



## Mr Jack Benford Pursley

September 22, 1937 - June 18, 2021

### OBITUARY

Jack Benford Pursley went home peacefully to be with his Lord and Savior on Friday night, June 18th, 2021, surrounded by his loving family. Jack was born in Huntsville, Texas on September 22, 1937, to Marvin Benford Pursley and Magalea Carter Pursley. He attended Huntsville public schools and graduated in 1955. He played on the 1953 Huntsville Hornet State Football Championship team. He attended Sam Houston State University where he met his beautiful wife, Betty Jo. They were married on July 6, 1956 and would have celebrated their 65th anniversary in July. After graduating from SHSU in 1959, his first daughter was born. He took a teaching job in Mineral Wells where his second daughter was born. In 1963, he began his employment with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice at the Ferguson Unit where his son was born. Jack was employed at TDCJ until his retirement as a Senior Warden in 1993. Jack served on the Huntsville School Board, and was a longtime member and President of the Phelps Water Board. He was passionate about hunting and fishing and spent many hours attending to his cattle on his ranch. He also loved his dog, July. Jack's greatest joy was his family and his three children, and being Big Daddy to his 5 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. He is survived by his wife, Betty Jo Danchak Pursley; daughters, Debbie and husband, John Youens; Cindy and husband Galen McElvaney; son, Jack Marvin Pursley and wife, Karen. He is also survived by

his grandchildren, Justin McElvaney and wife Hayley; Stacy McElvaney McKee and husband, Daniel; Charles Marvin Pursley and wife Anna, Karmen Pursley and Karley Belle Pursley. He is also survived by his great-grandchildren, Harper McKee, Riley Jack McKee and Natalie McElvaney. He also leaves many other family members and great friends who were like family to him.

Visitation for Jack will be held at Sam Houston Funeral Home on Monday, June 21, 2021 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Services will be on Tuesday, June 22nd, 10:00 a.m., at Northside Baptist Church located at 1207 FM 980, Huntsville, TX with Rev. Reagan Cooksey officiating. Burial will follow at Boswell Church Cemetery, 737A Hardy Bottom Road, Huntsville, TX.

Pallbearers will be Robert Shaw, Kenny Coleman, Kenneth Street, Wesley Warner, Kent Ramsey and Glen Ray Reader. Honorary Pallbearers will be D.V. "Red" McKaskle, Charles Martin and David Smith.

# Cemetery Details

## Boswell Cemetery

1052 Four Notch Rd.  
Huntsville, TX 77340

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN **21**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home - Huntsville  
1700 Normal Park Dr  
Huntsville

## Funeral Service

JUN **22**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Northside Baptist Church  
1207 FM 980  
Huntsville, TX 77320

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mr Jack Benford Pursley*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *It was such a pleasure to take part in your care at Creekside.  
Your wit and charm made my day!  
You will be missed! ❤️*

Micki Rainey - June 29, 2021 at 01:23 AM



“ *Betty Joe and family,  
May the Lord be with you during this time of loss for your husband  
and father.  
You will be in my heart and prayers.*

*Judy Humphrey*

judy humphrey - June 25, 2021 at 03:32 PM



“ *We are so sorry to hear about your loss. All of  
you are in our thoughts and prayers!*

*Joyce McLaughlin  
Cheryl Washington*



Cheryl McLaughlin Washington - June 22, 2021 at 05:59 PM

RR

“ Jack and Karen, I am so very sorry for your loss. You guys are in my thoughts and prayers. Warden Pursley was a highly respected man and will be missed by many.

Robin Richardson - June 22, 2021 at 05:40 PM

NG

“ So sorry to hear of your loss and will be praying for your family during this difficult time. - Nancy Gray-Gajan

Nancy Gray-Gajan - June 22, 2021 at 02:38 PM

JC

“ my father Bobbie Starns really enjoyed working for your father at the walls unit.

Jeanette Starns Collard - June 22, 2021 at 12:42 PM

JC

“ Prayers for your family . My father Bobbie Starns really enjoy working for him at the Walls Unit.

Jeanette Starns Collars - June 22, 2021 at 12:41 PM

RK

“ Ramona Koch lit a candle in memory of Mr Jack Benford Pursley



Ramona Koch - June 22, 2021 at 05:23 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr Jack Benford Pursley.



June 21, 2021 at 09:12 PM



“ Dear Betty Jo and Family, I am so sorry for your loss. May God give you peace, strength and comfort during this difficult time. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Carol Nichols - June 21, 2021 at 06:42 PM



“ Prayers are with the family/friends, May God wrap you in His loving arms and give you peace and comfort.

Bridgette (Neeley) Clay - June 21, 2021 at 04:26 PM



“ Clay Nash and family purchased the Guiding Light Bouquet for the family of Mr Jack Benford Pursley.



Clay Nash and family - June 21, 2021 at 02:05 PM

BN

“ *Betty Jo. So sorry to read about Jackie. My thoughts and prayers are with your family.*



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**beverly conner niederhofer** - June 21, 2021 at 01:48 PM

CT

“ *Sending my deepest sympathy to your family. I know he will be greatly missed.  
My prayers are with you.  
Cathy Pursley Taylor*

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**Cathy Pursley Taylor** - June 21, 2021 at 01:46 PM

DM

“ *Doyle & Debbie McElvaney purchased the Pink P  
otpourri Bouquet for the family of Mr Jack  
Benford Pursley.*



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**Doyle & Debbie McElvaney** - June 21, 2021 at 12:34 PM

SW

“ Dear Pursleys,  
We are profoundly sorry to hear this. We LOVED The Warden and your whole family. We have many fabulous memories of being guests in your home, the fair-on-the-square, the prison rodeo and more. The Warden was a fun combo of hospitality and dry wit - with a flip side of all business, the walking definition of what a warden should be. He cracked us up. We love you so very much and have you in our prayers. XOXO <><  
Sally and Rick Wamre, Dallas, Texas

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**Sally Wamre** - June 21, 2021 at 12:11 PM

WS

“ Andrea and I send our sincerest condolences to the Pursley family. We are praying for God's blessings on this family during this trying time.

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**Wayne and Andrea Scott** - June 21, 2021 at 12:05 PM

DH

“ Betty Jo & Family,  
  
I'm so sorry about the loss of Jack. I'll be praying for all of you during this difficult time.

*Donna Haney*

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**Donna Haney** - June 21, 2021 at 11:47 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mr Jack Benford Pursley.*



June 21, 2021 at 11:03 AM



“ *Larry Kyle family purchased the Peace Eternal Wreath for the family of Mr Jack Benford Pursley.*



**Larry Kyle family** - June 21, 2021 at 09:41 AM



“ *Peace Eternal Wreath was purchased for the family of Mr Jack Benford Pursley.*



June 20, 2021 at 05:59 PM



“ *Thomas And Jennie Hayman lit a candle in memory of Mr Jack Benford Pursley*



**Thomas and Jennie Hayman** - June 20, 2021 at 04:36 PM

WW

“ Wesley and Julie Warner purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Mr Jack Benford Pursley.



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**Wesley and Julie Warner** - June 20, 2021 at 04:10 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Mr Jack Benford Pursley.



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June 20, 2021 at 04:04 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Mr Jack Benford Pursley.



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June 20, 2021 at 03:59 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Mr Jack Benford Pursley.



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June 20, 2021 at 03:51 PM

DB

“ We were sorry to learn of Jack's passing, and we extend our deepest sympathies to his family. We can take comfort in the knowledge that Jack is no longer suffering and he is now enjoying the company of his Maker.

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**Dan Beto** - June 20, 2021 at 03:46 PM

BL

“ My sincere condolences to Betty Jo and family. I enjoyed working with Jack during my time at the Walls, even the chases we went on together. Without his understanding and support for doing so I would not have finished all of my college. Bob Lampert

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**Bob Lampert** - June 20, 2021 at 03:03 PM

AM

“ Jackie was a fine man. He and Betty are both special to me. Jackie and Charles were some of the greatest Hornets ever. Jackie and I would call and check on each other very month. Prayers and Best Regards to the entire family. Love, Ann Mallery

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**Ann C. Mallery** - June 20, 2021 at 11:38 AM

MF

“ Marilyn Wallace and Family purchased the County Basket Blooms for the family of Mr Jack Benford Pursley.



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**Marilyn Wallace and Family** - June 20, 2021 at 11:19 AM

MH

“ *Marvin Hyvl sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr Jack Benford Pursley*



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**Marvin Hyvl** - June 20, 2021 at 10:55 AM

EP

“ *I met Jack in the Spring 1957 when I started at Sam. He and Bill Terrell had a small service station by the campus on Sam Houston Ave.. Our paths crossed again in 1980 when Jack and I served on the HISD Board. We enjoyed many laughs, as well as tears while serving. My condolences to the family. Jack was a great fun guy.*

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**Eugene Poldrack** - June 19, 2021 at 07:03 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr Jack Benford Pursley.*



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June 19, 2021 at 06:12 PM