



## Billy Frank Mitcham, Sr.

October 25, 1927 - October 16, 2010

Billy F. Mitcham, Sr. HUNTSVILLE -- Funeral services for Billy F. Mitcham, Sr. will be held Saturday, October 16, 2010 at 11:30 a.m. at The Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home followed by gravesite rites. His Pastor, the Reverend Reagan Cooksey of Northside Baptist Church will officiate. The family will receive friends Saturday morning beginning at 10:00 a.m. Billy Mitcham, Sr., devoted husband to Lori for more than 40 years, loving father, grandfather, great grandfather and treasured friend to many, passed from this life on October 14, 2010 following a lengthy struggle with cancer. He would have been 83 years old on October 25th. He was preceded in death by his mother, Ouida McMillan Mitcham, his father, Nolan Frank Mitcham, and his son, John. Billy was blessed with a large family and valued the individuality of each and every member. Survivors include his wife, Lori Mitcham, and their blended family of eight children: Billy Jr. & wife Debbie, Donna & husband Archie, Steve & wife Olivia, Gary & wife MiRon, Sherry & husband Rodney, Eddie & wife Debbi, Joy and Paul, along with 21 grandchildren (13 boys - Billy III & wife Helen, Ben, Brandon & wife Denise, Jose, David, Donnie, Garrett, Chase, Grant, Davis, Adam, Colton and Tyler and 10 girls – Candace, Jessica & husband Paul, Courtney & husband Matt, Laurel Beth, Heather, Angelica & husband Anthony, Rachel, Kristen, Kassi, Karmen and Kinzy); 8 great grandchildren (Ethan, Sarah, Sean, Jared, Ashley, Savannah, Ella & Charlotte) and Cousins Monica, Susan & husband Hank and their children, and John & wife Ruth and their children, and Nieces Kay Roth and Suzanne

Johnson & husband Larry. Billy, often called Senior by those close to him, built a business with entrepreneurial vision, becoming a legacy in the oil and gas industries. He was born October 25, 1927 in Gurdon, Arkansas and raised in Harlingen and Orange, Texas where he was introduced to a strong work ethic and electronics. He graduated from high school at the age of 16 and began working with his father in the Texas shipyards wiring radar and other instruments on Navy ships. At 17, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served throughout World War II in assignment to an Army Corps of Engineers division in Los Alamos, New Mexico where he worked on the Manhattan Project which was crucial to the U.S. victory over Japan in World War II. In 1947, he received an early discharge and enrolled at the University of Texas where his studies centered around electrical engineering. His prior electrical work on Navy vessels led him to a job in the geophysical industry where he served in various positions of increasing responsibility, both domestically and internationally with Southwestern Industrial Electronics which was later acquired by Dresser Industries, Geo Space and Quantum Electronics. After more than 20 years of travel selling seismic equipment, Billy, along with his wife Lori, started their own business, capitalizing on his vast experience and reputation. With an entrepreneurial vision of leasing seismic equipment, Mitcham Industries opened its doors in a 10' x 10' idle bay in a production shop. Soon the fledgling business had grown to its own 5,000 square foot rented facility and in 1981 to its present 25,000 square foot headquarters south of Huntsville where it grew to become the world's leading independent lessor of geophysical equipment to the oil and gas industry. The family extends special thanks to: Dr. Papadoupoulos and Farida Sakhyani, RN, at the Melanoma Clinic at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston; Dr. Ali Akbar Bhuriwala of Conroe Regional Hospital; Dr. David Ficklen and his entire staff at Turtle Creek Medical Center in Huntsville; and the Third Floor Nursing Staff at Huntsville Memorial Hospital, Odyssey Hospice Care, along with our friend Daisy. In lieu of flowers, the family requests any memorial condolences be made to either the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center or the SEG Foundation

in honor of Billy's 50-year membership to the Society of Exploration  
Geophysicists. M.D. Anderson Cancer Center Attention: Melanoma Center  
PO Box 4486 Houston, TX 77210 In memory of Billy F. Mitcham SEG  
Foundation Billy F. Mitcham, Sr. Memorial Scholarship 8801 S Yale, Ste. 500  
Tulsa, OK 74137 Those wishing to leave memorial condolences for the family  
may do so at [www.shmfh.com](http://www.shmfh.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Billy Frank Mitcham, Sr.*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *Lori, I am so sorry for your loss. Billy was always so kind, positive, and had great energy. I wish you many many happy memories. I will especially miss him next time in Cayman and will raise a toast to a great man. Love, Nicole (North Pointe)*

**Nicole Perrine** - November 01, 2010 at 01:13 PM



“ *Lori, Bill Jr. and family, my heart is with you all at this time. God has welcomed home Billy with open arms and joy and His love will flow through you all forever. The sense of loss sitting next door to Valhalla is profound, but my thoughts are with you in peace for the blessing of Billy's life.*

**Lyn Wattley** - October 28, 2010 at 03:34 PM



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**Lyn Wattley** - October 28, 2010 at 03:34 PM

SD

“ My heart goes out to all of you! I am so sorry for your loss and will keep ya'll in my prayers.

sherry defatta - October 18, 2010 at 03:37 PM

WG

“ Billy and Debbie, Wade and I are so sorry about the loss of your Dad. We both have lost a parent and know what you are feeling. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Terry (Hart) Gillaspie

Wade and Terry Gillaspie - October 18, 2010 at 01:30 PM

LC

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you as you travel down this road of difficult times. Although I never had the honor of meeting Bill Senior, according to what was said at his service "the apple never falls far from the tree" rings true. Bill Seniors legacy lives on thru his family. May he rest in peace in the greatest of all places Heaven.

linda clark - October 17, 2010 at 10:49 AM

KS

“ Bill, Debbie and Ben,  
You are in my prayers at this time of great loss of such a beacon in your lives.

Kathy Smith - October 16, 2010 at 09:06 AM

JC

“ Dear Mitcham family. I met Bill Sr about 35 yrs ago. Every year after that when we would see each other at conventions or in his office, he always showed such kindness to my husband and I. Was always interested in knowing how we were doing and how our children were. I remember his birthday party at the SEG Ice Breaker last year in Houston and how pleased he was to visit with his friends. We will miss his smiling face and kindness. Our son, Steven, our daughter, Susan, Grafton and I continue to hold all of you in our prayers as this is a time of sadness. We pray that in the months and years ahead, the wonderful memories of this delightful man will continue to being great joy to all of you. Much love, Judi

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**Judi MacDonald & Grafton Cole** - October 15, 2010 at 11:51 PM

CB

“ Heaven has just gained a wonderful spirit. Senior was a friendly loving man. His smile was contagious and he always had a great sense of humor. I will miss his hugs, jokes and frequent visits. But most of all, I will miss the way he made me smile. I feel blessed to have known him. My sincere condolences go out to the Mitcham family. I am truly sorry for your great loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

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**Cheryl Boehm** - October 15, 2010 at 11:47 PM

MD

“ *To the Mitcham Family,*

*My deepest sympathies go out to you all.*

*Although I barely knew Bill SR, I can only express to you my admiration for the man he was.*

*I am many decades younger than him but never felt that this was accurate. When I would run into him during a convention, see his enthusiasm, charisma and heart felt love of our industry - it made me remember what truly is important about work- loving it. Bill was and always will be a role model to me - kind, thoughtful, dedicated, respectful being this kind of man and enjoying doing so everyday.*

*I am sure Bill is looking down on you all wanting to ease this pain you feel. Fill your hearts with the joy he has left you and in time the pain will be secondary to this joy that can never be taken away.*

*My prayers go out to you.*

*Mike*

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**Mike Dahl** - October 15, 2010 at 06:59 PM

LH

“ *Dear Mitcham Family, please accept our deepest condolence on the loss of Billy Sr. For all of us he was the epitome of friendliness and we will dearly miss his gentleness, kind words and contagious happiness. We will forever remember Billy Sr. with a smile. No word will reduce the pain that you are going through at present but please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

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**Lea, Pascal & Helene Hythier** - October 15, 2010 at 06:20 PM

JG

“ Dear Mitcham Family, My thoughts and prayers are with you all during this difficult time. Please accept my sincere condolences for the loss of Billy Frank Mitcham, Sr. I take great pleasure in having the honor of meeting such a great man.

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**John Gonzales** - October 15, 2010 at 06:02 PM

DU

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with your family.

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**Danny and Pam Upchurch** - October 15, 2010 at 05:56 PM

CJ

“ Dear Mitcham Family,  
Our most heartfelt condolences for the loss of your loved one. It was truly our pleasure to have had the opportunity to meet Mister Mitcham. We offer you our sympathy and comfort during these difficult days.

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**Casey & Jina Jordan** - October 15, 2010 at 04:24 PM

JB

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. The family chain is broken, and nothing seems the same, but as God calls us one by one, the chain will link again. God Bless

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**Jeff and Dana Buis** - October 15, 2010 at 04:07 PM

HW

“ Our prayers are with you at this difficult time.  
We did not get to know Mr Mitcham but my son and Bill have talked often of him. Our deep condolences to the family.  
Mr and Mrs H.A. White

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**Howard and Maribel White** - October 15, 2010 at 03:40 PM

MH

“ Dear Mitcham Family,  
My heart and prayers go out to all of you as you go through this most difficult time.  
Always hold close the wonderful memories that you have shared.

From: Mary Hayes

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**Mary Hayes** - October 15, 2010 at 02:58 PM

DD

“ Billy was an outstanding man and a great contributor to the geophysical profession. I grieve for, and along with, his family.

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**Decker Dawson** - October 15, 2010 at 02:12 PM

ST

“ Dear Mitcham Family, We extend our deepest condolences to you and your family during this difficult time. May you find peace and comfort in your memories. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

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**Suelopetrol SACA - Venezuela/Suelopetrol Corp Houston, Texas** - October 15, 2010 at 12:17 PM

MZ

“ Dear Mitcham Family, We are saddened by the news of Bill's passing. You must know that heaven is even more wonderful now that it is graced with his presence. All of you are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

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**Michael and Silvia Zwick** - October 15, 2010 at 10:28 AM

BD

“ Dear Mitham family,

*Our hearts are filled with sadness and words can simply not describe the loss of Billy, who was truly a long time and very dear friend.*

*We cannot imagine the pain you feel now but we wanted to let you know that our loving thoughts are with you.*

*We can only say how much we will miss Billy as well, he was a crown jewel among us, always giving us a shining example of pleasantness, kindness, caring, loving, and not to forget fun.*

*I know you would call if there is anything at all we can do, but we just wanted to let you know that we are here for you regardless of the time of the day.*

*All of you and Billy are in our thoughts and prayers, may he now Rest in Peace and we wish the grand Mitcham family all the strength in the world to carry this great loss.*

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**Ben & Paula Derkink** - October 15, 2010 at 10:03 AM

CW

“ *Mr. Mitcham was one of the nicest people I have ever known. He was always happy and made people around him happy. My thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time. We will all miss him.*

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**Cheryl Wilson** - October 15, 2010 at 09:52 AM

LW

“ *This was one incredible person that had so many friends and a very large, loving family, even in the Cayman Islands. We are so blessed that we had Billy in our life. I know he'll be doing the Two-Step in Heaven.*

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**Larry & Susan Walter** - October 15, 2010 at 08:58 AM

HV

“ *Billy,  
Grace and Peace to you and your Family.  
Heaven is a wonderful place.*

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**Herschel Vansickle** - October 15, 2010 at 08:47 AM

LB

“ *Dear Mitcham Family, our sincere condolences on the loss of Bill Senior. He was a wonderful man and a dear friend. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you during this difficult time.*

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**Lynn, Donna, & Todd Boone** - October 14, 2010 at 10:15 PM

KC

“ *Dear Mitcham Family, I am so sorry to hear of your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you all during this difficult time.*

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**Kelsey Christian** - October 14, 2010 at 05:12 PM

EC

“ We are very sorry for your loss. Our thoughts, love and prayers are with you all during this difficult time. Mr. Mitcham was a wonderful man. Although no words can really help to ease the loss you bear, just know that you are very close in every thought and prayer. May the peace that comes from the memories of love shared, comfort you now and in the days ahead and may God give you strength to face each new day.

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**Eddie, Trish, Kayla & Lane Clouds** - October 14, 2010 at 04:08 PM