



## Gus Bolden Bowden

December 21, 1934 - July 31, 2018

Gus Bolden Bowden of College Station, TX passed away peacefully on July 31, 2018 at St. Joseph Manor Skilled Nursing Center in Bryan. He had been ill since suffering a stroke in May. He was a family man who was devoted to his wife and children. Gus was born on December 21, 1934 at St. Joseph's Hospital in Houston. He grew up in the country outside of Huntsville, Texas. He had one brother and three sisters. His parents, Hightower and Mary farmed and ranched, and owned a small country store.

Gus grew up hunting and fishing and riding horses. Guns and horses remained life-long interests. He attended Huntsville High School where he was a good student and played football. He was a football fan all his life and almost never missed watching the Dallas Cowboys on TV. It was at Huntsville High that he met his future wife, Sara Nell Fitzgerald of Riverside, TX. After high school, Gus attended Sam Houston State College and graduated with a degree in Agriculture. He and Nell were married on December 27, 1955. They were both still young. He had just turned 21 the week before and Nell had only been 18 for about a month. He got a job with the Texas prison system working in farm management. Five children followed; Gus Jr. in 1956, Leonard in 1958, Mary Nell in 1960, Billy in 1962, and Bonni in 1966. Along the way, he served for a short time in the Army National Guard. His last position with the prison was in Sugarland, TX at the Central Unit as Manager of Edible Crops. In 1967 Gus took a position in south Texas with Tide Agricultural Products in

Mercedes where he was Branch Manager and in sales as well. He moved his family to Weslaco. He was consistently one of the company's top salesmen. The family stayed in Weslaco until 1982 when Gus was promoted to Regional Manager and moved to College Station. Gus left the farm chemical business in 1987. He worked in real estate briefly and then retired. He was interested in ranching and fond of his boots and cowboy hats. He enjoyed reading books and magazines about the Old West. He once said that he was born 100 years too late. He loved stories about cowboys and Indians, Custer and Sitting Bull, Jessie James and Billy the Kid.

Gus was a member of A&M United Methodist Church. Gus lost his wife Nell in 2001. After her death, he never dated, was faithful to her to the end. And through her retirement annuity and health insurance, she helped take care of him to the end as well. Death took them apart but now brings them back together. He is also preceded in death by his parents Leonard Hightower and Mary Walker Bowden; brother Billy Walker Bowden and sisters Mary Martha Griffin, Betty Ann Wright, and Jackie May. He is survived by four of his children; sisters-in-law, Ann Clancy & Evelyn Dawson; brothers-in-law Harold Clancy & Bill Dawson; several cousins, and numerous nephews and nieces, and friends from Huntsville and College Station.

The Bowden family wishes to thank all the care givers who took care of Daddy at Scott and White Hospital, Encompass Health, Comfort Keepers, and St. Joseph Manor.

In lieu of flowers, the family request that donations in Gus's memory be made to Hospice Brazos Valley of Bryan.

The family will receive friends from 6pm till 8pm on Friday, August 3, 2018 at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home in Huntsville, Texas. Funeral services will be held at 2pm on Saturday, August 4, 2018 in the chapel of Sam Houston

Memorial Funeral Home in Huntsville, Texas. Interment will follow the service at Old Pioneer Cemetery in Riverside, Texas.

Full obituary may be viewed and memorial condolences made to the family at [www.shmfh.com](http://www.shmfh.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Old Pioneer Cemetery

Riverside, TX

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**AUG 3.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - Huntsville  
1700 Normal Park Dr.  
Huntsville, TX 77340  
(936) 291-7300  
belinda@shmfh.com

## Funeral Service

**AUG 4.** 2:00 PM (CT)

Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - Huntsville  
1700 Normal Park Dr.  
Huntsville, TX 77340  
(936) 291-7300  
belinda@shmfh.com

# Tribute Wall

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“ I met Gus as a customer of Tide Products when I was a beginning farmer-rancher. We got on great. After about 6 mos. Gus came to me and said got this horse I need to pasture; he was my horse in the Prison System. To which I which I said bring him here and turn him out. Which he did.

*A beautiful sorrel gelding with 3 white socks, black mane and tail. Peter McCue bloodline, His registered name was John Henry Brooks. We called him Henry Brooks. 15 hands, 1,300 lbs, heavily muscled—he was a stud.*

*Gus asked if I could use him, that he needed to work. I said I surely could; I had need for a good horse. I rode pasture, gathered cattle, pasture roped. He would come running to the pens when he saw me coming down the fence with the trailer. I would saddle him without a halter or bridle and he would load himself into the trailer. He loved to go work cattle. Gus admonished me, don't ever come at him with a stick or hoe or shovel in your hands. He said he will try to kill your. The Prison System trained him to do so. We never tried him.*

*I tried arena calf roping on him but he didn't quite understand. I steer roped heading on him and he was great. My collegiate partner and I competed well with him. I even showed him in a halter class at the Mercedes Livestock saw and he placed 4th, mainly due to a dinner-plate sized scar on his chest from a tangle with a barbed wire fence.*

*He put me through college. I had a pickup, a trailer, Henry Brooks, a rope, and a saddle. I caught loose cattle, worked calves, caught bulls too wild to be penned. Cowboy for hire.*

*Gus would come visit him on Sunday afternoons. I'd see his truck at the gate every Sunday. I enjoyed over 10 years with Henry Brooks. Then tha day came we had to sell the cattle and the ranch and I had to call Gus to come get Henry Brooks. I never knew after that what*

*happened to Gus & Henry. One of the saddest days of my life.*

**Blaine** - October 07, 2025 at 08:56 PM



“ *Gus Bolden Bowden*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *Uncle Gus was so special to me. My fondest memories are going to the barn to ride John Brooks, his horse, with him. He seemed 10 feet tall to me in his boots and Stetson. He called me by a nickname, LBJ, for Little Billie Jean, in his sweet and happy tone that made me feel special.*

*He was the story-teller! I especially enjoyed the stories he would tell about my Daddy as a little boy and about my grandparents. He had me in stitches!*

*His best advice to me was, "If you take care of something, you will always have it."*

*I will always have these memories.*

**Billie Bowden Haas** - August 04, 2018 at 11:01 AM



*Thank you for sharing that beautiful story of my great uncle Gus. I wish I knew him better but your memory is special to me too. Love and affection to all our Bowden family and friends.*

**Amy Alappatt** - August 04, 2018 at 10:39 AM



*I remember visiting in Sugarland when Uncle Gus cut a fresh stalk of sugarcane for me to try. I still love it today!*

**Billie Bowden Haas** - August 04, 2018 at 11:44 AM

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“ Norm Farley purchased the Reflections of Glory Wreath for the family of Gus Bolden Bowden.



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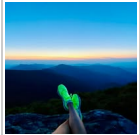
**Norm Farley** - August 03, 2018 at 11:03 AM

JH

“ Uncle Gus always had the best stories to tell. When you all came for my dad's funeral, I remember Bo (Libby's boyfriend) sat at the kitchen table just mesmerized listening to him. He thought his bolo was really special too! We will miss him so much. He was the last of all of the aunts and uncles. But I am thinking how happy he must be now being with your sweet mother.

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**Jan Bowden Haydel** - August 01, 2018 at 11:32 AM



“ It's going to be hard not sending Uncle Gus cards for his birthday and Christmas, which were so close together. I'd always try to pick the cards I thought he would find funny just to give him a chuckle. I loved that even in his 70s, he still emailed. I will miss him, but it puts a smile on my face to know he is now with Aunt Nell and PawPaw Bill.

*Libby Haydel (daughter of Jan Bowden Haydel)*

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**Libby Haydel** - August 01, 2018 at 11:28 AM

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*I didn't know Mr. Bowden, but I can discern from his obituary and comments from friends and relatives that he was a special gentleman. Condolences to his friends and family; I know he will be missed. I read in the obituary that his wife was a Fitzgerald from Dodge. Two ancestors on my mother's side of the family, Frank Durdin and his brother, both from Oakhurst, married Fitzgerald sisters. I know we're related some kind of way, probably last cousins.*

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**Allan Rushing** - August 02, 2018 at 02:06 PM