



## Billy Frank Mitcham

January 8, 1948 - September 18, 2015

On September 18, 2015, Billy F. Mitcham, Jr. (Bill), passed to eternal life surrounded by his loving family.

Bill was born January 8, 1948 in Brawley, California, and grew up in Texas. After graduating from Spring Branch High School in 1966, Bill enlisted in the Marine Corps with his best friend Bo Lewis on the buddy system. He served in Vietnam for four years. He and Bo did not see each other after boot camp but remained good friends throughout his life. Bill was teaching at El Toro Marine Air Station where he completed his duty. He loved California and soon found an opportunity to buy into a bar business and later purchased interest in a second bar. In early 1970, Bill sold his interest and moved back to Texas to be closer to family; and began his career in the oil and gas industry with Halliburton Services.

In 1979, Bill joined his father, Billy Mitcham, Sr., in the family business, Mitcham Associates, in Houston. Bill Sr. handled the seismic side of the business and Bill Jr. was responsible for service and drilling parts. In the early 1980s, the business relocated to the Huntsville area. With his entrepreneurial vision he, along with his younger brother Paul, soon learned all they could on the both the seismic and drilling side.

In 1987, Bill Jr. presided over the formation of Mitcham Industries, a publically-

held international geophysical supplier of seismic equipment to the oil and gas industry, where he served as the President and Chief Executive Officer. With Bill's vision and oversight, Mitcham Industries has become the largest independent lessor of advanced seismic equipment in the world. Since the formation in 1987 the company has grown to nine locations around the world.

Bill was a devoted husband, a loving son, father, brother, grandfather, uncle to his large family and a treasured friend to many. Bill was also a true patriot, entrepreneur and mentor. He will long be remembered for his annual July 4th fireworks celebration where he entertained family, friends, and business associates with the sole purpose of instilling "love of country" and an appreciation of American values and the American way of life. Bill was a kind and gentle soul who always put family and friends first and he will be missed by all.

Bill is survived by Debbie, his wife of sixteen years; his mother, Polly Cree; son, Billy F. Mitcham III and wife Helen and their children Ethan and twins Sean and Sarah; sons, Ben Mitcham, Garrett Sprott, Grant Sprott and special shared son Cody Corbin and wife Kerri and Bryce; brother, Paul Mitcham and wife Fallon; brother, Steve Cree and wife Valerie; brother, Bruce Cree; sister, Donna McLaughlin and husband Archie; sisters, Joy Mitcham, Sheilah Anderson, Laura Fisher and husband Jerry; his brother-in-law and sister-in-law Michael and Gloria Mechaley; his step-mother Lori Mitcham and children Gary Miller and wife Miron; Steve Miller and wife Olivia; Eddie Carmack; Sherry Carter and husband Rodney. He is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews and great nieces/nephews all of whom he had a special relationship. He was preceded in death by his father Billy F. Mitcham Sr., his brother John Mitcham, step-father Jim Cree and grandparents Nolan and Ouida Mitcham.

The family would like to extend a special thanks to Dr. Guillermo Garcia-Manero and the leukemia staff along with Lori Griffin, Stem Cell MUD

coordinator at M. D. Anderson; and Dr. Elham Abbasi and her staff at North Houston Cancer Clinic, along with the staff at Huntsville Memorial Hospital especially Tommy, Tamara, Josephine, Brittany, Lynn, Kim, Heather, Suzanne and Kara.

Visitation will be Tuesday, September 22nd at First United Methodist Church from 5:00-7:00 PM. The celebration of life service will be held Wednesday, September 23rd, at 10:00 AM at Northside Baptist Church, Huntsville, TX. His Pastor and friend, The Reverend Reagan Cooksey will officiate. Graveside services with military honors to follow at Mayes Addition of Oakwood Cemetery, Huntsville, TX.

In lieu of customary remembrances, the family requests that memorial contributions in Bill's name be directed to:

Northside Baptist Church

In Memory of Bill Mitcham Jr.

Youth Building Program

1207 FM 980

Huntsville, TX 77320

or

The Society of Exploration Geophysicists

Billy Mitcham Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund

P O Box 702740

Tulsa, OK 74170

# Cemetery Details

## Mayes Addition of Oakwood Cemetery

800 Martin Luther King BLVD.  
Huntsville, TX 77320

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **22**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church of Huntsville  
1016 North Sam Houston Ave  
Huntsville, TX

## Service

SEP **23**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Northside Baptist Church  
1207 FM 980  
Huntsville, TX

# Tribute Wall



“ *Billy Frank Mitcham*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *I have know Billy since we met offshore on a rig in the 70's. He was great mate. Luv 'ya Billy.*  
*Rhett Rohde*

**Rhett Rohde** - September 28, 2015 at 11:06 AM



“ *John And Rebecca Fisher lit a candle in memory of Billy Frank Mitcham*



**John and Rebecca Fisher** - September 22, 2015 at 10:03 PM



“ *LOGISTICS INTERNATIONAL SAS purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Billy Frank Mitcham.*



**LOGISTICS INTERNATIONAL SAS** - September 22, 2015 at 03:38 PM

CW

“ *Cathy Hayman Warren lit a candle in memory of Billy Frank Mitcham*



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**Cathy Hayman Warren** - September 22, 2015 at 03:23 PM

CB

“ *Debbie, Ben, Billy, Garrett and Grant,  
May the good Lord carry you through this. We are thinking of you.  
Much love, hugs and prayers to you all.  
Cheryl B and Brian*

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**Cheryl B** - September 22, 2015 at 02:02 PM

CB

“ *Cheryl B lit a candle in memory of Billy Frank Mitcham*



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**Cheryl B** - September 22, 2015 at 01:56 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Billy Frank Mitcham.*



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September 22, 2015 at 12:29 PM

AS

“ Ariel and Sol purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Billy Frank Mitcham.



Ariel and Sol - September 22, 2015 at 11:48 AM



“ Tropical Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Billy Frank Mitcham.



September 22, 2015 at 11:03 AM

DL

“ David, Ashley and Lark Lambert purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Billy Frank Mitcham.



David, Ashley and Lark Lambert - September 22, 2015 at 10:40 AM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Billy Frank Mitcham.



September 22, 2015 at 10:32 AM

KW

“ Ken and Kris Watford purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Billy Frank Mitcham.



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**Ken and Kris Watford** - September 22, 2015 at 10:16 AM

TF

“ My father, John H. Fuchs, worked in the geophysical industry most of his adult life. He was fond of both father and son and enjoyed visiting with them in Huntsville. He spoke of them often considered them friends. When Dad passed away in 2011, Bill came up to me and introduced himself and expressed his condolences. I am so sorry to hear of his death. Please know that you (his beloved family) are in my prayers for peace and comfort.

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**Trudy Fuchs** - September 22, 2015 at 12:43 AM

KH

“ Joe Mac and I send our deepest sympathy to the entire Mitcham family. Bill was such a kind, giving man. He always had a smile on his face. His love for you Debbie and your love for him was obvious to everyone that knew the both of you. You are in our thoughts and prayers. With love, Joe Mac and Kathy Henry

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**Kathy Henry** - September 21, 2015 at 10:46 PM

WF

“ *With Love, Jason Elliott and Family purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Billy Frank Mitcham.*



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**With Love, Jason Elliott and Family** - September 21, 2015 at 10:40 PM



“ *Delicious Delights Basket was purchased for the family of Billy Frank Mitcham.*



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September 21, 2015 at 09:01 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Billy Frank Mitcham.*



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September 21, 2015 at 07:55 PM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Billy Frank Mitcham.*



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September 21, 2015 at 05:35 PM

JD

“ *Judy Davis lit a candle in memory of Billy Frank Mitcham*



Judy Davis - September 21, 2015 at 04:00 PM

DE

“ *Debbie, we are so very sorry he is no longer with you here on earth, but heaven just got even better, and no more suffering. What a wonderful man - you were such a beautiful couple! Love you, Dee & Steve Everett*

Dee Everett - September 21, 2015 at 03:27 PM

EA

“ *Debbie & Family, you are in our thoughts and prayers.*

Edd & Terry Artherholt - September 21, 2015 at 02:44 PM

BD

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Ben Derkink - September 21, 2015 at 02:15 PM

BD

*These were photographs taken at SEG 2009 in Houston*

Ben Derkink - September 21, 2015 at 02:19 PM



“ *Sherry Carter & family: I'm so sorry to hear of your loss. You are in my prayers*



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**Mellicent Wiley** - September 21, 2015 at 02:03 PM



“ *Not all the giants in our industry are the guys with the fancy formulas and long lists of degrees. Billy was a good friend to so many of us, and his loss will be felt by everyone who knew Billy and his ready smile. The world will be a little smaller place from his loss.*

*We miss you, Billy.*

*Rutt Bridges*

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**Rutt Bridges** - September 21, 2015 at 01:17 PM



“ *Cutty Trigg Gilberet lit a candle in memory of Billy Frank Mitcham*



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**Cutty Trigg Gilberet** - September 21, 2015 at 10:59 AM

MS

“ *Bill and I first met a few years ago and he greeted me like an old friend. Bill always had a smile on his face, a warm greeting to all, and a kind and giving spirit. A leader by example; a loving family man; loyal to his roots; and, cared deeply for his friends and colleagues. Bill will be missed by everyone that knew him.*

*I pray that Bill's family finds strength, comfort and peace during this difficult time.*

*Monte Stephens*

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**Monte Stephens** - September 21, 2015 at 10:07 AM

DA

“ Dear Debbie, Ben, and Billy: We knew Bill for many years, but really started knowing him when we coached "Gentle" Ben in the 11 and 12 year old Boys Baseball program. I had been coaching for about ten years in the Huntsville program when "Gentle" Ben's team came around. I had signed my son, David, Jr. (affectionately called "Dopey" by the team - started by "Gentle" Ben) to be an assistant coach and he got along great with all of them. That team, with my Son coaching, was responsible for probably the best year of baseball for me. Bill and I had a few laughs along the way remembering those days.

*Bill was also such a great philanthropist. He was one of two men in the county who gave above and beyond to the Citizens on Patrol and helped us to outfit our Search and Rescue Trailer.*

*Bill will be missed by many in the community, but what a comfort to know he is now with Jesus and the pain and health problems are no more. Our hearts and prayers are with each of you. Bill was truly one of a kind.*

*David, Sr. and David Anderson, Jr. (Dopey)*

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**David M. Anderson** - September 21, 2015 at 10:03 AM

WD

“ To Debbie, Ben, and the entire Mitcham family:

*Kathy and I were so sorry to hear about the passing of Bill. I always enjoyed talking with him and will always remember what a nice and friendly man he was. Bill was always smiling and had something positive to say when you saw him! He will be greatly missed around Huntsville and Elkins Lake. May God be with you all during this difficult time.*

*Very Truly Yours,*

*Will & Kathy Durham*

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**Will & Kathy Durham** - September 21, 2015 at 09:54 AM

TL

“ *Trish & Rickie Williams And Kayla & Lane lit a candle in memory of Billy Frank Mitcham*



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**Trish & Rickie Williams and Kayla & Lane** - September 21, 2015 at 09:24 AM

G(

“ *Debbie, So sorry to hear about Billy, what a wonderful guy that truly loved you. This is a difficult time for you and your family, may God Bless you all. Heaven is having a huge party with Billy, Dan and Johnny Dee, look out for those adorable angels!*

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**Ginger Scott (Wallace)** - September 21, 2015 at 09:22 AM

MS

“ *Martell And ,Dianne Sollock lit a candle in memory of Billy Frank Mitcham*



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**Martell and ,Dianne Sollock** - September 21, 2015 at 06:13 AM

SE

“ *Dear Debbie and family,  
Our hearts are so saddened. Bill was a long time friend and we so admired his courage and determination during his illness. Please know that we are grieving with you, for you but we are also comforted with the positive knowledge that Bill is now resting peacefully In God's Loving Arms.  
God Bless you ,  
With our love and sympathy,  
Sunny and Bob Ernst*

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**Sunny Ernst** - September 20, 2015 at 05:01 PM

BD

“ Dear Debbie, Ben and Billy and all of the Mitcham family,



We are very sorry to hear that your Bill and your Dad has passed away, please accept our sincere condolences with the tragic loss of your dear one and all our sympathy is with all of you. We know that simple words on paper will not do much or comfort you at this time, but remember when it hurts to look back and you are scared to go forward, just look beside you and your best friends will be there for you. Let us know if we can help you in anyway.

Today is a very sad day for us when we heard the unexpected sad news, and he certainly is a great loss to all who knew him, may God give you the courage and strength to keep you going through this tough and difficult period.

The world and in particular our industry has lost a great, wise and kind person for whom we had great respect. He will remain in our memories forever and we are very proud to have known him personally for the past 40 years. He will be missed by us and he deserves a medal of honor for all his unconditional deeds done for others during his lifetime.

*Sad greetings from The Netherlands*

*old friends*

*Ben and Paula Derkink*

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**Ben Derkink** - September 20, 2015 at 01:59 PM

DS

“ *Bill has a big influence on a lot of peoples lives. He taught me that a fade was a slight draw. If you can putt you can play. Giving is more important than getting. Great competitor but better friend on the golf course. May the family and friends be blessed with the Peace that passes Human Understanding. I know for a fact that he was blessed with that Peace.*

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**Doug Smith** - September 20, 2015 at 12:31 PM

DS

“ *Doug Smith lit a candle in memory of Billy Frank Mitcham*



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**Doug Smith** - September 20, 2015 at 12:24 PM

TP

“ *Debbie, I am so sorry and sad today. Bill was a class act and always had a friendly smile and a kind word. I will miss him and I am sending up prayers for yall. With deepest sympathy.*

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**Tom Pierce** - September 20, 2015 at 10:33 AM

DC

“ *Derwood And Nancy Collum lit a candle in memory of Billy Frank Mitcham*



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**Derwood and Nancy Collum** - September 20, 2015 at 10:12 AM

PU

“ *Debbie and Family,  
My thoughts, love and prayers are with you.  
Pam Upchurch*



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**Pam Upchurch** - September 19, 2015 at 07:24 PM



“ *Ben & Billy I am so sorry for your loss! You had an amazing father &  
I am so blessed to have some amazing memories of him! Praying  
for you both! RIP Wild Bill!  
Minette & Destiny Monteagudo*

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**Minette Monteagudo** - September 19, 2015 at 04:53 PM

PS

“ *Bill will be missed by family and friends but there is a new guardian  
angel in heaven. I never saw Bill that he did not have a smile on his  
face and a 'hello, how are you doing'? Mitcham family, you are in my  
prayers.*

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**Pat Sprott** - September 19, 2015 at 12:19 PM

JC

“ *With Our Deepest Sympathy.*

*The Carlisle, JC, Kaye, Amanda & Jami*

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**JC Carlisle** - September 19, 2015 at 12:13 PM

SS

“ *Bill was a wonderful man. He always had a smile for everyone. He will be missed by so many. Debbie, Garrett, and Grant I am praying for you and the rest of the family. I am here if you'll need anything. Love to all.*

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**Sue Sprott** - September 19, 2015 at 09:31 AM