



Buddy Allen

July 17, 1937 - January 14, 2023

After an amazing 85 years of life, Artice "Buddy" Allen, has entered the arms of Jesus. He passed away peacefully in his Huntsville, Texas, home on January 14, 2023.

Buddy was born in Latexo, Texas in 1937. The Allen family relocated to the neighboring community of Grapeland where Buddy grew up on the family farm growing peas, watermelons, and tomatoes. Buddy developed a love for the outdoors at an early age and spent many hours in the Piney Woods of East Texas.

The close-knit Allen family, which soon grew to include Buddy and his three sisters, often hosted relatives in their home and attended Union Chapel Baptist Church in Grapeland. After high school, Buddy attended Sam Houston State University, then known as Sam Houston State Teachers College, where, in 1959, he was awarded a bachelor's degree in Education. Buddy was the first person in his family to attend college and, while there, he met JoAnn, his wife of 63 years. After college, they moved to Houston where they faithfully attended Spring Branch Community Church for many years. In 1975, Buddy returned to Sam Houston State where he earned a master's degree in Education.

During his many years as an educator with the Spring Branch Independent School District, Buddy touched an untold number of lives. His career began as an architectural, drafting, and woodshop teacher at Spring Branch High School. During the next 15 years, he served as a grade-level principal at

Stratford High School for the classes of 1980, 1984, and 1987. After retirement, Buddy and JoAnn moved to Elkins Lake and have been active members of Elkins Lake Baptist Church. He was an avid fisherman, golfer, and hunter with a love for nature.

He is survived by his wife, JoAnn, two daughters, Lynn Owen and husband Bill, Lori Kotzur and husband Darrel, sister Linda Cliburn, brother-in-law Gerald Stubbs, grandchildren Brent Owen and wife Sarah, Ashley Kotzur, Allison Schmidt and husband Tyler, Travis Kotzur and wife Katie, Natalie Kotzur and Niki Kotzur, and one great-grandchild Adeline Owen. He preceded in death by his parents Artice and Loreda Allen, sisters Maurice Smith and Nelda Stubbs, and brothers-in-law Max Smith and Jim Cliburn.

Funeral services for Buddy will be held Saturday, January 21, at Elkins Lake Baptist Church. Visitation will be at 10 AM with services at 11 AM. Graveside services will follow at Denson Cemetery in Grapeland, Texas, at 3 PM. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Elkins Lake Baptist Church, 206 State Highway 19, Huntsville, Texas 77340. Memorial condolences to the family may be made at www.shmfh.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 21. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Elkins Lake Baptist Church
206 SH-19 N
Huntsville, TX 77340

Funeral Service

JAN 21. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Elkins Lake Baptist Church
206 SH-19 N
Huntsville, TX 77340

Graveside Service

JAN 21. 3:00 PM - 3:30 PM (CT)

Joseph Denson Cemetery
CR 1845
Grapeland, TX 75844

Tribute Wall

MA

“ So sorry to hear. I love that Guy. He was my principal for the four years at Stratford High. Went to his retirement party in 1992. I think it was June

Marilyn - June 14, 2023 at 03:57 PM

LA

“ The Spring Branch High School Class of 1976 extend their deepest condolences. “Once a Bear, Always a Bear” 🐻

Lynda Eatherly Ables - April 18, 2023 at 05:23 PM

ED

“ Best HS principal ever! I believe Buddy enjoyed our daily encounter when I would go off campus for lunch. He was fair, kind and very comforting when you needed someone to lend an ear. God Bless him in you presence Lord.

Ed Dickson - January 20, 2023 at 08:14 PM



“ Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Buddy Allen.



January 19, 2023 at 05:16 PM

WJ

“*Mr. Allen was an amazing Christian man. I was fortunate enough to get to serve as one of Mr. Allen’s office assistants while I attended Stratford Senior High School. He made me feel like I received the position because I was something special and deserved the privilege. He made me feel important. In reality, I was not a good student, attended summer school more than once, got in trouble on occasion and had low self-esteem. He knew I was a troubled kid and needed help. He was a generous man and took on the project. He consistently provided guidance and encouragement to me throughout my high school years. He loved me when I was not loving myself. I would not be where I am today without his support. Although I never had Mr. Allen as a teacher, he taught me many important life lessons. I thank the Lord for his positive influence on my life.*

Wade Jones

Wade K. Jones - January 19, 2023 at 03:42 PM



“ Occasionally God sends someone into my life that truly changes it for the better. Buddy, "Mr. Allen", is one of those men. He lived his faith, by loving me, us. His persistent and generous choice to see potential in students - willing to look beyond who we were in the moment and see us for what we could/would be - influenced me personally and profoundly. He was my principal, but he was also my brother in Christ. Not the easiest hats to wear at the same time. I am not sure how he figured it out, but I know that few people have demonstrated the uncanny ability to know when to encourage, discipline, challenge, offer wisdom, show mercy, and when to admit he didn't know as well as he did. It was like he was getting Divine assistance.

To the Class of '80. We were lucky, no blessed, to have this man in our lives. Thank you to the whole Allen family for sharing him with us. You are in my prayers. May God give you the grace to grieve the loss and the joy to celebrate a life well lived. We will all be reunited when these "earth suits" wear out.

With Much Love, Fred Billings

Fred Billings - January 19, 2023 at 02:57 PM



“Buddy” says it all! Everyone needs a “Buddy” in their life. His spirit was always there to lift you up, guide you, or just see that smile that made everything OK. He loved “his kids”, he loved “his faculty and staff”, he loved Stratford... and we will always love him forever. When I was faced with a very difficult teaching situation, for 4 years, and my tears were real and everyday was a challenge because of the negativity and real evil of the teacher that was teaching in the same room....my students were the light and Buddy reminded me each week that Goodness will win over Evil. There were so many lessons, that were unspoken, that we learned from him and the love that he gave us. He was an administrator that lived the saying that “learning teaches you the rules, but experience teaches you the exceptions”. It is a beautiful thing to say that “He was the best of the best because he loved us.” Oh, how we love him and will continue to “Love like Buddy.! Jana Armistead Stiffel
I still have the wooden spoons Joanne painted and you gave me for Christmas....love you forever! Jana

Jana Stiffel - January 18, 2023 at 02:34 PM



“ The family of Uncle Leon and Aunt Jo... purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Buddy Allen.



The family of Uncle Leon and Aunt Jo... - January 18, 2023 at 01:49 PM

KL

“ Prayers for the family. I will always remember the good times of family gatherings at the Allen house in Grapeland. Lots of laughter and love.



Kathy Luce Lumbraz - January 18, 2023 at 10:05 AM

JJ

“ Jo Ann,

*I am so sorry to hear about Buddy. You were both such wonderful neighbors and friends for the 20 years we lived across the street. At least we all have beautiful memories, but most of all, we know exactly where Buddy is now. And we all look forward to joining him for a Great Reunion Day.
God bless you and your family.
Jim Jones*



Jimmy M. "Jim" Jones - January 17, 2023 at 09:20 PM

SW

“ One of the very few administrator i could have an open and honest conversation with during my difficult HS days. We could talk about hunting, fishing, or just lust life's struggles. He was an excellent listener and full of wisdom.

Scott W - January 17, 2023 at 03:28 PM

GJ

“ *Buddy personalized Jesus' words to Love God and Love Others. His love for God was evident and his love for others supported and sustained them. Praying for JoAnn and all the family as we celebrate Buddy's life.* ”

Gwynne Johnson - January 17, 2023 at 12:54 PM

MW

“ *JoAnn, Lynn, and Lori, just want you to know I'm thinking about you all. I pray for your peace and comfort I love you all!* ”
Melba Wortham

Melba Wortham - January 17, 2023 at 11:18 AM

MH

“ *M. Hyvl lit a candle in memory of Buddy Allen* ”



M. Hyvl - January 17, 2023 at 11:14 AM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Buddy Allen.* ”



January 16, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Buddy Allen.*



January 16, 2023 at 07:05 PM



“ *Buddy Allen left an indelible mark on the Class of '84. He was beloved and respected. He showed us the love of a father, stern when needed, but always loving and understanding. He had a way of growing young people into fine adults. We love you, Mr. Allen.* ❤️
💛

Reann Carter - January 16, 2023 at 05:49 PM



“ *Daniel & Christy Roberson purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Buddy Allen.*



Daniel & Christy Roberson - January 16, 2023 at 05:46 PM



“ *The best Stratford HS had to offer. He was kind, understanding, influential and had more patience of anyone I've ever known. I was blessed to spend time with him at our last reunion. Prayers for your family, I know he loves you all. Rest in peace until we meet again.*
D'Ann Dial

D'Ann Dial - January 16, 2023 at 05:23 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Buddy Allen.



January 16, 2023 at 04:43 PM



“ The best ever! So adored by everyone at SHS. So very gracious and kind. RIP Mr. Allen.

Milton Howard - January 16, 2023 at 04:37 PM



“ Best principal ever! Stratford loves YOU ❤️

Kathryn - January 16, 2023 at 02:48 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Buddy Allen.



January 16, 2023 at 02:31 PM