



## Franklin Leon Ripkowski

May 5, 1939 - February 5, 2026

Franklin Leon Ripkowski Senior went to be with our Lord and Savior on February 5, 2026. He was born on May 5, 1939, in Houston, Texas, to Lee Frank and Stella Virginia Ripkowski.

Frank attended Sam Houston High School in Houston, Texas, and enlisted in the United States Navy in 1956. He was honorably discharged in 1960. On October 27, 1962, in Houston, Texas, he married the love of his life, Jimmie Sue Pursley, beginning a lifetime of love and partnership.

Frank devoted 39 years of service to General Electric, where he worked in the electrical engineering department and retired as a supervisor in 1999. After retirement, he embraced his next chapter as a full-time rancher, a full-time grandfather, and a knight with the Knights of Columbus. His passions included ranching, caring for his cattle, and enjoying games of 42, moon, and Mexican train with family and friends.

After moving to New Waverly full-time, Frank became an active member of the Knights of Columbus, where he faithfully served for many years. He assisted with numerous fundraising events, including fish fries, barbecue events, and festivals. Frank loved attending weddings and dances, and his presence on the dance floor was unmistakable—you could hear him stomping and hollering from a mile away. He also enjoyed deer hunting, making homemade sausage,

and tending to his massive gardens.

Becoming a grandfather was one of Frank's greatest blessings. He cherished every moment with Reygan, Waverlee, and Logan. He found joy in dressing up as Santa Claus, Easter egg hunt hunting, taking them on hay rides, attending every school event, birthday parties, and going on countless road trips with his grandchildren.

Frank is survived by his wife of 63 years, Jimmie Sue Pursley Ripkowski; his daughter, Rhonda Williford, and husband, Charlie; his son, Frank Ripkowski Junior, and his significant other, April Fritsche; his two granddaughters and great-grandchild: Reygan Cox and husband, Kyle; Waverlee Yezak and husband, Jacob, and their son, Walker; and Logan Thomas Sykowski. He is also survived by his five bonus grandchildren: Lyndsay Richardson and husband, Clint, and their children, Tristan and Taylor; Stephanie Brown and husband, Jeremy, and their children, Baker, Knox, and Landon; Jake Williford and wife, Taylor, and their children, Elliott and Sloane; Ashtin Williford; and Story Williford. He is further survived by his brother, Fred Ripkowski, and wife, Mary Jo; sisters, Gertrude Olbrych and Marcella Norton; along with numerous nieces and nephews.

Frank was preceded in death by his parents, Lee Frank and Stella Virginia Ripkowski.

Serving as pallbearers are: Grandson, Logan Sykowski; Grandson-in-law, Kyle Cox; Grandson-in-law, Jacob Yezak; Nephew, James Olbrych; Nephew, Mike Ripkowski; and Nephew, Stephen Norton.

Visitation with family and friends will be held from 6 to 8 on February 10 at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home in Willis Tx. A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m. at First Baptist Church, New Waverly, Texas. Military graveside

service will take place directly after the celebration of life at Pine Valley Cemetery in New Waverly, Texas.

You are invited to leave a memory and/or a photo at [www.shmfh.com](http://www.shmfh.com)  
In lieu of flowers, the family asked that you make a donation to First Baptist Church, New Waverly, in the name of Franklin Ripkowski Senior.

# Cemetery Details

## Pine Valley Cemetery

500 Big Woods Rd.  
New Waverly, TX 77358

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 10. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - Willis  
10129 FM 1097 Rd W.  
Willis, TX 77318  
(936) 890-0454  
greg@shmfh.com

## Funeral Service

FEB 11. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church New Waverly  
460 Fisher St  
New Waverly, TX 77358

## Interment following service

FEB 11 (CT)

Pine Valley Baptist Church  
500 Big Woods Rd  
New Waverly, TX 77358



# Tribute Wall

“ Oh, what an amazing daddy my daddy was! He stood behind us, supporting us through every moment of our lives.

*From teaching me how to dance before I could walk, to surprising me with a suburban when I got pregnant with my third child (because his babies needed a bigger car for their safety), to filling up both tanks on his 454 engine truck, sending me across the state for a day with my friend to a bazaar, and then telling me, even though I was going to race everyone who would play, I best not let him know if I lost!*

*To sleeping on hospital floors for months during my brother's horrific car accident, calling in surgeons from across the country because the doctors here weren't giving him the answers he wanted to hear.*

*Then came the time he had to make sure I knew how to change a tire and tap a starter to get the truck started, even if I was in a formal gown in high heels!*

*Teaching us how to garden and grow a full garden, picking peas until our fingers were raw, showing us the reward of physical labor once the task was completed and we could see our finished work.*

*Instilling in us that we are nothing without our word.*

*He was the most loving, caring, tough, and sporty father.*

*Then watching him become a grandfather and embrace the best role ever, he attended every school function, every single birthday party, he dressed up as Santa Claus at night so that the kids could get a glimpse of Santa downstairs, putting presents under the tree. Teaching them to drive a tractor (and yes, way before the law would have given allegiance to), he showed up ready and excited to be in his grands' lives, up when most grandfathers wouldn't.*

*Life will be hard without you, daddy, that's for sure, but you have*

*instilled values in our family and set the standards of how you lived, how to love others no matter what color or background someone came from because we are all the same and should love each other no matter any differences.*

*You always put your family first, teaching us to turn to the Lord for guidance and answers. Nate is the only true resource we could rely on for direction and peace.*

*Thank you, Daddy, for being the best Daddy to Frank and me. Thank you for being the best (Jaja) dziadek and Honey to Reygan, Waverlee, Logan, and Walker.*

*You will forever be missed !  
Love Your Princess Rhonda*



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**Rhonda Williford** - February 11 at 10:22 PM

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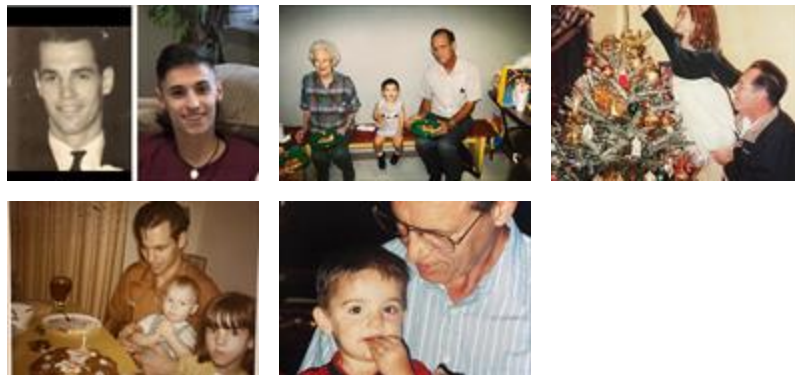
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**Rhonda Williford** - February 11 at 10:00 PM

BH

“ I first met Rip through Larry Belinowski ,my daughter in laws dad . Rip reminded me so much of the Czech's & Germans I grew up with in East Bell County. Although we were neighbors, our normal meeting place was Squeeky's . I soon learned that he loved his family, his church, his country & he was always ready for a cold Schlitz & a hot game of 42. May God bless Miss Sue , Frank Jr., Miss Rhonda & the rest of his family.

*Bill Harrison*

*Mt Zion*

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**Bill Harrison** - February 11 at 02:16 AM

SL

“ I remember visiting my Uncle Kie and Aunt Tootie, who lived next door to the Ripps. I thought Frank was the coolest guy ever! With his good looks and fast cars, and me abt eight years younger, he was it!! He was a one of a kind, fun loving guy, and will be missed by so many. My prayers are with his family. Shirley (Neelen) Lopasky

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**Shirley (Neelen) Lopasky** - February 10 at 02:53 PM

MH

“ My dad(Richard Belinoski) would tell us stories of them racing their cars after work.

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**Melissa Belinoski Hollas** - February 10 at 02:51 PM

LB

“ Frank was a one of a kind guy, full of life and energy. My parents thought the world of him and Sue and so do I. My Dad had some fun times with Frank. But my Dad would never get on a boat with him. Per my Dad , Frank would make his boat fly across the water. In the picture Frank was laughing which means he was probably up to mischief. Frank is now enjoying happiness in heaven with those who have gone before him. I have you all in my prayers.



Lorraine Belinowski - February 10 at 01:37 PM



“ Divine Light was purchased for the family of Franklin Leon Ripkowski.



February 10 at 12:41 PM

BA

“ Bobby & Darlene Abramski lit a candle in memory of Franklin Leon Ripkowski



Bobby & Darlene Abramski - February 10 at 08:37 AM