



Danny Ray Billingsley

June 21, 1946 - June 14, 2025

Danny Ray Billingsley, age 78, passed away on Saturday, June 14th, 2025, surrounded by love, after a valiant fight with cancer. Danny's life was devoted to family and service.

Born on June 21st, 1946, in Lufkin, Texas, Danny spent his early years in Lufkin, Crockett, and Huntsville. A proud graduate of Huntsville High School, he was an athlete who excelled in football, basketball, and track. Following graduation, he enlisted in the United States Air Force and was deployed to Vietnam, where he served with distinction as a diesel engine mechanic. His service earned him awards and recognition and ignited a lifelong commitment to protecting and serving others.

After returning home, Danny earned a Criminal Justice degree from Sam Houston State University and moved to San Antonio as a federal law enforcement officer. Although he worked briefly at Billingsley Parts & Equipment, his family's business in Huntsville, it was law enforcement where he found his true calling. Over the course of nearly four decades, Danny served communities across Harris and Walker counties—as a patrol officer, undercover investigator, narcotics detective, training officer, and homicide lieutenant. His exceptional leadership and dedication culminated in his role as Chief Deputy of Harris County, the third-largest county in the nation.

Even after retiring, Danny continued to serve. He volunteered for a yearlong deployment to Iraq as part of a Military Transition Team (MiTT), advising and training Iraqi forces alongside U.S. Army soldiers—a role for which he was

uniquely equipped thanks to his vast experience and steadfast courage. Danny was so well-respected as an accomplished and effective detective, not only did he return to law enforcement as a detective in Walker County but also volunteered to review cold cases for communities across Texas. He appeared on many television programs where he spoke about the cold cases that he was an active investigator in. Furthermore, Danny was a visiting instructor in the Criminal Justice Department at Sam Houston State University, demonstrating his enduring commitment to public safety and mentorship. Danny embodied the spirit of a true cowboy. He generously gave his time as a volunteer with the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo and the Walker County Fair Association, where he made a lasting impact on countless young people by sponsoring their livestock projects. His love for the cowboy life extended far beyond Texas—he spent multiple summers on cattle drives in Montana, savoring the wide-open skies and the camaraderie that came with the trail. He eventually retired to Lovelady, Texas where he and his wife Paula enjoyed 92 acres of beautiful land and built a custom home with a barn, pond, horses, goats, chickens, cats and dogs. He enjoyed cooking, gardening, and spending time on the porch enjoying the view and all of his blessings. He loved spending time with his grandsons and teaching them how to shoot, hunt, fish, and ride horses. He handed down years of wisdom with the special times they spent together.

Danny was a man of strong faith who loved the Lord Jesus Christ. In later years, he embraced Catholicism and found a spiritual home in his parish in Crockett, where he treasured his priest and the fellowship of his church family. Family was central to Danny's life. He is survived by his beloved wife, Paula Billingsley; stepdaughter, Tiffany W. Blackmon and her husband Heath Blackmon; and six step-grandsons, Austin, Hunter, Ryder, Ryan, Jordan, and Blake. He also leaves behind his elder brother, Don Billingsley; sister, Lynda B. Powell; and nieces and nephews, March Pratt, Lieutenant Colonel Trenton Powell, Toby Powell, Timothy Powell, M.D., Baker Billingsley, and Emma

Billingsley. He was preceded in death by his parents, L.B. Billingsley and Ragna L. Billingsley, and his nephew, Brandon Billingsley.

Danny was known to all as an extremely intelligent and capable man who would do anything for anyone, at any hour. He was generous, warm, and full of life. Whether riding horses, refereeing Huntsville Hornets football games, deer hunting with friends, nephews, and grandsons, fishing with grandkids, or telling stories around the fire, Danny brought light and laughter wherever he went. He was a husband, stepdad, papa, pawpaw, son, brother, uncle, friend, and mentor—a rare and remarkable soul who lived fully and gave freely.

Danny has been delivered from the pain of this world and now lives eternally with his Savior, Jesus Christ. His family and friends rejoice in his salvation even as they mourn his passing. His legacy of service, courage, and love will live on in the many lives he touched.

The family will receive friends and loved ones on Friday, June 27, 2025, from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home in Huntsville. A funeral mass will be held on Saturday, June 28 at 10:30 AM at St. Francis of the Tejas Catholic Church in Crockett, TX.

Memorial condolences may be made to the family at www.shmfh.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 27. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - Huntsville
1700 Normal Park Dr.
Huntsville, TX 77340

Funeral Service

JUN 28. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Francis of the Tejas Catholic Church
609 North 4th Street
Crockett, TX 75835

Tribute Wall

BJ

“ I have known the Billingsley family for as far back as I can remember. Danny was a great guy with a great sense of humor. Although I have not seen him in years, I am saddened to hear of his passing. He will be missed. Janet and I pray for peace and comfort for the entire Billingsley family.

Bobby & Janet Jordan - June 26, 2025 at 11:25 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Danny Ray Billingsley.

June 26, 2025 at 06:29 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Danny Ray Billingsley.

June 25, 2025 at 02:22 PM

PB

“ Pamela B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Danny Ray Billingsley.

Pamela B. - June 24, 2025 at 10:09 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Danny Ray Billingsley.*



June 23, 2025 at 05:38 PM



“ *I met Danny while volunteering at the Walker County Fair back in the 80's with my husband. It was always a pleasure being around him, just an all around great guy. I know he will be sorely missed.*



Susan McGilberry - June 20, 2025 at 04:27 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Danny Ray Billingsley.*



June 18, 2025 at 06:08 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Danny Ray Billingsley.*

June 18, 2025 at 06:08 PM

JK

“ *Jan Kilpatrick purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Danny Ray Billingsley.*



Jan Kilpatrick - June 18, 2025 at 12:56 PM

JP

“ *Jerry Peterson lit a candle in memory of Danny Ray Billingsley*



Jerry Peterson - June 18, 2025 at 11:59 AM

JP

“ *Condolences to Danny'S family and friends. I first met Danny years ago while he was an undercover officer in Harris co. We went on a fishing trip to lake Guerrero Mexico with a mutual friend. What a Hoot!*

I still tell stories of him catching three fish on one fishing lure. Over the years I lost contact with him but remembered him as a Christian man, fun to be around and a strong caring man. Rest in Peace, my Friend!

Jerry Peterson - June 18, 2025 at 11:58 AM

MF

“ *Lifting up the family and friends of Danny Billingsley for comfort and healing from our Lord Jesus Christ. Danny Billingsley service to his Lord, Country and community will not be forgotten.*



Marvin Hyvl & Family - June 18, 2025 at 11:14 AM

RC

“ *Fondly remembered Friday post Nautilus workouts spent at “The Prickly Pear” happy hour !!*

Ray Carroll - June 18, 2025 at 11:00 AM

MC

“ *Danny was a Great man All his life!
He came from great stock.
We will remember Danny all of our lives.*

Mark Chalker - June 18, 2025 at 10:54 AM

DP

“ *I will truly miss Chief Billingsley as he was the best supervisor one could ever have the privilege of working under, full of knowledge, strong and professional. You knew that he was there to support you and would stand up against a bear for what he believed. Not only a great supervisor but a loving and caring friend.
I send my deepest sympathy to his wife Paula, the Blue family and his family and friends.
D’andre Pruitt-Bradford*

D’andre Pruitt-Bradford - June 18, 2025 at 01:28 AM

DP

“ Please know that the Robinson sisters are praying for your family. May God give you comfort and rest. Carol and Richard Byrd, Jan and Tom Rogers, Donna and Walter Paschall and Mary and Nathan Roe ❤️🙏

Donna Paschall - June 17, 2025 at 09:26 PM

PA

“ I worked for 15 years for Billingsley Parts & Equipment in Huntsville, Texas. Even though I didn't see Danny very often I did know him. Such a great man. So my condolences are with the family. Paula Akin

Paula (Duke) Akin - June 17, 2025 at 09:11 PM

LM

“ Danny was a great friend and classmate. He will be missed by so many friends and family. Larry Monzingo

Larry Monzingo - June 17, 2025 at 07:34 PM

GK

“ Gayle Kelly lit a candle in memory of Danny Ray Billingsley



Gayle Kelly - June 17, 2025 at 04:52 PM

TD

Danny has been a huge part of my family and my life !!! He is the sole reason I went to college at Sam Houston State University by helping me get a job at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. His mother made sure I had a place to live while I attended college. We are so grateful for the contribution the Rooster Billingsley family made to my life. May God Bless you Danny !!!

Tony Gale Davis - June 18, 2025 at 10:34 AM

BD

My dear friend, you were in close proximity when I asked Laura to marry me, you were there when our son Mike was born, you rode with me to the neo-natal unit when he was transferred to the hospital, and you were with me when Laura was buried.. We worked together as Special Agents, with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. We knew each for 46 plus years. You were like my brother. We were tight like brothers. They threw the mold away when you were born, and you became one of a kind. I am not ashamed to say I loved you, and I will cherish the memories I shared with you. I cried when I learned of your death. Unashamedly, I will cry again.. I will have to make the journey you have made. Stand tall and sit high in the saddle. I will look for you when I get there.

Bennie Davis - June 20, 2025 at 12:22 AM