



## Hardy Rawls

May 28, 1932 - April 28, 2018

MONTGOMERY, Texas – Elvin Hardy Rawls died peacefully at his Lake Conroe home April 28, 2018.

Hardy was a husband, father, pilot, entrepreneur, car collector, mentor and friend to many during an abundant and wonderful life. He was 85.

He was born in Rich Square, North Carolina May 28, 1932, the son of Idell Hardy Rawls and Wallace Elvin Rawls. Upon high school graduation, he entered the U.S. Air Force and was trained to be a pilot. He graduated from flight school in 1954 and flew the F-86, B-26, and C-47. In 1958, he was released from active duty and joined the Air National Guard. Reaching the rank of major, he retired from military duty after 20 years of service.

In 1961, he joined Delta Airlines and later moved to Houston. He was a Delta pilot for 31 years, serving as a captain and eventually flying the Lockheed L-1011. He retired from Delta in 1992 at the mandatory age of 60.

After his Delta retirement, Hardy and business partner Kenneth Rickli formed an auto salvage auction company called Bayou City Auction Pool in Houston in 1994. Their business flourished, employing dozens of people, and opening branches in Dallas and San Antonio.

In 2006, the business was sold to a national chain and Hardy retired to his farm and home in the Montgomery area where he enjoyed collecting automobiles and visiting with his many friends. He restored and showed antique cars, winning local and national awards. Hardy specialized in the Buick Riviera and restored two award-winning examples.

He is survived by his wife Sandra Rawls; four children: Theresa MacLean of Lake Conroe; Larry Rawls of San Rafael, California; Don Rawls and wife Pam of Conroe; and Leigh Ann Richardson of Gardnerville, Nevada; one stepson: Robb Reeves and wife Martha of Hesston, Kansas; three grandchildren: Ashleigh MacLean, Ryan Rawls, and Shannen Rawls; two step-grandchildren: Morgan Redding and Sydney Reeves.

A Visitation will be held on Tuesday, May 1, 2018, from 5:00pm - 8:00pm at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home in Montgomery, Texas. The Memorial Service will be on Wednesday, May 2, 2018, at 4:00pm at Montgomery United Methodist Church, 22548 Highway 105 West, Montgomery, TX 77356.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Judes Children's Hospital, M.D Anderson Cancer Center, and the National Kidney Foundation.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 1. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - Montgomery  
10129 FM 1097 Rd W  
Willis, TX 77318  
(936) 890-0454  
greg@shmfh.com  
<https://www.shmfh.com>

## Funeral Service

MAY 2. 4:00 PM (CT)

Montgomery United Methodist Church  
22548 Hwy 105 West  
Montgomery, TX

# Tribute Wall



“ Hardy Rawls

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November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ I met Hardy many years ago through a friend. I was a bit younger than Hardy but something about that smile caused me to believe what you saw was what you got with Hardy.

Then I had the opportunity to follow him a bit through what I thought quite a business endeavor for a man who probably didn't need anything but apparently because those of you who knew him better than I know what a success delivered on and caused me to realize that man I met that first time some years earlier was one unique individual who will be missed by many and what is worse, like George Jones song "who is going to fill his shoes"? Hardy, what an example you have made. You will be a hard act to follow.

D. Vickery

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**Duane Vickery** - November 09, 2018 at 12:19 PM

EM

“ A legend is no longer with us. An exceptional pilot that was always a pleasure to work with. The only thing I can say negative about Hardy is each time he shook your hand it would be bone crushing. I tried to avoid his hand shakes.

*I have some great memories of Hardy. One time I was on the way to pick up my wife at the airport and stopped by his auto business. He convinced me to pick her up in a fairly new Cadillac. Of course that resulted in my buying the car. I hadn't started that day thinking I needed a car. He will be missed for sure. My best to Sandy and the family. RIP Hardy Rawls.*

*Ed Morey*

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**Ed Morey** - May 08, 2018 at 07:48 PM

PN

“ I haven't seen Hardy in many years but have fond memories of when he flew with my husband, Bill Nease out of the HOU base. I went on many layovers with them and we always had a great time. Hardy was a great friend to both of us, as we were friends not only in flying but in times off also. My deepest thoughts and sincere feelings go out to his family. Hardy was a "great guy" and will be missed. Pat Ritchie Nease

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**Pat Nease** - May 02, 2018 at 10:46 PM

TL

“ We lost one of our best. I always enjoyed my trips with Hardy. I remember when he was making a trip to Japan and I missed his departure as I wanted him to pick me up a Seiko watch. I got lucky as he brought one back for Charlie Hall but it was too large for his wrist so I bought it from him. He was a true Delta Professional.

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**Ted Langworthy** - May 02, 2018 at 10:20 PM

JD

“ Hardy was a great "stick" and a great friend. My condolences to Sandy and the family.

*Jim and Cheri Doyle, Seattle, Washington*

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**JP Doyle** - May 02, 2018 at 06:05 PM

GB

“ Hardy had a great presence that you felt when he walked into the room. He was a man of great style and taste. Our world is better from knowing Hardy Rawls. He will be greatly missed.

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**Garon Bracewell** - May 01, 2018 at 08:59 PM

JM

“ I have known and worked with Hardy since 1969. He was a great friend and he was like an older brother to me. I will miss him greatly.

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**Jim Miller** - May 01, 2018 at 11:44 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Hardy Rawls.



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May 01, 2018 at 10:27 AM

BK

“ *Bob Kelshaw purchased the Simply Elegant Spat hiphyllum for the family of Hardy Rawls.*



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**Bob Kelshaw** - May 01, 2018 at 09:31 AM

BK

“ *My sincere condolences to the family and especially Donny. Hardy was a great friend, Boss and mentor to me for many years, he was always larger then life and I can still feel that handshake! Even though I've been gone for the past 8 years I'll miss you my friend, may you Rest in Peace!*

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**Bob Kelshaw** - May 01, 2018 at 09:25 AM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Hardy Rawls.*



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May 01, 2018 at 01:03 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Hardy Rawls.*



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April 30, 2018 at 04:36 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Hardy Rawls.* ”



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April 30, 2018 at 04:27 PM