



## Ellis Milam

June 15, 1935 - November 3, 2012

Captain Ellis Milam "Old Double E" Captain Ellis Milam "Old Double E", retired 1991 -The Deputy Chief position he earned in 1986, was awarded post retirement). Ellis was born June 15, 1935 in Houston, Texas and entered into eternal rest - peacefully with his adoring wife beside him and praying with him, October 24, 2012. He is preceded in death by his father, Ellis, brother, James, and nephew, Ricky. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Stella Steely Milam, his mother, Josephine Laura Milam, and 5 children, Joseph, Andrew (wife Marlene), Deborah M. Harkcom (husband Jeff Harkcom), Chris and Greg (wife Kim), grandchildren, Kellie M. Gwosdz Perrone, Jacob and Jessica Harkcom, Walker & Lucas Milam, Kierstyn Walker and great grandchildren, Aeylah & Makena Gwosdz, Jonah & Joey Perrone, and Dezirae and Nickolette Clemons. He is also survived by his brother Frank (wife Jeanne), sister, Jacqueline Plummer; and numerous nieces, nephews, and many relatives. He was a devoted and loving son, husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, brother, cousin and uncle. He always had a twinkle in his eyes and a ready story to share with family and friends. Pallbearers are sons Joseph, Andrew, Chris and Greg, and grandsons, Jake Harkcom and Walker Milam. Ellis dedicated his life to his fellow man by his public service. As a 34 year veteran of the Houston Police Department he served in and commanded numerous divisions. His crowning achievements were developing HPD's SWAT team and reorganizing the Helicopter Division. While just a Lieutenant in 1975, at the personal request of then Chief of Police, Carol Lynn - with

whom he had no personal affiliation - he was asked to organize and train a Special Weapons & Tactical Squad for HPD. He was sent to train with the Los Angeles Police Department (the most respected SWAT of the time), the FBI in Quantico, VA as well as SMU and Sam Houston State Universities criminal justice departments. He created SWAT for Houston and was allowed to personally select each member of the new squad. In 1978, just three years later, the FBI ranked HPD's SWAT #1 in the nation. In 1982 he was again tasked with creating a more effective squad at risk of disbandment - the Helicopter Division. Having no experience as a pilot he knew he had to become one. While working to obtain his license he was able to reorganize the division, saved millions in his annual budget by renewing numerous fuel, maintenance and other contracts in favor of the City of Houston, all while providing more effective "Eyes in the Sky" to protect his "Brothers in Blue". A few years into his command of the helicopter division he was elected president of his chapter of the Airborne Law Enforcement Assoc. Certainly many lives, civilian and police, were saved by his calling to serve. He retired from HPD in 1991 to take a position as a division head for the City of Houston's Finance Department from which he retired in 2002 after re-writing and creating several new policies and manuals for licensed commercial vehicles serving Houston's citizenry. He was a member of The International Police Officers Association and served as treasurer of the local branch until his ill health prevented him from doing so. Ellis was a member of Annunciation Catholic Church in Houston and St. Thomas Catholic Church in Huntsville, TX. He was a member of Knights of Columbus Council 7153 and co-sharer in all things pro-life with his wife Stella. A Wake followed by the Rosary will be held on Friday, November 2, 2012 at 8:00 P.M. at Annunciation Catholic Church. Funeral Mass will be Saturday, November 3, 2012 at 10:00A.M. at Annunciation Catholic Church. Interment will be at Black Jack Cemetery, Huntsville, Texas, November 3, 2012 at 2:00 P.M. In lieu of flowers Memorial donations may be made to: Foundation for Life, 10900 Northwest Freeway, Suite 112, Houston, TX 77092 or Houston Coalition for Life, P.O. Box 301094,

Houston, Texas 77230. Of course a donation to a Police organization of your choice is also welcome. Those wishing to leave memorial condolences for the family may do so at <http://www.shmfh.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Ellis Milam*

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November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *"Some people come into your life and quickly go - others, like Ellis, leave footprints on your heart and you are never the same". Ellis's was a well lived life with a balance of God, family, friends, work and play. His devotion to his mother, even as he was in his battle with cancer, was touching. Ellis, with Stella at his side, accomplished so much. The two contributed much time, money and love to many worthwhile causes. What a blessing to have known him!*

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**Betty and James Duke** - November 17, 2012 at 10:53 AM



“ *From Mary and James Story. We are so sorry and praying for you and the family. We have tried to get in touch with you but are unable to. We moved a year ago and changed our phone number. Our new number is 281-358-4449. We would love to talk to you.*

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**Mary and James Story** - November 05, 2012 at 08:28 PM



“ *Mrs. Milam and family, Our condolences to you all. It was always a pleasure to be with you and Mr. Milam when Joey and I were friends in high school. Again, our thoughts and prayers are with you. God Bless!*

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**Charlie Knight Jr.** - November 04, 2012 at 11:08 PM

RB

“ Mrs. Milam and family: My deepest sympathy for your loss. I attended Annunciation grade school and St. Thomas High School(class of '52) with Ellis. I didn't see much of Ellis over the years but saw him many Sundays at 11:AM Mass at Annunciation and exchanged E Mails with him over the last few years. I always considered him a long and dear friend and a man of exemplary integrity. May he rest in Peace, Amen.  
Roy Bonario 11/4/2012 04:40 PM

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**roy I bonario** - November 04, 2012 at 05:28 PM

RB

“ The thoughts and prayers of St. Thomas High, Class of '53 are with you and the family. Please accept our condolences and may Ellis' soul rest in peace.

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**Ron Bonnel** - November 01, 2012 at 11:42 AM

CM

“ Dear Mrs. Milam,  
We are so sorry to hear of your great loss. Our prayers are with you and your family. We will never forget what a profound influence you and Mr. Milam have made in our family.

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**Chris & Candace Metz** - October 31, 2012 at 09:36 AM

TH

“ Dear Stella, I was in Iowa when I heard the sad news of Ellis' passing. I'm so sorry for your loss and that of your entire family. You didn't have to know Ellis long to know what a wonderful man he was. I'm proud to say that I was his friend. When my mother died the following verse kept coming to my mind...Love never fails. I know that Ellis will always be with us.  
May God give you and your family the love of His peace.

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**Tricia Hayes** - October 30, 2012 at 11:37 PM

DC

“ *My heartfelt sympathies go to Stella and the family. Ellis was a kind and loving person and I always admired and respected him. He had a great sense of humor and was just really fun to be around. I haven't seen him in a lot of years, but was friends with his daughter, while we were in high school. I always enjoyed being around him and Stella and their delightful family. Much love to you and I hope that the fact that you will see him again will bring comfort to you.*

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**Denise Allen Crandall** - October 30, 2012 at 01:39 PM

BL

“ *Dear Stella and family,  
These were my thoughts and comments I shared with all my friends and family today. I will continue to pray for all of you, and know for certain that Ellis has gone on to his eternal reward. Love and prayers.*  
*Bob*

*The passing of a great man, who first served His Maker, and served his family and friends by observing the greatest commandment "to love one another". He will be missed by all who knew him, especially Stella his loving wife and his children grandchildren, and great grandchildren. Our prayers are with her and all his family now, especially in these days of mourning at his passing. Their faith and confidence in The Risen Christ gives them sustenance in their grief, and hope of sharing life with him again in eternity.*

*I was proud to call him a friend, and will miss his warm greeting smile, and the twinkle in his eyes, and hope to meet him again.*

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**Bob Lawrence** - October 30, 2012 at 01:06 PM

JK

“ We are very sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your loved ones.

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**Jason & Kim Kemp** - October 29, 2012 at 04:27 PM

BD

“ I worked with Ellis Milam in the Helicopter Division and Transportation Division at the City of Houston. We spent a lot of time together for which I will always be grateful. I learned so much from him about managing.

*I don't think his friends are aware of how much he accomplished at the HPD as a Lieutenant of the SWAT Division and as a Captain of the Helicopter Division. He started and developed the SWAT Division then later as a Captain reorganized the Helicopter Division. He was an excellent manager.*

*I really believe God put him in my life for a purpose and I owe him so much. I am blessed that along the way we became good friends. I will miss his wisdom, his stories, and most of all his sense of humor.*

*He cared about those things in life that are in the end most important, God and his family.*

*My best to all the Milam family, especially Stella.*

*Blanton Daniels  
HPD (Retired)*

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**Blanton Daniels** - October 29, 2012 at 03:08 PM

YM

“ *Stella and family, My condolences to you and your family. Know that you are in my prayers. What a blessing to have the kind of faith you and Ellis have, and know that 'all is well'. God bless you and bring you the peace of Christ.*

*Yolanda Melchor.*

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**Yolanda Melchor** - October 29, 2012 at 01:19 PM

GM

“ *Mrs. Milan and Family,*

*Very sorry to hear of your loss. We did not know him well but know he was a fine and good man.*

*Our prayers are with you all.*

*Gerry & Barb McDonald*

*Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada*

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**Gerry & Barb McDonald** - October 27, 2012 at 09:48 PM

FJ

“ *Laura. I was so sorry to hear about the loss of your uncle. When it hurts to look back and you find it hard to go forward, look beside you and your best friends will be there. Call if you need anything.*

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**Faye Johnson-Jones** - October 27, 2012 at 09:30 PM

JM

“ *Our condolences for Stella and family. Ellis was a wonderful man and friend. May his soul rest in peace with God.*

*Love and prayers,*

*Jennifer, Matt, Abigail and Robert McDonald*

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**Jennifer McDonald** - October 27, 2012 at 09:08 PM

KD

“ Saturday, October 27, 2012

*Stella,*

*I will always remember Ellis' warm and loving smile. It was so contagious.*

*He will be missed.*

*Karl*

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**Karl Davidson** - October 27, 2012 at 09:03 PM

MI

“ *Mr. Milam was our Division Manager at The City of Houston, Transportation Division. He will be greatly missed. My deepest condolences you and your family. May God continue to bless you all.*

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**Maribel Imamovic** - October 27, 2012 at 12:58 PM

JM

“ *Stella, So sorry for your loss at this time. Deepest sympathy from our family.*

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**Judi East Mullican** - October 26, 2012 at 10:41 PM

GR

“ *Chris, Mrs. Milam and Family - Our love, prayers and deepest sympathy. We are so very sorry for your great loss.*

*May God's Grace bring you comfort, may God's Love bring you strength, may God's Mercy bring you healing.*

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**Glenn & Suzie Rightmire** - October 26, 2012 at 06:02 PM

TD

“ I worked for Ellis for over ten years at the City and learned more from him than anywhere else. He was a fine gentleman and a pleasure to work with. Condolences to his family and may he Rest In Peace.

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**Tom DeHart** - October 26, 2012 at 02:22 PM

JE

“ Stella,  
Thoughts and prayers and deepest sympathy.

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**JoAnne Erickson** - October 26, 2012 at 01:18 PM

BN

“ Stella and family, My thoughts and prayers are with you.

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**Beverly Niederhofer** - October 26, 2012 at 12:25 PM

RB

“ My condolences to Stella and family. I thought the world of Capt. Milam while working HPD helicopters.

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**Roger Burkhalter** - October 26, 2012 at 10:37 AM

MK

“ Stella and family, Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this time. God Bless!!

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**Milton & Peggy Kroesche** - October 25, 2012 at 04:50 PM

MN

“ Houston Police Family Assistance Unit

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**Michael J. Newsome** - October 25, 2012 at 04:08 PM