



Jerry Lynn Spence

October 24, 1946 - July 3, 2023

After a very valiant battle with cancer, Jerry Spence passed away on Monday, July 3rd, 2023. Jerry was born in Tyler, TX, to Marvin & Pauline Spence. After graduating from John Tyler High School, Jerry got a bachelor's degree from Columbia University in New York City, a master's degree from Union College in Theology & Psychology, and finally a law degree from University of Texas. He worked for the Texas Railroad Commission in Austin before moving to Houston to work at Bracewell & Patterson. He eventually left to open his own law office and was an AV Preeminent rated lawyer for 35 years. Jerry was a wonderful ballroom dancer, which is how he met his wife Kitty, and he was also a board member of his neighborhood home owners associations both in Houston and, later, in Willis.

Jerry retired to live in Willis, TX, in 2020. He is survived by his wife Kitty Harvey Spence, his sons Jonathan Spence of Webster and Daniel Spence & wife Elizabeth Howland of Austin, brother & sister-in-law Rusty & Nathalie Spence of Katy, sister Nancy Horton of Tyler, nephew Matthew Horton of Tyler, Matthew's wife Andrea, and their children Spencer & Annabelle.

Kitty asks that attendees wear comfortable, bright summer attire, in honor of Jerry. A graveside service will be held on Monday July 10, 2023 at 10:00am at Smith Memorial Park on the grounds of Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home in Willis, TX. Memorial condolences to the family may be made at www.

shmfh.com.

Cemetery Details

Smith Memorial Park

10129 FM 1097 Rd W
Willis, TX 77318

Previous Events

Graveside Service

JUL **10**. 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Smith Memorial Park
10129 FM 1097 Rd W
Willis, TX 77318

Tribute Wall

CP

“ Jerry was a man of many talents and very many interests. He had an eye for capturing the commonplace and making them into extraordinary photographic images. I was often struck by how he “saw” things that way. He was also a fellow genealogist that introduced me, many years ago, to the idea of “online” genealogy. He shared family history and we got to tackle some of his family mysteries. I will always remember the trip he and Kitty and I took together to Lee County, Va., and Harlan Co., Ky., to see where his ancestors lived. What a great adventure, and I am thankful they let me share that with them. But most of all I am thankful that Kitty and Jerry found each other and for how happy Jerry made my little sister.

Ceci Pfister - July 13, 2023 at 03:21 PM

NC

“ Jerry Spence

Besides being a lawyer, husband, brother, father, and friend, Jerry was also an avid animal enthusiast who enjoyed watching his humming birds, loved feeding his kitties, loved having his kitties sleep in his lap; however, he adored his wife Kitty.

Jerry was my brother-in-law and we always talked (or joked) about being married to the Pfister girls, as I am married to Kitty's sister. It was one of our bonding methods used as we grew to like and come to know one another. We became friends, creating a trusting relationship, and eventually learning to love each other as brothers.

Jerry was an educated and a caring man who spoke highly of his family and I would always see a sense of pride when he spoke of them. He enjoyed saying what was on his mind about anything and everything. I enjoyed listening to his conversations and his tirades. As I think about it, I would say he was quite the orator and entertainer. He enjoyed sharing facts or stories with his friends and family, with everyone. It was always enjoyable without lecturing.

Jerry loved Kitty! He loved Kitty. He said it often.

On July 3, 2023, shortly after Jerry passed away, it rained in Willis, Texas. My interpretation was that the rain drops were tears of sorrow and tears of joy from the angels, because Jerry had been taken from us, but he was then welcomed to heaven.

I love you Jerry, and I will miss you.

Noe Carbajal - July 06, 2023 at 09:28 PM

RS

“ From Ronald Scott:

Jerry and I were "best friends" starting early in Sophomore year at John Tyler High, and in many ways we still are. A few months ago Jerry prepared and sent a chronology describing the ways our lives intersected over the years, and it was truly amazing to both of us. Our first friendship came through Nancy. I went to the Spence home to meet up with Jerry, who I did not previously know, and I was treated to a battle royal brother and sister argument. I had no siblings and I was jealous of the Spence family dynamic. I injected myself into their family and stayed friends with them for years. Jerry and I studied together, played together and enjoyed each other's company at every opportunity. Mostly we talked and thought about our future plans; influenced by older students and the excitement of life beyond Tyler. By the time we were seniors we had both pretty well decided to attend Columbia University in New York City. Jerry stayed with his intent, but I finally set on Baylor. After four years of college we came together again at Southern Baptist Seminary at Ft. Worth. Fortunately we were expelled after a disagreement with the Dean of Students. We then decided jointly to transfer to Union Theological Seminary, a part of Columbia. While playing handball one day we discovered to our surprise that without each other's knowledge we had both secured entry into University of Texas Law School. It was clear that we were both becoming overeducated and we each decided, again completely independently, that we had gone to school long enough. After graduation I joined Bracewell/Patterson law firm and Jerry set off on an independent path. We did not bond again for several years until Jerry joined Bracewell. I am grateful for the many twists of fate that brought us together in our lives; these are just a few examples.

Ronald Scott - July 06, 2023 at 07:10 PM

MM

“ I was in the same youth group at First Baptist Church in Tyler as well as attending the same high school. Jerry and I were also in a small Bible study group together, and we often ate lunch together. Prayers for comfort for your family.

Margaret Moffett - July 06, 2023 at 10:54 AM