central FFA Chapter
Adin A. Hester	President and CEO, Olive Growers Council of California (1980-18); President and CEO, California Citrus Mutual (1977-80); General Manager, CalAgra Industries (1969-77)	Canby, Oregon 1958-59 national FFA president
Tim Kimura	Professional trail course designer, trail horse clinician and instructor	Reedley, California
Jack Laurie	President, Michigan Farm Bureau Federation (1986-00)	Cass City, Michigan
Tom McKittrick	General manager, World Dairy Expo (1988-07)	Kickapoo, Wisconsin Former state FFA secretary and state FFA president
Hans McPherson	President, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (2016-20)	Stevensville, Montana
James E. Newsome	Executive vice president, Mississippi Cattlemen’s Association (1989-98) <i>*see also business section*</i>	Plant City, Florida 1977-78 state FFA president
Errol Rice	Executive director, Montana Stockgrowers Association (2006-18)	Denton, Montana
Rhedona Rose	Chief Administrative Officer (2017-), Executive Vice President (2010-17), Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation	Cookeville, Tennessee Former state FFA officer
Charlie Scruggs	Dedicated his career to the <i>Farm Progress Magazine</i> . He helped eradicate the screwworm from the ag industry.	

Orion Samuelson	Agribusiness director, WGN Radio; reporter, "National Farm Report"; co-host, "This Week in Agribusiness"; president of National Assn. of Farm Broadcasting (1965); National Radio Broadcasters Hall of Fame (2003)	Ontario, Wisconsin
William Stamp Jr.	President, Rhode Island Farm Bureau Federation (1974-14) Longest serving state Farm Bureau president in the nation	Cranston, Rhode Island Former state FFA officer
Harry Stine	President, Stine Seed Company (1964-)	Washington Township, Iowa
Lee Todd	Executive Director, Southern Cotton Ginners Association (1986-03)	Bells, Tennessee 1955-56 state FFA reporter 1958-59 national FFA vice president
Lacy Upchurch	President, Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation (2006-15)	Jamestown, Tennessee Mark Twain FFA Chapter
Richard Waybright	Owner, Mason Dixon Farms – one of the nation's largest dairy farms	Pennsylvania 1950-51 national FFA vice president
Kevin Stewart	Professional Team Roper, National Finals Rodeo Contestant	Glen Rose FFA

BUSINESS

Nels Ackerson	Founder and attorney, Ackerson Kauffman Fex (1991-)	Indiana 1963-64 national FFA president
Janet Adkinson	Lead anchor, RFD-TV (2013-)	Houston, Missouri
Ally Carter	Author (2005-); New York Times best selling list for young adult literature	Locust Grove, Oklahoma 1993-94 district vice president
Steve Doocy	Co-anchor, "FOX & Friends" on FOX News Channel (1998-)	Clay Center, Kansas Former chapter FFA vice president
Peg Armstrong-Gustafson	Owner and founder, Amson Technology LLC (2000-); President, Iowa State University Foundation (2002-03); Vice president, Pioneer Hi-Bred International (1983-00)	Iowa Former state FFA president and 1977-78 national FFA vice president
Dan Bartlett	Executive vice president, corporate affairs, Wal-Mart (2013-) <i>*see also government section*</i>	Rockwall, Texas Former chapter FFA president
William T. Boehm	Senior vice president, The Kroger Company, and president, Kroger Manufacturing (2004-11) <i>*see also government section*</i>	Mosinee, Wisconsin Former state FFA chaplain, state FFA president and 1967-68 national FFA vice president
Jim Davis	Creator of Garfield comic strip (1976-)	Fairmount, Indiana Former FFA chapter president
Morris Dees	Attorney; founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center (1971-19)	Alabama 1955 state star farmer
Bill Even	Director, global industry relations, DuPont Pioneer (2012-16) <i>*see also agriculture and government sections*</i>	Hartford, South Dakota West Central FFA Chapter

A. Charles Fischer	President and CEO, Dow AgroSciences (1999-04)	Cuero, Texas
Jacob France	Owner, Rostrata Photography, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands; winner of the 2004 Caribbean Travel Photographer of the Year award	Shelley, Idaho Former chapter FFA treasurer
Elizabeth Hund	Senior vice president, food industries, U.S. Bank (2006-)	Kansas
Chris Johns	Editor in chief, National Geographic magazine (2005-14)	Crater, Oregon 1969-70 state FFA president
Nicholas Kristof	Columnist for The New York Times; Pulitzer Prize winner (1990 and 2006)	Yamhill, Oregon Former state FFA reporter
Allen Lash	Founder and president, AgriSolutions Inc.; founder and CEO, FamilyFarms Group	Finley, Illinois
J. Wilson McCallister	Former associate general counsel, Deere & Company	Florida 1959-60 state FFA vice president
Fred McClure	Executive director of The Leadership Initiative at Texas A&M (2016-); CEO, George Bush Presidential Library Foundation (2012-16) <i>*see also government section*</i>	Texas state FFA president and 1973-74 national FFA Secretary; the first African American to serve as national FFA officer
M. Peter McPherson	Chairman, Dow Jones & Co. (2007); Executive vice president, Bank of America (1989-93) <i>*see also education and government sections*</i>	Lowell, Michigan
Javier Moreno	Senior Manager, Toyota North America (2005-)	Culebra, Puerto Rico
Jim Moseley	Co-chair, Agree (2010-) <i>*see also government section*</i>	Lafayette, Indiana
James E. Newsome	Chairman, Commodity Futures Trading Commission (2001-04); Founding partner, Delta Strategy Group; President of the New York Mercantile Exchange (2004-08) <i>*see also agriculture section*</i>	Plant City, Florida 1977-78 state FFA president
Greg Nickerson	President (2005-09), CEO (2009-18), Chairman of the Board (2018-), Bader Rutter & Associates	Iowa
James E. Oesterreicher	CEO and chairman of the board, J.C. Penney Company Inc. (1995-00)	Michigan
Earl Pomeroy	Senior counsel, Alston & Bird LLP (2011-) <i>*see also government section*</i>	North Dakota
Richard Posthumus	President and CEO, Compatico (2004-10) <i>*see also government section*</i>	Caledonia, Michigan Former state FFA president
John Pulasky	Intermountain west/southern Canadian plains weather forecaster and media personality	Billings, Montana 1966-67 state FFA 3 rd vice president
Bill Sarpalius	President and CEO, Advantage Associates International (1996-) <i>*see also government section*</i>	Boys Ranch, Texas Former state FFA president

Eric Shanks	CEO and Executive Producer, FOX Sports (2018-)	Brazil, Indiana
Jeffrey Simmons	President, Elanco Animal Health (2008-)	Penn Yan, New York 1987 Eastern Region Star in Agribusiness
Charles Stenholm	Senior policy advisor, OFW Law (2005-) <i>*see also government section*</i>	Stamford, Texas
Kristie VerMulm	Midwest TV news reporter/anchor (1994-13)	Harrisburg, South Dakota Former state FFA officer
Randy Brady	One of the most noted heart surgeons in the Houston area. Worked with Dr. DeBakey at the DeBecky Institute.	

EDUCATION

“Whether evaluating opportunities for the university, making public speeches, or interacting in committee meetings, I use the skills learned through my agricultural education program and FFA. . . . I am who I am today because of those experiences.”

-Harry Birdwell, Chief Administrative Officer, Commissioners of the Land Office (Oklahoma); former Athletic Director at Oklahoma State University; and former National FFA President

Jay Akridge	Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Purdue University (2017-)	Lyon County, Kentucky
Jeff Armstrong	President, California Polytechnic State University (2011-)	Lyon County, Kentucky Former state FFA officer
Lowell B. Catlett	Professor and dean of the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, New Mexico State University (2006-15)	Dalhart, Texas 1968-69 national FFA vice president
Raymond N. DuBois, M.D., Ph.D.	Dean, College of Medicine, University of South Carolina (2016-); Executive director, Biodesign Institute, Arizona State University (2012-16); Provost and executive vice president, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center (2007-12)	Runge, Texas Former chapter FFA president, district president and Area X vice president
Robert Easter	President, University of Illinois (2012-15) <i>*see also government section*</i>	La Pryor, Texas Former state FFA officer
Janice C. Eberly	Distinguished professor of finance, Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University (2002-11 and 2013-) <i>*see also government section*</i>	Fallbrook, California 1982-83 national FFA president; the first female to serve as national FFA president
I. Miley Gonzalez	Vice provost and dean of international programs and global advancement, Montana State University (2017-20) <i>*see also government section*</i>	San Simon, Arizona
Ronnie Green	Chancellor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (2016-)	Lord Botetourt FFA, Virginia Former state FFA officer
Robert Jones	Chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2016-); President, University at Albany, SUNY (2013-16)	Dawson, Georgia George Washington Carver NFA Chapter
Kirklyn M. Kerr	Dean, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Connecticut (1993-08)	West Virginia Green Bank FFA Chapter

Lynette Marshall	President and CEO, University of Iowa Center for Advancement (2006-)	Sparland, Illinois
M. Peter McPherson	President of the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU) (2006-); President, Michigan State University (1993-04) *see also <i>business and government sections*</i>	Lowell, Michigan
Keith Rheault	State Superintendent of Public Schools, Nevada (2004-12)	North Dakota
Tiffany Sanderson	State Secretary of Education, South Dakota (2020-)	Lemmon, South Dakota

ENTERTAINMENT

“The first time I had ever learned about setting goals was when I joined FFA in the eighth grade. I set a goal to be Miss Oklahoma after that. The public speaking skills developed in FFA were key to winning the Miss Oklahoma title where I had to be comfortable in interviews and talking on stage in front of thousands of people.”

-Elizabeth Kinney Stidham, Miss Oklahoma 2004 and former Oklahoma State FFA Reporter

Trace Adkins	Country music entertainer/recording artist (1987-)	Sarepta, Louisiana
Razzy Bailey	Country music entertainer/recording artist (1966-)	Lafayette, Alabama
Baxter Black	Veterinarian turned cowboy poet, syndicated columnist and radio commentator (1970-22)	Las Cruces, New Mexico Former chapter FFA president
Lucas Black	Actor; Sling Blade, Cold Mountain, Friday Night Lights (1994-)	Danville, Alabama Speake FFA Chapter
Junior Bryant	Founding member and fiddler with the country music band Ricochet (1993-02)	Pecos, Texas
Johnny Cash	Country music entertainer/recording artist (1954-03)	Kingsland, Arkansas Dyess FFA Chapter
Chris Colfer	Actor, Glee, Struck by Lightning; author (2009-)	Clovis, California
Easton Corbin	Country music entertainer/recording artist (2005-)	Trenton, Florida
Charlie Daniels	Country music entertainer/recording artist (1958-20)	Goldston, North Carolina
Matthew Fox	Actor; Jack on “Lost” and Charlie Salinger on “Party of Five” (1992-15)	Crowheart, Wyoming Wind River FFA Chapter
Brantley Gilbert	Country music entertainer/recording artist (2005-)	Jefferson, Georgia Jefferson City FFA Chapter
William Lee Golden	Member of country music group The Oak Ridge Boys (1965-)	Brewton, Alabama
Don Henley	Rock music entertainer/recording artist; member of The Eagles (1970-)	Linden, Texas
Rachel Velasquez	Professional makeup artist for “The Chosen” and several FX series.	Byron Nelson FFA

Jared Hess	Film writer and director including "Napoleon Dynamite" (2002-)	Preston, Idaho
Kara Jackson	Miss Idaho 2009	Meridian, Idaho
Cody Johnson	Country music entertainer/recording artist (2006-)	Groveton, Texas
Lyle Lovett	Country music entertainer/recording artist (1980-)	Klein, Texas
Greg Martin	Member of the country music band Kentucky Headhunters (1968-82)	Metcalfe County, Kentucky
Tim McGraw	Country music entertainer/recording artist (1990-)	Start, Louisiana
Justin McKee	Professional rodeo announcer (1993-)	Labette County, Kansas Former state FFA president
John Mellencamp	Music entertainer/recording artist (1976-)	Seymour, Indiana
Eddie Montgomery	Member of the country music duo Montgomery Gentry (1999-)	Kentucky
Willie Nelson	Country music entertainer/recording artist (1956-)	Abbott, Texas
Lori Otter	Miss Idaho 1991 <i>*see also government section*</i>	Kimberly, Idaho
Eric Paslay	Country music entertainer/recording artist (2011-)	Temple, Texas
Doug Phelps	Member of the country music band Kentucky Headhunters (1996-) and Brothers Phelps (1992-95)	Missouri
Rebecca Podio	Miss Wyoming 2013	Newcastle, Wyoming
Jim Ross	Professional wrestling commentator (1974-)	Westville, Oklahoma
Elizabeth Kinney Stidham	Miss Oklahoma 2004	Mooreland, Oklahoma 2000-01 state FFA reporter
George Strait	Country music entertainer/recording artist (1976-)	Pearsall, Texas
Taylor Swift	Music entertainer/recording artist (2003-)	Hendersonville, Tennessee
Alpha Trivette	Film and Broadway actor (1987-)	Ladysmith, Virginia former state FFA officer and 1974-75 national FFA president
Jake Whetter	On-air personality for Radio Disney (2006-13)	Arizona Agua Fria FFA Chapter 2000-01 state FFA Vice President
Trent Willmon	Country music entertainer/recording artist (1998-)	Afton, Texas Former chapter FFA president
Tom Wopat	Recording artist (1981-17) and actor (1977-); Luke Duke on "The Dukes of Hazzard"	Lodi, Wisconsin
Fred Young	Member of the country music band Kentucky Headhunters (1968-82)	Metcalfe County, Kentucky

Richard Young

Member of the country music band Kentucky
Headhunters (1968-82)

Metcalfe County, Kentucky

GOVERNMENT

“ . . . the one thing FFA taught me was determination. I learned that when you don't win, you must dust yourself off and try again.”

-Matt Lohr, Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Blayne Arthur	Secretary of Agriculture, Oklahoma (2019-)	Chickasha, Oklahoma Former chapter FFA president
Jim Barbee	Director, Nevada Department of Agriculture (2011-18)	Minden, Nevada Carson Valley FFA Chapter
Dan Bartlett	Counselor to President George W. Bush (2005- 07) <i>*see also business section*</i>	Rockwall, Texas Former chapter FFA president
Lindley Beckworth	U.S. congressman, Texas (1939-53 and 1957- 67); Judge, U.S. Customs Court (1967-68)	Mabank, Texas
Henry Bellmon	Governor of Oklahoma (1987-91); U.S. senator, Oklahoma (1969-81)	Billings, Oklahoma
Harry Birdwell	Chief administrative officer, Commissioners of the Oklahoma Land Office (2011-19) <i>*see also sports section*</i>	Fletcher, Oklahoma 1968-69 state FFA president and 1969-70 national FFA president
William T. Boehm	Senior staff economist, President Carter's Council of Economic Advisors (1979-81); USDA Branch Chief, Food Economics Research (1976-79) <i>*see also business section*</i>	Mosinee, Wisconsin Former state FFA chaplain, state FFA president and 1967-68 national FFA vice president
Sam Brownback	Governor of Kansas (2011-18); U.S. senator, Kansas (1996-11); U.S. congressman, Kansas (1995-96); Kansas state Secretary of Agriculture (1986-93)	Prairie View, Kansas Former FFA chapter president, state FFA president and 1976- 77 national FFA vice president
Kat Cammack	U.S. congresswoman, Florida (2021-)	Castle Rock, Colorado
Jimmy Carter	39 th President of the United States; Governor of Georgia (1971-75); Nobel Prize winner (2002)	Plains, Georgia
Larry Combest	U.S. congressman, Texas (1985-03)	Memphis, Texas
James Comer	U.S. congressman, Kentucky (2016-); State commissioner of agriculture (2012-16)	Tompkinsville, Kentucky Monroe County FFA Chapter
Rick Crawford	U.S. congressman, Arkansas (2011-)	Hudson, New Hampshire Alvirne FFA Chapter
Ron de Yong	Director, Montana Department of Agriculture (2007-2017)	Kalispell, Montana Flathead FFA Chapter
Gus R. Douglass	West Virginia commissioner of agriculture (1965- 89 and 1993-13)	Point Pleasant, West Virginia 1946-47 national FFA president
Robert Easter	Chairman, Board for International Food and Agriculture Development (2007), appointed by President Bush	La Pryor, Texas Former state FFA officer

Janice C. Eberly	Assistant secretary, economic policy, U.S. Department of the Treasury (2011-13) <i>*see also business section*</i>	Fallbrook, California 1982-83 national FFA president; the first female to serve as national FFA president
B. Avant Edenfield	Senior U.S. district judge, southern district of Georgia (1978-06)	Stillson, Georgia Former state FFA officer
John Engler	Governor of Michigan (1991-02)	Beal City, Michigan
Bill Even	South Dakota secretary of agriculture (2007-10) <i>*see also agriculture and business sections*</i>	Hartford, South Dakota West Central FFA Chapter
Orval Fabus	Governor of Arkansas (1955-67)	Combs, Arkansas
Don Fuqua	U.S. congressman, Florida (1963-67 and 1967-87)	Jacksonville, Florida
John C. Gemmill	Judge, Arizona Court of Appeals, Division One (2001-16)	Peoria, Arizona Agua Fria FFA Chapter 1967-68 national FFA vice president
I. Miley Gonzalez	Deputy director general, CATIE, Costa Rica; Secretary/director, New Mexico Dept. of Agriculture (2003-10); Undersecretary, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (1997-2001) <i>*see also education section*</i>	San Simon, Arizona
Sam Graves	U.S. congressman, Missouri (2019-)	Tarkio, Missouri
Fred Harris	U.S. senator, Oklahoma (1964-73); Chairman of the Democratic National Committee (1969-70)	Walters, Oklahoma
James Harsdorf	Wisconsin secretary of agriculture (2000-03)	Stillwater, Minnesota
Yvette Herrell	U.S. congresswoman, New Mexico (2021-)	Cloudcroft, New Mexico
Mike Honeycutt	Executive director, Montana Department of Livestock (2016-)	North Carolina
James B. Hunt	Governor of North Carolina (1977-85 and 1993-01)	Rock Ridge, North Carolina
W. Pat Jennings	U.S. congressman, Virginia (1955-67); Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives (1967-75)	Smyth County, Virginia
Anne Knapke	Deputy Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations at USDA (2021); Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy at USDA (2021-)	Oxford, Ohio Talawanda FFA Chapter 2003-04 national FFA vice president
Austin Knudsen	Attorney General of Montana (2021-)	Culbertson, Montana 1999-00 state FFA 3rd vice president
Jerry Litton	U.S. congressman, Missouri (1973-76)	Daviess County, Missouri 1956-57 national FFA secretary
Speedy Long	U.S. congressman, Louisiana (1965-73)	Winn Parish, Louisiana
Matt Lohr	Chief of the Natural Resources Conversation Services (2018-21); Virginia commissioner of agriculture and consumer services (2010-13)	Virginia Former state FFA president and 1990-91 national FFA VP
Todd Staples	Texas Ag Commissioner (200 - 2014)	Anderson County, Texas

Frank Lucas	U.S. congressman, Oklahoma (2019-)	Cheyenne, Oklahoma
Tracey Mann	U.S. congressman, Kansas (2021-); Lieutenant Governor, Kansas (2018-19)	Quinter, Kansas
Fred McClure	White House intern in the Gerald Ford administration (1977), Special Assistant for Legislative Affairs to Presidents Ronald Reagan (1985-86), and George H.W. Bush (1989-92) <i>*see also business section*</i>	San Augustine, Texas state FFA president and 1973-74 national FFA secretary; the first African American to serve as national FFA officer
Robert McNair	Governor of South Carolina (1965-71)	Cades, South Carolina
M. Peter McPherson	Deputy director, presidential personnel office in the Gerald Ford administration; General counsel Ronald Reagan administration (1981); USAID administrator (1981-87); Deputy secretary U.S. Treasury Department (1987-89); Chairman, Board for International Food and Agriculture Development (2002-07); Director of Economic Policy in Iraq (2003) <i>*see also education and business sections*</i>	Lowell, Michigan
Ned McWherter	Governor of Tennessee (1987-95)	Dresden, Tennessee former chapter FFA president
Jeff Miller	U.S. congressman, Florida (2001-07)	Bronson, Florida Former state FFA secretary
Barry Moore	U.S. congressman, Alabama (2021-)	Coffee County, Alabama
Jim Moseley	Deputy secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture (2001-05) <i>*see also business section*</i>	Lafayette, Indiana
Dan Newhouse	Director, Washington State Department of Agriculture (2009-13); U.S. congressman, Washington (2015-)	Sunnyside, Washington
Earl Old Person	Chief of the Blackfeet Nation (1954-21) Longest serving tribal chief in modern times	Browning, Montana
Lori Otter	First Lady, Idaho (2007-19) <i>*see also entertainment section*</i>	Kimberly, Idaho
Ralph Peck	Director, Montana Department of Agriculture (1995-05)	Lewistown, Montana Fergus FFA Chapter
Rick Perry	U.S. Secretary of Energy (2017-19); Governor of Texas (2000-15); Texas Agriculture Commissioner (1990-98)	Paint Creek, Texas
Earl Pomeroy	U.S. congressman, North Dakota (1993-11); North Dakota state insurance commissioner (1985-92) <i>*see also business section*</i>	North Dakota
Richard Posthumus	Lieutenant governor of Michigan (1999-03) <i>*see also business section*</i>	Caledonia, Michigan 1968-69 state FFA president
John Reed	Governor of Maine (1959-67); Chairman of the National Governors Association (1965-66); U.S. Ambassador to Sri Lanka and the Maldives (1976-77 and 1982-85)	Fort Fairfield, Maine

Tara Rice	Director, Montana Department of Commerce (2019-21)	Agawam, Montana Choteau FFA Chapter
John Rose	U.S. congressman, Tennessee (2019-); Tennessee State Commissioner of Agriculture (2002-2003)	Cookeville, Tennessee
Dick Rush	State Director, Idaho Farm Service Agency (1990-96 and 2009-13); Director, Idaho State Department of Agriculture (1996-2000)	Moscow, Idaho
Roger Sandman	Deputy Director, Intergovernmental Affairs, USDA (1979-81); Department of Agriculture Director, Nebraska (1977-79)	Cambridge, Nebraska
Bill Sarpalius	U.S. congressman, Texas (1989-95) <i>*see also business section*</i>	Boys Ranch, Texas Former state FFA president
Gale Schisler	U.S. congressman, Illinois (1965-67)	Indian Point Township, Illinois
Jason Smith	U.S. congressman, Missouri (2013-)	Salem, Missouri
Ray Starling	Agriculture policy advisor in the Trump White House (2017-18)	Midway, North Carolina 1996-97 national FFA vice president
Charles Stenholm	U.S. congressman, Texas (1978-04) <i>*see also business section*</i>	Stamford, Texas
Greg Steube	U.S. congressman, Florida (2019-)	Bradenton, Florida Southeast FFA Chapter
Scott Stump	Assistant Secretary for Career, Technical, and Adult Education U.S. Department of Education (2018-21)	LaGrange, Indiana Prairie Heights FFA Chapter 1986-87 state FFA officer
Jim Teilborg	Senior U.S. district judge, Arizona (2000-13)	Colorado
Karla Thieman	Chief of staff at USDA for Secretary Vilsack (2015-17)	Concordia, Missouri
David Valadao	U.S. congressman, California (2021-)	Hanford, California
Tim Walz	Governor, Minnesota (2019-); U.S. congressman, Minnesota (2007-19)	Butte, Nebraska
Phil Ward	Director, Oregon State Department of Agriculture (1999-04); State Director, Oregon Farm Service Agency (2014-17)	Oregon
Wes Watkins	U.S. congressman, Oklahoma (1977-91 and 1997-03)	Bennington, Oklahoma 1958-59 state FFA president
Bruce Westerman	U.S. congressman, Arkansas (2021-)	Hot Springs, Arkansas Fountain Lake FFA Chapter
A C Wharton	Mayor, Memphis, Tennessee (2009-15)	Lebanon, Tennessee (NFA)
Dan Wyant	Director, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (2011-15); director, Michigan Department of Agriculture (1996-05)	Cassopolis, Michigan
Sid Miller	Texas Ag Commissioner (2014 - Present). Operates a successful agricultural business known as Miller Nursery where he grows trees, shrubs and decorative plants near Stephenville, Texas.	De Leon, Texas

MILITARY

Chris Kyle	Navy SEAL (1999-09)	Midlothian, Texas
Russell Honoré	U.S. Army General (2004-08) and coordinator of Hurricane Katrina relief efforts	Pointe Coupee, Louisiana (NFA)

SCIENCE

John Milner	Director, USDA Human Nutrition Research Center (2012-13)	Watson Chapel, Arkansas
Ellison Onizuka	NASA astronaut, 1986 Challenger mission	Konawaena, Hawaii
Ryan Scholz	Oregon State Veterinarian (2020-)	Newberg, Oregon 2006 American Star in Agriscience

SPORTS

“FFA was one of the most enjoyable things I had going through school. I played sports, but I always looked forward to having the forestry contests, land judging and livestock judging. I was on all those teams, plus all the other stuff – parliamentary procedure and public speaking.”

– Herbert Perry, former professional baseball player and former FFA member in Florida

Josh Allen	Professional football player, quarterback; Buffalo Bills (2018-)	Firebaugh, California 2014 national finalist in diversified crop production
Harry Birdwell	Athletic director, Oklahoma State University (2003-05) <i>*see also government section*</i>	Fletcher, Oklahoma 1968-69 state FFA president and 1969-70 national FFA president
Brandon Dickson	Professional baseball player, pitcher; St. Louis Cardinals (2011-12)	Marbury, Alabama
Stacy Dragila	Olympic gold medalist, women’s pole vault (2000)	Auburn, California
Lane Frost	Professional bull rider (1982-89) and 1987 PRCA bull riding champion	Atoka, Oklahoma
Rulon Gardner	Olympic gold medalist, Greco-Roman wrestling (2000)	Afton, Wyoming Star Valley FFA Chapter
Jordan Gross	Professional football player, tackle; Carolina Panthers (2003-13)	Fruitland, Idaho
Korey Hall	Professional football player, fullback (2007-12)	Glenns Ferry, Idaho
Richard “Tuff” Hedeman	Ambassador, Championship Bull Riding (CBR); professional bull rider PRCA World Champion (1986, 1989, and 1991); PBR World Champion (1995); Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame (1997)	Coronado, Texas
Bill Irwin	First blind man to hike the entire length of the Appalachian Trail alone (1990)	Leeds, Alabama

Bo Jackson	Heisman Trophy winner at Auburn University (1985); Professional football player with the Los Angeles Raiders (1987-90) and professional baseball player (1986-94)	McAdory, Alabama
John Lombardo	NHRA U.S. Nationals Funny Car champion (1985)	Cedarville, California Surprise Valley FFA Chapter
Sterling Marlin	NASCAR driver (1983-09); two-time Daytona 500 winner (1994 and 1995)	Spring Hill, Tennessee
Brad Meester	Professional football player, center; Jacksonville Jaguars (2000-13)	South Butler, Iowa Former FFA chapter president
Jordy Nelson	Professional football player, wide receiver; (2008-18)	Riley, Kansas Riley County FFA Chapter
Herbert Perry	Professional baseball player, third base (1994-04)	Florida
Maurkice Pouncey	Professional football player, All-Pro center; Pittsburgh Steelers (2010-20)	Florida Lakeland FFA Chapter
Jeff Query	Professional football player, wide receiver (1989-95)	Maroa, Illinois Maroa-Forsyth FFA Chapter
Bryant "Big Country" Reeves	Professional basketball player, center; Vancouver Grizzlies (1995-01)	Gans, Oklahoma
Mark Tauscher	Professional football player, tackle; Green Bay Packers (2000-10)	Auburndale, Wisconsin
Owen Washburn	Professional bull rider (1994-05); 1996 PBR World Champion	Capitan, New Mexico
Dewayne White	Professional football player, defensive end (2003-10)	Marbury, Alabama
Junior Coffey	Running Back, Green Bay Packers	Dimmitt FFA
Lane Johnson	Offensive Tackle, Philadelphia Eagles	Groveton FFA
Boone Logan	MLB pitcher, Chicago White Sox, Atlanta Braves, New York Yankees, Colorado Rockies, Cleveland Indians, and Milwaukee Brewers - Sandra Day O'Connor FFA	
Weston Richburg	Center, New York Giants and San Francisco 49ers	Bushland FFA
Cobi Hamilton	Wide receiver, Cincinnati Bengals, Carolina Panthers, Houston Texans, Arizona Cardinals, Miami Dolphins, Pittsburgh Steelers - Texas High or Liberty-Eylau FFA	
Dan Campbell	Tight End, Head Football Coach at Detroit Lions. Played at Dallas Cowboys, New Orleans Saints, and New York Giants - Glen Rose FFA	
Colt Klipfel	Defensive Midfielder, Professional Soccer at SV Sierning	
Bob Lily	Defensive Tackle, Dallas Cowboys - Throckmorton FFA	
Clayton Weishuhn	Linebacker, N E Patriots and Green Bay Packers - Wall FFA	
Brandon Belt	First Baseman, San Francisco Giants - Hudson FFA	
Jeremiah Trotter	Linebacker, Philadelphia Eagles, Washington Redskins, and Tampa Bay Buccaneers - Hooks FFA	

Aaron Schobel	Defensive End, Buffalo Bills	Columbus FFA
Matt Schobel	Tight End, Cincinnati Bengals and Philadelphia Eagles	Columbus FFA
Bo Schobel	Defensive End, Tennessee Titans, Indianapolis Colts, Arizona Cardinals, and Jacksonville Jaguars	Columbus FFA
James Washington Jr.	Wide receiver, Dallas Cowboys	Stamford FFA
Glenn Sparkman "Sparkie"	Baseball pitcher for the Toronto Blue Jays	Ganado FFA
Sam Bennett	Professional golfer, 2022 U.S. Amateur Champion, highest placing amateur at the 2023 Masters Tournament, Sr at Texas A&M University	Madisonville FFA



Growing Our Future Podcast – Episodes 18 Write a Postcard

Instructions: Pick three individuals from the "Prominent Former FFA Members" list, and write them a postcard. On the postcard, ask them questions about how they got to where they are today. Questions that would entice them to tell you more about their FFA journey and how it led them to the successful career they have/had.

You must choose three individuals from three different sectors of life; agriculture, business, education, entertainment, government, military, science, and sports. You cannot choose all three individuals from the same category.

Postcard Example:

Return Address:

Your Name
Street Address or P.O. Box
City, State Zip Code

Dear Mr. George Strait:

My name is _____, and I am a member of _____ FFA Chapter. I admire your successful career and would like to learn more about how the FFA shaped your life. What advice would you give someone like me who is interested in starting a career in entertainment? What leadership skills do you find most needed in your profession? Hoping this postcard finds you well. Thank you for your time and mentorship.

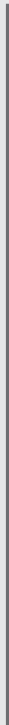
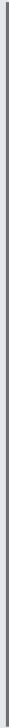
Best,

Sign Your Name (First and Last)



Recipient's Address:

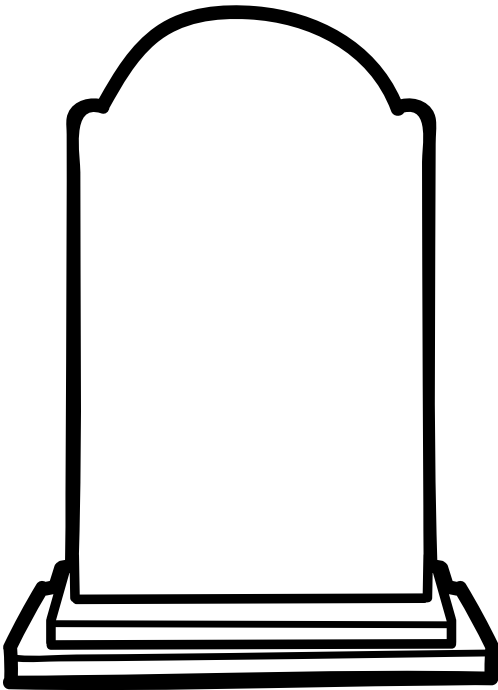
Their Name _____
Street Address or P.O. Box _____
City, State Zip Code _____



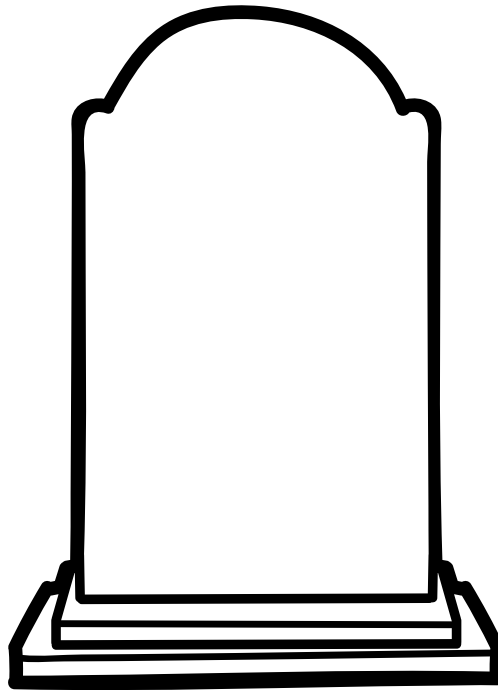


Growing Our Future Podcast – Episodes 18 The Headstone Handout

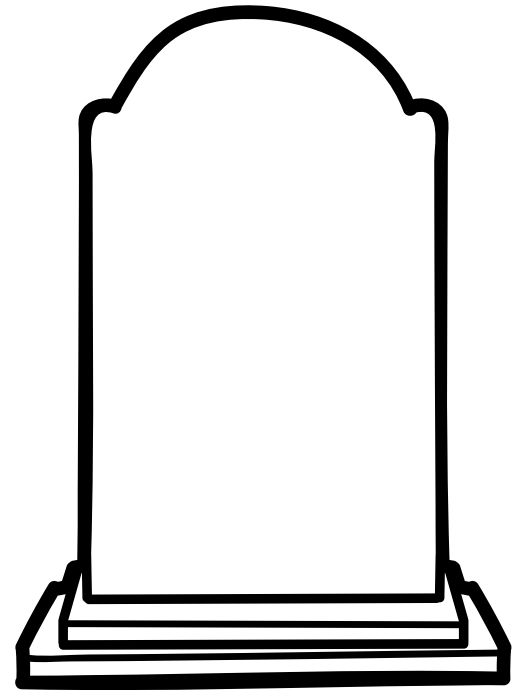
Instructions: Inside each headstone, write your takeaways from the poem and podcasts outlined below. Use the back of this handout if you need more space to write.



**Episode 18 - Growing Our
Future Podcast**



**Angela Lee Duckworth's
TED Talk - "Grit"**



The Poem *The Dash*

Conclusion Questions:

1. What three takeaways did each of these dialogs have in common?

2. How will you implement these takeaways in your life? Explain in depth.



Growing Our Future Podcast – Episodes 18

The Dash by Linda Ellis

I read of a man who stood to speak at the funeral of a friend

He referred to the dates on the tombstone

From the beginning...to the end

He noted that first came the date of birth

And spoke the following date with tears,

But he said what mattered most of all

Was the dash between those years

For that dash represents all the time

That they spent alive on earth.

And now only those who loved them

Know what that little line is worth

For it matters not, how much we own,

The cars...the house...the cash.

What matters is how we live and love

And how we spend our dash.

So, think about this long and hard.

Are there things you'd like to change?

For you never know how much time is left

That can still be rearranged.

If we could just slow down enough

To consider what's true and real

And always try to understand

The way other people feel.

And be less quick to anger

And show appreciation more

And love the people in our lives

Like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect

And more often wear a smile,

Remembering this special dash

Might only last a little while

So, when your eulogy is being read

With your life's actions to rehash...

Would you be proud of the things they say

About how you spent YOUR dash?



Growing Our Future Podcast – Episodes 18

WRITING AN OBITUARY

Overview: An obituary is the notice of a person's death, normally including a brief biography of the person.

Instructions: For this assignment, you will write an obituary, a sort of narrative essay, for yourself. Imagine that you are on your deathbed and that you will die this night, but you have an opportunity to tell the world about yourself. What would you like the world to know about you, and how would you like the world to remember you?

Step 1: Read at least 4-5 obituaries from past FFA members. Note that most obituaries have three key elements:

- The introduction, which includes (1) the name of the person, (2) his/her most notable achievement, (3) date and cause of death.
- The body of the obituary, which is an elaboration of the person's achievement, and a little bit of information about the person's personal life
- Concluding sentence.

Step 2: Create your own obituary. In order to perform this task, you will need to include the following information about yourself.

NAME / ANNOUNCEMENT

- Full name of the deceased, including nickname, if any
- Age at death
- Residence (for example, the name of the city) at death
- Day and date of death
- Place of death
- Cause of death

LIFE

- Date of birth
- Place of birth
- Names of parents
- Childhood: siblings, stories, schools, friends
- Marriage(s): date of, place, name of spouse
- Education: school, college, university, and other
- Designations, awards, and other recognition
- Employment: jobs, activities, stories, colleagues, satisfactions, promotions, union activities, frustrations,
- Places of residence
- Hobbies, sports, interests, activities, and other enjoyment

- Charitable, religious, fraternal, political, and other affiliations; positions held
- Achievements/accomplishments - elaborate on your key achievement/s
- Disappointments
- Unusual attributes, humor, other stories

FAMILY

• Survived by (and place of residence):

- Spouse
- Children (in order of date of birth, and their spouses)
- Grandchildren
- Parents
- Grandparents
- Siblings (in order of date of birth)
- Others, such as nephews, nieces, cousins, in-laws
- Friends

• Predeceased by (and date of death):

- Spouse
- Children (in order of date of birth)
- Grandchildren
- Siblings (in order of date of birth)
- Others, such as nephews, nieces, cousins, in-laws
- Pets (if appropriate)

SERVICE

- Day, date, time, place
- Name of pallbearers, honorary pallbearers, other information
- Visitation information: day, date, time, place
- Reception information: day, date, time, place

END

- Memorial donation suggestions, including addresses
- Thank you to people, groups, or institutions
- Quotation or poem
- Three words that sum up the life

Step 3: Once you know what you want to say and what images you want to portray, it is time to choose the format. Select one of the following options:

1. Create a poster with images and text. Write the obituary to go with the poster.
2. Create a storyboard using images and text.
3. Make an iMovie with images and text/narration (script to be submitted with iMovie).

Step 4: Read and respond to your peers' obituaries to learn about each other!

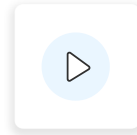
Jay L. Eudy



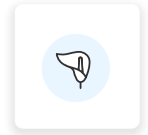
**Memory
board**



**Share
obituary**



**Listen to
obituary**



Send flowers

Jay L. Eudy passed away on Friday, May 5, 2023. A Graveside Service will take place at 1:00 p.m., Monday, May 8, 2023 at Dreamland Cemetery in Turkey. A Memorial Service will be held at 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at First United Methodist Church in Levelland with Ruby Moultrie officiating. Arrangements are under the personal care of Moore-Rose Funeral Homes.

Jay Eudy was born September 3, 1932 on the Eudy family farm in Turkey, TX. He was the eleventh child of Jim and Ethel Eudy. Jay was married to his college sweetheart, Barbara for sixty-eight years. Together they have two sons, Steve Eudy of Anderson, SC, Scott (Lavonna) Eudy of Tampa, FL; two daughters, Jill (Stan) Roberts of Levelland, TX, and Jayne Blume of Lubbock, TX; from that they were blessed with 10 grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

Jay was a man of many admirable accomplishments, distinguished awards and high praises. He loved our country and served it well. He commanded a company in the 101st Airborne Division and served as Advisor to the Royal Arabian Infantry School in Saudi Arabia. Jay was a strong proponent for Agriculture Education and became the State Director of Agriculture Education in 1983. Jay was passionate about the Texas FFA and devoted everything he could to saving and promoting the program for the state of Texas. Whatever he sought to master, he succeeded.

Jay had a set of values in his life that dictated everything he did. His relationship with the Lord came first and he made sure he led a life that would give credit to his Lord and Savior. His wife, Barbara, was everything to him. She was the most important and admired person in his life. He adored her and honored her with everything he did. Jay put his family first. He made sure to "stop and smell the roses" with his family and grandchildren. Jay was a very passionate man. He was many different things to many different people. Those who knew him best saw his love for Jesus, Barbara, his family, agriculture, tractors, and professionalism. Jay led a legacy that will live on forever.



Johnny Callan

February 2, 1999 - November 26, 2016

John Leonard "Johnny" Callan, of Jacksboro, Texas, was born on February 2, 1999 in Fort Worth, Texas. He was tragically taken from his family and his many friends on Saturday, November 26, 2016 in Palo Pinto County, Texas. He was 17 years old.

Johnny attended Jacksboro High School where he served his FFA chapter as President, was the Area IV FFA President, and was a Ford Leadership Scholar at the state level. He was: on the National Champion Team in FFA Range Evaluation; placed in many other State FFA competitions; and served as a voting delegate at the National FFA Convention and numerous state FFA conventions. He also earned the Lone Star Degree and was a champion of multiple livestock market goat shows across Texas.

He would have been the Valedictorian for the Class of 2017. He was president of the Student Council, and he was involved in Beta Club, NHS, NSHSS, FCA, 4-H, and FBLA. He individually designed, raised funds for, and met with city officials to facilitate the construction of a public lake dock; participated and helped plan "Operation Restoration" an event to clean up houses of those who were unable to do so; and tutored high school students free of charge.

He was loved and treasured by all who knew him. He was passionate, committed, dedicated, and talented at everything he did. Most of all, Johnny was caring, compassionate, kind, and loving. Words cannot describe the incredible person he was. He will be missed and loved forever.

Among those that will cherish his memory include: his mother Kerri LeDoux and husband Gus; father Joe Callan and wife Nia; sister Alexis Callan, brothers Grant LeDoux and Beau Spears; grandparents Jimmie and Lelia Cozart, Johnny and Verna Callan, Rick and Linda Heitzman; and many other extended family members and friends.

If so desired memorials may be given to:
The Johnny Callan Scholarship Fund

Ryan Mott Obituary

QUANAH - Ryan Mott, 19, died Wednesday, Aug. 26, 1998 at Dallas. Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday in the Church of Christ with Robin Wight of Mexia and David McSpadden of Burkburnett officiating. Burial will be at Quanah Memorial Park Cemetery by Price-Jackson Funeral Home.

Mr. Mott was born in Vernon and was a lifelong resident of Hardeman County. He was a 1997 graduate of Quanah High School where he was honored as outstanding senior boy, held several offices in FFA and was a four-year starter on the varsity baseball team. Ryan Mott was the 1997-98 Area IV State FFA Vice President. He passed away in 1998 after a short but courageous battle with cancer.

Mr. Mott was a freshman at Tarleton State University where he was 1997-98 state vice president of FFA. He was a member of the Church of Christ. Survivors include his parents, Shirley and Roy Mott of Quanah; a sister, Amanda Mott of Stephenville; his grandparents, L.R. and Melba Mott of Durant, Okla., and Lulene Baxter of Princeton; and a special friend, Leanna Shores of Wichita Falls.

The family will be at the funeral home from 7 until 8 p.m. today for visitation. They suggest memorials be to the Ryan Mott Scholarship Fund at First National Bank Chillicothe, Quanah Branch.

A memorial scholarship was established by his family and friends to honor his dedication to the FFA organization and its members. It will provide one student with a \$1,000 scholarship, which will be distributed through the Texas FFA Foundation. This scholarship is intended to recognize students within the FFA that possess the same outstanding qualities as Ryan. The scholarship recipient will be a person who is kind, courteous, hardworking, and dedicated to the FFA. The person should also possess strong leadership and communication skills (which they use on an individual basis as well as in a team situation). Furthermore, ACT or SAT scores will not be considered as a primary factor when selecting the scholarship winner. Instead, the student's personal characteristics and FFA involvement will be the two major deciding factors.

Scholarship candidates who have advanced to the state scholarship selection process in the Texas FFA Scholarship program are not eligible to compete for the Ryan Mott Scholarship. The John Justin Standard of the West Award is not part of the Texas FFA Scholarship Program and does not affect eligibility for the Ryan Mott Memorial Scholarship.

To apply for this scholarship, a student must complete the application located on their Texas FFA Roster Account and submit it for review at each applicant's appropriate district or area convention. If any part of the application is incomplete, it will be rejected.

The application must:

(1) Be completed online.

Ryan Mott Obituary

- (2) Be accompanied by an official transcript
- (3) Be accompanied by three letters of recommendation. (one from local FFA advisor, one from a community member, and one from a past/present employer (if possible) or a school administrator)
- (4) Include a senior year photograph

Applicants may undergo interviews at each level of competition. This decision should be made by the local officials. The applicants advancing to the state level will go through an interview process at the state degree check.

FORUM

ARTICLES

SEARCH

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SCRUGGS, CHARLES G. (OBIT)

By [Ami](#) July 26, 2001 at 01:04:39

SCRUGGS CHARLES G. passed away Tuesday, July 24, 2001, C.G. was born November 4, 1923 to Adeline and John Scruggs on a farm near McGregor, Texas. In 1943, he was called to active duty in Europe where he served during WWII in the Infantry, and held the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in USAR (Retired), C.G. graduated from Texas A&M University in 1947 with a Bachelors degree from Agricultural Economics. In 1947, he joined the staff of Progressive Farmer magazine where he went on to become editor, then editor-in-chief. In 1984, he co-founded Southern Living magazine and was promoted again to editorial chairman for Southern Progress Corp. A Distinguished Alumnus of Texas A&M, he served as a member of the Board of Regents of Texas Tech University and TTU School of Medicine. A tireless advocate for agriculture, C.G. served on the Texas FFA Foundation board of directors and was the founder and president of the Southwest Animal Health Research Foundation. An appointee of five Texas governors, C.G. was also active in international agricultural affairs. He was appointed a member of the U.S. Delegation to meetings of the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations in Rome. He has traveled and written about agriculture in Russia, Europe, Mexico, Central and South America. For his leadership in all phases of U.S. and international agriculture for over 50 years, he has received numerous awards and was in wide demand as a speaker until his retirement at his ranch in Hubbard, Texas. C.G. was devoted to his loving wife Miriam June Wigley, whom he married in 1947. Their 54 years together were filled with active service to church and community. C.G.'s integrity and wisdom, earned the respect and admiration of all who knew him, and we cherished his boundless love of his family. He is survived by his wife June, his son Mark and daughter-in-law Marie, and daughter Jan and son-in-law Dale Fuller. He was especially proud of his grandchildren Evan, Travis, Graeme and Colin Scruggs and Kristin and T.J. Fuller, step-grandchildren Kyle Fuller. We love you and look forward to the day we will be reunited in God's glory. Services will be held 1:00 PM Saturday, July 28 at Wade Funeral Chapel in Hubbard with Mr. Delbert Goins officiating. Interment will follow at Waco Memorial Park.

1936 - 2020



ROYCE BODIFORD OBITUARY

Odessan Royce Bodiford, age 83, passed away June 22, 2020. Royce was born on the family farm near Millsap, Texas on November 23, 1936.

Royce is survived by his wife, Helen of 62 1/2 years, son, Terry Bodiford (Tracy), of Houston, daughter, Michelle Olson (Daniel) of Lubbock, grandsons, Matthew and Hunter Bodiford, Alex Olson, granddaughter, Hayley Olson, Sister Pamela Kessler, husband Paul of Fort Worth and nephew David Kessler of Dallas. He is preceded in death by his parents, Aubrey and Lucille Bodiford and brother Richard Bodiford. Royce and Helen lived in Amarillo for over 35 years prior to moving to Odessa.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made any [charity of your choice](#).

Billy Lon CONNER

1931 - 2015 ▾ Obituary ▸ Condolences



CONNER, Billy Lon

Billy Lon Conner was born April 18, 1931, in Sulphur Springs, Texas to George and Mattie Conner, and passed away on September 19, 2015, at his home in Austin.

During Billy's career, he affected the lives of many young people while serving as Executive Secretary of the Texas FFA and Texas Young Farmers. He was also well-known among the managers, directors and members of statewide agricultural cooperatives, educators and the state agricultural community in general.

Billy is survived by his loving wife Peggy; sons, Keith Conner and wife, Julia, of Killeen, and Kerry Conner and wife, Patty, of Austin; grandchildren, Brian Conner and wife, JoBeth, of Austin, Ricky Crow and wife, Kim, of Fort Worth, Adam Conner and Travis Conner of Killeen; and great-grandchildren, Hailey and Chloe Heitmeier of Austin and Seda and Liam Crow of Fort Worth. He was a faithful member of Holy Word Lutheran Church in Austin, and will be greatly missed by many friends and family.

Billy's family will greet guests at a visitation to be held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on September 23, 2015 at Cook-Walden Capital Parks Funeral Home in

SERVICES



Dignity MEMORIAL

Cook-Walden/Capital Parks Funeral Home

14501 North Ih-35
Pflugerville, TX 78660
(512) 251-4118

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Email Service Info

Website | Map

For more information about

BILLY CONNER

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+ See Services Detail

RESOURCES

More Obituaries for Billy CONNER

Looking for an obituary for a different person with this name?



Funeral Etiquette
Expert advice: what to do and say when someone dies.

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PLANNING GUIDE



Free funeral planning guide compliments of Cook-Walden/Capital Parks Funeral Home

DOWNLOAD NOW

Pflugerville, Texas. Committal services will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 24, 2015 at Cook-Walden Capital Parks Cemetery. A memorial service to celebrate his life will follow at 11:30 a.m. at Holy Word Lutheran Church in Austin, Texas.

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate memorial contributions to either Holy Word Lutheran Church or Hospice Austin.

Published in Austin American-Statesman from Sept. 22 to Sept. 23, 2015

[Read Less](#)

 [Listen to Obituary](#)

REMEMBER

Share memories or express condolences below.

[View All](#)

Add a memory or
condolence to the guest
book

[ADD MESSAGE](#)

*"Dear Peggy, Keith, Kerry and all
family members. Elin and I..."*

-Joe Hamrick

*"In 1972-73, I had the honor of
serving as State FFA Vice..."*

-

[View All Messages](#) 5



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Bro. Thomas

October 27, 1947 - October 28, 2011

A memorial service for Bro. Lou Gary Thomas, 64, Flint, will be held on Wednesday, November 2, 2011 at 3:00 PM at Lanes Chapel United Methodist Church with Bro. Jabo Thomas officiating. A private burial will be held prior to the service under direction of Stewart Family Funeral Home. Bro. Lou passed away, Friday, October 28, 2011 at Mother Frances Hospital in Tyler. He was born October 27, 1947 in Jacksonville, to Billie Murry and Emma Joe Muse Thomas. Bro. Lou was the Salutatorian of the graduating class of 1966 from Burkeville High School. He served as Vice President of the Future Farmers of America on the National Stage. Lou attended Lon Morris Junior College, Stephen F. Austin State University and Perkins School of Theology at SMU. Bro. Lou taught and coached in many different elementary, Jr. High and Sr. High Schools throughout East Texas. He was dedicated to the Lord Jesus Christ in ministry for over 40 years. On 3 different occasions his church received the Kenneth Copeland Award for Evangelism which is given for church growth through new believers. Bro. Lou served in many churches including, Spurger UMC, Fairview UMC of Nacogdoches, Bonita UMC of Central Heights, Laird Hill UMC of Kilgore, First United Methodist Church of Harlingen, St. Marks UMC of Center, St. Andres UMC of Carthage, First United Methodist Church of Mt. Enterprise, Concord United Methodist Church, Bethlehem UMC of Hudson and the final 22 years at Lanes Chapel UMC of Tyler. Bro. Lou was a very well known member of the Tyler community and served on many different committees and boards for various charities and organizations. He was a very beloved Husband, Father, Grandfather, Son, Brother, Pastor and Friend. Lou was an example of Jesus Christ to all whom met him. He was an inspiration to all and he showed what it meant to really live what you believe. Bro. Lou was preceded in death by his father. He is survived by his loving family including his mother, Emma Joe Thomas of Cushing; wife of 21 years, Brenda Ann Thomas; daughter, Janae "Nae" Henderson and husband Darrick of Lufkin; son, Jabo Thomas and wife Stephanie of Tyler; siblings, Gayla Sitton and husband Danny of Cushing and Melody Hughes and husband Richard of Tyler; and grandchildren, Matthew Henderson, Jarrod Henderson, Jake Thomas and Avery Thomas. Visitation is scheduled from 6:00-8:00 PM, Tuesday, November 1, 2011 at Lanes Chapel UMC, 8720 Old Jacksonville Hwy, Tyler. In lieu of flowers, memorials in honor of Bro. Lou Thomas may be made to Lanes Chapel

UMC "Building Fund" or the "Benevolent Fund", 8720 Old Jacksonville Hwy, Tyler or www.laneschapel.com and click on Bro Lou's Corner.

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Donald "Don" Thomas Pendleton, 78, died Friday, June 1, 2012, in Breckenridge. Funeral: 1 p.m. Monday at St. Paul United Methodist Church, Breckenridge, under the direction of Melton-Kitchens Funeral Home. Rev. Cal Hoffman will officiate assisted by Rev. Bill Reed. Burial will follow in Caddo Cemetery. Visitation: 5 to 6 p.m. Sunday at Melton-Kitchens Funeral Home. Memorials: May be sent to St. Paul United Methodist Church, 1504 East Elm, Breckenridge, Texas 76424 or the [American Cancer Society](#), 3301 West Freeway, Fort Worth, Texas 76107. Donald "Don" Thomas Pendleton was born in the Pecan Community (10 miles northeast of Breckenridge) in Stephens County Dec. 19, 1933, to Hubert and Susie Stewart Pendleton. He attended Breckenridge schools and was a 1952 graduate of Breckenridge High School. His senior year he was honored as "Best All-Round" boy. Don was a very active member of Future Farmers of America. Don was mentored by the late Jim W Wilkerson creating within Don inspiration that would last a lifetime. He earned FFA Lone Star Farmer and FFA American Farmer degrees. He served as state vice president of Future Farmers of America. Early on Don was aware of his primary interests in life: agriculture and conservation of the earth. From that awareness, Don attended Tarleton State College (1953-1955) majoring in general agriculture. Don was president of the Collegiate FFA Chapter. He was named Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities and graduated salutatorian of the 1955 Tarleton State program. Don was active in the Corps at Tarleton State being named Outstanding ROTC Cadet in both years of the two-year program and served as colonel of the Tarleton Cadet Corps. He received the Sons of the American Revolution ROTC Cadet Medal of Honor. From Tarleton, Don continued his studies at Texas Tech College (1955-1957). He studied range management from which he graduated magna cum laude. He was selected as 1984 Distinguished Alumnus of the Range and Wildlife Department of the College of Agricultural Sciences, Texas Tech University. Don served in the U.S. Army Counter Intelligence Corps (1957-1959). In September 1962, he married Bettejoe Rogers at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Breckenridge. Don was employed by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service where he worked out of offices in Texas, New Mexico and Washington, D.C. During a 10-year stint as chief range conservationist, he was instrumental in getting the SCS involved in prescribed burning. He served as liaison to the National Cattlemen's Association and was active in the Society for Range Management where he was

assigned to represent the U.S. SCS on several projects in Senegal, the Sudan, East Germany and Australia. The Soil Conservation Service selected Don to participate in a mid-career educational program. At Harvard University Don earned a master's degree in public administration of natural resources. Other institutions of post-graduate study include Utah State University, University of Nebraska and Oregon State University. Don retired from the U.S. Soil Conservation Service in 1986. He and his wife, Bettejoe, made their home in Caddo, Stephens County. Don and Bettejoe ranched and continued Don's lifelong dedication to exemplary stewardship of the earth. Don also gave back by generously funding scholarships especially in agriculture and wildlife management. He mentored and encouraged friends and family members because his educational opportunities meant so much to him. Don was preceded in death by his wife, Bettejoe; his parents, Hubert and Susie Pendleton; and two sisters. Survivors: He is survived by his beloved dog, Kate; brother, Russell Pendleton; sister, Joyce Burris; nephews, Roy Miller, Sam Cockerell and Hubert Cockerell;

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DONALD STODGHILL OBITUARY

Stodghill, Donald Ray Age 74, was born May 5, 1935. He was the fifth generation of his family to call Rockwall County their home. He was born to Woodrow and Willie (Meyers) Stodghill and was preceded in death by both his parents as well as his four-year-old sister, Peggy. As a young boy, he attended school in Fate and then Rockwall. He was a 1953 graduate of Rockwall High School where he lettered in basketball for three years. During high school, he was very involved in Future Farmers of America and served as state vice president, 1952-53. He was Rockwall County's first Lone Star Farmer in 1952. Don's parents worked very hard on their farm to insure their son could attend college. He was the first generation of his family to receive a college degree, graduating from the University of Texas at Austin with a BBA degree in 1957. As an undergraduate, he was a member of the Silver Spurs service fraternity and a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity. He went on to the University of Texas Law School and received his LLB degree in 1959. He returned to Rockwall and married Patsy Hall, a native of Heath, in 1959. He served 9 1/2 years of service with the Texas National Guard of which 16 months were active duty with the U.S. Army Infantry. He attained the rank of Captain and served three years as commanding officer of the company located at Terrell and Greenville. In 1960, Don was employed as an assistant district attorney for Dallas County when the office was under the direction of Dallas County D A Henry Wade. During this time, he and Patsy moved to the White Rock Lake area. After the birth of their

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to his hometown of Rockwall for the remainder of his life. In 1995, he opened the Law Office of Don. R. Stodghill in Rockwall, specializing in real estate and probate law. Don was known as one of the most astute real estate attorneys in North Texas. He was a 50-year member of the State Bar of Texas, a Fellow of the State Bar College and charter president and first chairman of the board of the Rockwall County Bar Association. His most devout civic passion was the Rockwall Rotary Club. Since 1968, he has had perfect attendance (41 years). In Rockwall Rotary, he served as president (1968-69), legal advisor, chairman of the 50th anniversary committee, member of both the 60th and 70th anniversary committees and Governor's representative. In addition, he chaired numerous local Rotary committees and served on district-level committees. He was a Paul Harris Fellow and served on the board of directors of the Rockwall Rotary Foundation as chairman, vice chairman and legal advisor. He was the first Rockwall Rotary member to receive the Outstanding Rotarian Award more than once (for 1977-78 and 1988-89). He was devoted to civic service and the organizations that benefitted from his efforts include: Rockwall Area Chamber of Commerce, Rockwall County Historical Foundation, Rockwall County Chapter of the [American Heart Association](#), Rockwall High School Ex-Student's Association, Dallas County Employees Credit Union, Boy Scouts of America, Texas Chapter of the American Bell Collector's Association, and Rockwall Independent School District Education Foundation. Due to his wife Patsy's literary talent, Don became involved in the Poetry Society of Texas, and served as state president, vice president, director, legal advisor and chairman of numerous committees. He also served as legal advisor, parliamentarian and chairman of numerous committees for the National Federation of State Poetry Societies. He had been a member of the Masonic Lodge for more than fifty years. All of Don's friends and family--and anyone that went to his office--knew he was an avid collector. He has an extensive John Wayne memorabilia collection as well as a movie lobby card collection. He collected sports memorabilia and spent many hours acquiring autographs. Along with Patsy, he collected antiques including bells and poetry books. Don is survived by his wife of more than fifty years, Patsy Hall Stodghill, his son Steven Hall Stodghill and wife Anne, his daughter Sheri Sue Fowler and three grandchildren, Jake Hall Fowler, Grace Ann Fowler and Dashiell Woodrow Stodghill. He was a generous and indulgent father and grandfather and he loved to

X

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Bill Sechrest, J.D. Melton, Phil Hail, Dewayne Cain and Joe Williams. Honorary pallbearers are the Rockwall Noon Rotary Club and the Rockwall County Bar Association. Memorial donations may be made to the Rockwall Rotary Foundation, P.O. Box 446, Rockwall, TX 75087.

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Harold Dunk

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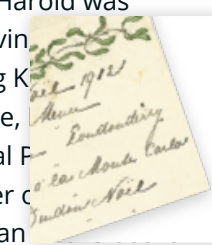
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DUNK, Harold Royce Died peacefully in his home with his family by his side on Monday evening, November 7, 2016. Harold was born on December 17, 1931 in Junction, TX to William Henry and Ada Ophelia (Ethridge) Dunk. He attended school in Segovia, TX and graduated from Junction High School in 1949. In high school Harold served as Texas Vice President of Future Farmers of America (FFA). With his older brother Wilbur, Harold operated ranching interests in Kimble County until Harold enlisted in the US [Army](#) in 1952. Harold served 2 years, including 13 months in Europe. Following his military service, he returned to Kimble County and spent 7 years serving as ranch manager for a large ranching operation. During this time Harold was active in the Junction community, serving leadership positions for the following Kimble County organizations: Beef Committee, Association, Water Board, Agricultural Fair Committee, [Rotary Club](#), and Chamber of Commerce. He also served as chairman of the Junction Methodist Church. In 1962 at the age of 30, Harold hung up his cowboy hat and attended



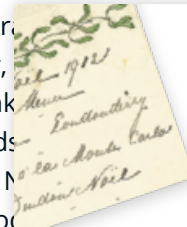

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the University of Houston, receiving his BBA in accounting in 2 1/2 years. On August 29, 1962 Harold married Barbara Burgin, also from Junction. They were married for 51 wonderful years. In 1967 Harold accepted a position in Dallas to work with Harold Clark. Over the next 49 years they became business partners and trusted friends pursuing investments in real estate, land development, oil and gas, and cattle ranching. Harold, who continued to go to the office every day until it was recently no longer feasible, was blessed to find challenging work he enjoyed with people he truly loved and cared for. Harold enjoyed many hunting and fishing trips with his business associates, friends, and family. When Harold was not working, ranching, hunting, or fishing, he would often be found in the garden or the kitchen. He loved cooking for friends and family. Harold and Barbara often hosted backyard cookouts and "fish fries." Harold also was very active at Greenhill School, where he served as Trustee and was a founding member of the Booster Club. Above all, Harold cherished his family. Affectionately known as "Pops", he and Barbara were very involved in their children's and grandchildren's lives, never missing an activity, performance, or game. All who met him or knew him would consider him to be a true Texas gentleman with a kind, generous spirit. Harold is preceded in death by his parents, William and Ada, his sister Evelyn, his brother Wilbur, and his wife Barbara. He is survived by his daughter Dee Velvin and son-in-law Trey, son Kirk Dunk; 6 grandchildren, Andrew, Sarah Kay, and Will Velvin; Lily, Oliver Dunk; his sister-in-law Joyce Dunk; and many loving family members, and dear friends. A memorial service will be held Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at 1:00pm at Lovers Lane United Methodist Church, 9200 Inwood Rd (@ NW Hwy). In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Lovers Lane UMC




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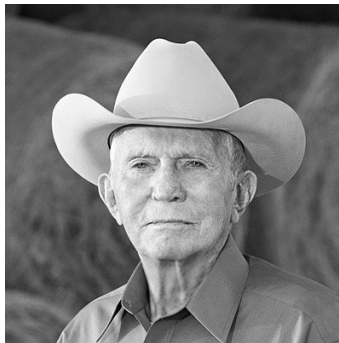
IN THE CARE OF

Johnson's Funeral Home

OBITUARY

John Robert Scott Jr.

SEPTEMBER 6, 1923 - FEBRUARY 22, 2011



John R. Scott, Jr On February 22, 2011 the ranching community parted with one of its authentic cowboys. John R. Scott, Jr. lived a full life and was considered by many to be “one of a kind.” He was a man driven by vision, purpose and hard work. His passions in life were horses, ranching, business and providing well for his family.

John Robert Scott, Jr. was born September 6, 1923 to Agnes and John R. Scott, Sr. in San Angelo, Texas. He grew up on the Mertzson family ranch along with his two younger brothers, William (Mozelle) and Hamilton (June)...all who are now deceased. John attended Texas A&M until the bombing of Pearl Harbor. He enlisted into the Navy in 1942 and served in the Pacific Theater as a bombardier. Shortly after returning home from the

war, he met June Owens and soon asked her if “she would be his cook?” They married at June’s family ranch near Barnhart, Texas on August 3, 1947. A year after their wedding,

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horses as he worked to create two productive cattle ranches located near Miles City and Billings, Montana. John and June moved back to Texas in the 1980's to help care for their parents. During that time, he also enjoyed participating in cutting horse competitions. John bought land near Miles, Texas that was covered with mesquite trees and rattlesnakes. With his visionary skills at work he created a beautiful irrigated horse ranch. Since his wife's sudden passing four years ago, John has been declining in health. True to his character, John was determined to handle his changing life with dignity and a positive attitude. Our family is deeply grateful for the dedication of care giving he received from: Sue Manning, Teresa Rocha, Olga Munoz, Robin Miller, Carmen Rocha, Amanda Brown (grand-daughter), Maggie Scott Brown (daughter) and the Regency's supportive staff. John is now in the presence of the Lord. John had many accomplishments in his lifetime. He and his father were among the first to take stock in the American Quarter Horse Association. Years later he would win the AQHA Best Remuda Award for working horses. John was a recipient of the Foy Proctor Memorial Cowman's Award of Honor. Recently he was inducted into the Montana Pro Rodeo Hall and Wall of Fame. John is survived by his four children, ten grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. They are: John R. Scott, III (Cindy) who is the father to Becky Peltzer (Tim), John, IV (Jen) and James Scott; Maggie Scott Brown who is the mother of Amanda; Sissy Croft (Charlie) who is the mother of Katie, Clay (Rachelle) and Clint (Alexis); and Jim Bode Scott (Marcie) who is the father of Sarah Verhelst (K.C.), Hannah, and Caleb. The great grandchildren are: Scott and Sully Peltzer; Cyrus, Ryder and Eli Croft; Verity Croft and Paisley Verhelst. A memorial service will be held at the Johnson's Funeral Home Chapel in San Angelo, Texas on Tuesday, March 1 at 10 a.m. A luncheon will follow. John requested to be buried in Montana beside his wife, June. We love you, Papa! Family and friends may sign an online guestbook at johnsons-funeralhome.com

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Abilene Reporter-News

Kevin Wade

1961 - 2019



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Kevin Wade

Stamford - James "Kevin" Wade 57 of Stamford passed away Tuesday, August 20, 2019 in Abilene. Funeral service with Military honors will be

11:00 a.m. Monday, August 26, 2019 at the Texas State Veterans Cemetery located at 7457 West Lake Road, Abilene, Texas 79601. Kevin was born October 7, 1961 in Anson, Texas. He is the son of Wanda Anderson and James Wade. He is a lifetime resident of Stamford and a member of the Church of Christ. He attended Stamford High School where he participated in sports, mainly football, wearing the Bulldog Blue and White proudly. He was very active in the Future Farmers of America (FFA) program. Kevin held many local offices in the FFA. He was also elected as District President as well as Area Vice-President. He represented Stamford High School with dignity and was respected by many of his peers throughout the State. He enjoyed being around his family and friends and always had a smile and a kind word to share. He never met a stranger. He was an achiever, whatever endeavor or activity he applied himself to he did to the best of his ability. Whether it was softball, golf, shuffle board or dominoes, he played to win. Kevin proudly served our Country in the United States Navy. His time spent on the USS Forrestal , produced life-long friendships. He proudly enjoyed sharing his experiences with others. After active duty he served in the Navy Reserves. He continued to serve being very active and holding many leadership roles in the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He found great pride in serving Post 9179. Patriotism was at the forefront of Kevin's life. He was proud to be an American! Kevin is survived by a son Turner Wade of Haskell; His mother Wanda Anderson of Matador, Texas; His Father James Wade of Aspermont; Sister Karen Wade and Todd Washington of Flomot, Texas; Uncle Bobby Wade of Anson; Nephews, Jory Polk, Hunter Walker, Chris Polk and Cathy all of Stamford; Niece Kerri Sprecher and husband Shawn of Abilene; Cousin Tammy McLaren and husband Steve of Anson; 2 great nieces and 1 great nephew.

Kirk Forrest Schwarz

1931 - 2016 ▾ Obituary ▸ Condolences



Harlingen - Kirk Forrest Schwarz, beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, farmer and friend passed away on August 19, 2016. Kirk was born on March 8, 1931, in Weslaco, Texas to George August Schwarz and Connie Elizabeth Davison Schwarz.

He graduated from Mercedes High School in 1949. While in high school, he was very active in FFA (Future Farmers of America) and was President of the Mercedes Chapter. During his senior year, he served as State Vice President for FFA. Among his other awards were Lone Star Farmer, Area Farmer, and Chapter Farmer.

He graduated from Texas A & M University in 1953 with a degree in agriculture engineering. He was a first lieutenant in the Texas A & M Maroon Aggie Band, president of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers, a member of Alpha Zeta and was graduated as a distinguished student.

After graduation, Kirk joined the [United States Air Force](#) and became a First Lieutenant Air Pilot from 1953-1956. He received the silver wings of a jet pilot in November 1954 from Laredo Air Force Base and was transferred to Travis Air Force Base as pilot on a C-124 Transport to Japan plus other countries during his commission in the United States Air Force.

In 1956, Kirk married the love of his life, Linda Copeland Schwarz. For almost 60 years, they farmed and raised a family in Mercedes. He was a member



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of the Hidalgo & Cameron County Water District No. 9 for 44 years and for many years was a member of First United Methodist Church in Mercedes where he loved singing in the choir. He was a long time member of Texas Farm Bureau and participated on various boards for the promotion of agriculture in the Rio Grande Valley. He loved his family, friends, farming and flying.

He was preceded in death by his parents George August Schwarz and Connie Elizabeth Davison Schwarz, his brother George Schwarz, Jr., and his sister Nancy Plante.

Kirk was deeply loved and will be greatly missed by his family. He is survived by his wife Linda, daughter Kim (Darwin) Crawford of Lake Orion, Michigan, daughter Melissa (Frank) Douma of Austin, Texas, and daughter Suzanne (Stephen) Shepard of Harlingen, Texas, grandchildren Michael Crawford, Lauren (Steve) Sloan, Zachary and Kalli Douma, and Carl (Stacey) Shepard and Brian Shepard. He is also survived by his great-grandsons Jameson Sloan, Noah Shepard, and another great-grandson Callum Sloan on the way, his sister JoAnn Short, his brother David (Michelle) Schwarz, his brother-in-law Roland Plante, sister-in-law Carol Copeland, and numerous nieces, nephews and many dear friends.

A celebration of Kirk's life will be held at McCaleb Funeral Home in Weslaco, Texas on Tuesday, August 23, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. with burial to follow at Ebony Grove Cemetery in Mercedes, Texas. Rev. Scott Brown of St. Alban's Episcopal Church will officiate.

Honored to serve as pallbearers will be Mike England, Steve Freeman, Chuck McCutchen, Jack Rainwater, Timothy Schwarz, and Michael Schwarz. Honorary pallbearers will be the Hidalgo & Cameron County Water District No. 9 board members.

The family wishes to extend special thanks to Tami Dittburner and her staff at Friendly Neighborhood Health Clinic for their loving care and concern. The

family also wants to thank Joanne Folsom, Christina, Letty, Allysa, Christine, Ofelia, Anna, Lee and the nurses and staff at Golden Palms for their help and support.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Immanuel Lutheran School, 703 West 3rd Street, Mercedes, Texas 78570, Gladys Porter Zoo, 500 East Ringgold Street, Brownsville, Texas 78520 or the [charity of your choice](#).

You are invited to sign the online guestbook or leave a condolence at www.mccalebfuneralhome.com.

Published in Valley Morning Star from Aug. 21 to Aug. 22, 2016

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"I have so many memories of playing in the barn. We were..."

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James B. Prewitt

November 13, 1940 -
April 10, 2021

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James "Jim" B. Prewitt

(November 13, 1940 - April 10, 2021)

In the early morning of April 10, 2021, our Lord and Savior welcomed home his good and faithful servant, a titan of a man, James "Jim" Prewitt.

Blessed with a big heart and a generosity of spirit tucked behind an occasionally gruff exterior, Jim was a dear and loyal friend, father, and grandfather. A born raconteur with a Midas touch in business and bass fishing, he loved nothing more than a good laugh and the chance to remind you that, "fast nickels are better than slow dimes." And, if you ever found yourself riding shotgun while he drove like a proverbial bat out of hell from point A to point B, using his one arm to cradle his cell phone, nurse on his Mountain Dew, take notes on his pad, and point out all the flowering plants you couldn't really see whizzing by at 90 MPH, you were left with little doubt that the Good Lord had a purpose on earth for Jim Prewitt.

One of those purposes was helping others. We'll never really know how many student scholarships he made possible; how many worthy non-profit and church projects he underwrote; how many funerals he quietly handled; how many times he donated the flowers or the plants to make a special setting or place look just so; or the times he showed up unannounced, to give comfort and support to friends in need.

While no man is perfect, Jim Prewitt always gave way more than he took. He never missed a chance to plant seeds in the lives of others or organizations and took great pride watching the seeds take root and grow.

Jim Prewitt was born on November 13, 1940 and raised on the family farm and dairy in east Texas near Kirbyville, where values of hard work, determination, and resourcefulness were impressed upon him at a



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James B. Prewitt

November 13, 1940 -
April 10, 2021

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accident, he made up his mind that it would never occur him in life or work, and that it never did. He gained a deep appreciation for agriculture which he pursued in his chosen profession as a nurseryman, tree farmer, and agri-businessman, where his word was his bond, his customers his friends, and his success never taken for granted.

Eager to expand his horizons, Jim set off to see Texas and the U.S. when he proudly served as the Texas FFA President in 1959-60 and then in 1961-62 as a National FFA Vice President, two prominent roles that profoundly shaped his life.

While attending Sam Houston State University, he met the love of his life, a vivacious, spirited, Mexia-raised beauty named Paula Biggs, with whom he shared 58-years of marriage, three beautiful daughters, and a bevy of bright and talented grandchildren.

Paula was his ever present companion and faithful counselor, his business partner and brightest light, the force beside and behind him who lovingly raised their family and helped him build a life, business, and legacy of service.

Jim was given an opportunity to work as a congressional intern in Washington D.C. That formative experience engendered an abiding interest in policy and politics that later compelled him to fund similar Internship programs at Texas Tech and Texas A&M Universities.

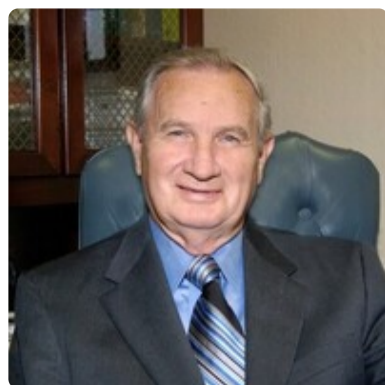
After a stint working for U.S. Brass, Jim felt the call to return closer to his roots and started Landmark Nurseries, Inc. As the CEO, he steered the company from initially providing residential and commercial landscaping services to ultimately opening the first of his wholesale nurseries in Garland, Texas. Under his visionary leadership, Jim and Paula, along with son-in-law, Kevin Norris, and their many beloved, faithful employees, Landmark Nurseries, Inc. has evolved into one of the largest, wholesale nursery distributors and growers in the southern United States.

Always one step ahead of the marketplace, Jim's vision and business acumen compelled him to acquire and launch a biological products company called CX International (CXI), an agri-business venture focused on soil health, waste management, and bio-remediation.

Defined by a world view firmly nested in hard work and dogged independence, Jim was also a grower and a steward, not just of his trees and plants, but of people, particularly young people. Over the years, his quiet and boundless generosity enriched the lives and furthered the opportunities of thousands of kids in FFA and 4-H programs.

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James B. Prewitt

November 13, 1940 -
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any more than Jim would. Day after day, when it happened to sneak up on him, it was almost always enjoying time with his family, grandchildren and their friends at the Prewitt's beautiful tree farm, lodge, and country retreat on the Sabine River near Grand Saline.

Fishing, boating, frying fish, eating Crave popcorn, doing puzzles, and enjoying the area's woods and waters were treasured pursuits.

Jim's service and leadership on non-profit boards was a highly sought after commodity, and he gave it generously to many organizations. Among them, were his time as President of the Texas Agricultural Lifetime

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