



Raye Ellen Tilley

August 15, 1950 - March 4, 2021

Raye Ellen McLendon Tilley, 70, of Huntsville, went home to be with the Lord on March 4, 2021.

Raye was born on August 15, 1950, in Cameron, TX, to Basil Ray (Mac) and Dorothy Geneva McLendon. Her family resided in Milano and Rockdale during her early years. They moved to Brenham, TX when she was in junior high. She graduated from Brenham High School and attended Blinn College in Brenham.

While attending Blinn, she met Riley Tilley, a tall cowboy from Colorado City, TX. They married after dating for three months and recently celebrated 51 years of marriage.

For over 30 years, Raye worked at The Texas Department of Criminal Justice and Windham School District. When Raye was not working, she was an avid reader; loved to bowl, cook, laugh, and spend time with her family – especially her grandkids. Raye had a tremendous love for animals, raising numerous cats and dogs and helping countless others over the years.

She is preceded in death by her parents; brother, Edward McLendon; and in-laws, Willis and Nancy Tilley.

Survivors include husband, Riley Tilley of Huntsville; sons Jeff Tilley and wife Mary of McKinney, Steven Tilley and wife Kari of Huntsville; sisters Buffie McLendon and Owen Krause of Kenney, and Kelly (McLendon) Oosterbaan and husband Hans of Fredericksburg; and best friends Joe and Cheryl Lawson of Huntsville. Raye also leaves behind numerous cousins, nephews,

nieces, and many other wonderful friends whom she loved dearly.

Her greatest joy was being a grandmother. Known as "Gammy" to her grandchildren, she leaves behind grandsons Halen and Logan Tilley, and granddaughters Kennedy and Kate Tilley.

Visitation will be held at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home in Huntsville, TX on Friday, March 12, 2021 from 5 to 7 PM. A funeral service will be held on Saturday, March 13, 2021 at 10 AM, at Calvary Baptist Church of Huntsville, with Pastor James Featherstone officiating. Burial will follow at the Mayes Addition of Oakwood Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions be made to the Lone Star Dog Ranch or to your local animal shelter

Condolences to family may be made at www.shmfh.com

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 12. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

Services

MAR 13. 10:00 AM (CT)

Calvary Baptist Church of Huntsville
1135 US-190
Huntsville, TX 77320

Interment will follow service

MAR 13 (CT)

Mayes Addition of Oakwood Cemetery
800 Martin Luther King BLVD.
Huntsville, TX 77320

Tribute Wall



“ *Raye Ellen Tilley*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *I just found out about Raye, my friend. Although I have been gone from Texas and TDCJ for over 30 years, I remember Raye and think of her often. I was just telling someone recently about the time we had played hockey from work and went to a Houston Astros game. We just knew one of us would win the car being given away, but we're afraid we'd be shown on the jumbotron screen. What a laugh. We had so much fun.
Rest in peace my friend.
Sheryl (Jones) Foster*

Sheryl - October 05, 2021 at 04:55 PM



“ *I just found out about the loss of my friend a few hours ago. I am so sad. She truly will be missed. She was such a beautiful loving caring human. I spoke to her sometime in sept. She sounded so great. She always looked and found the good in everything. I am so grateful and blessed I had the privileged to have had the chance too have her touch my life. God bless u and my prays to her entire family. Especially Riley . She always talked about her grandkids she loved them all so much. SHE WILL BE MISSED, REST NOW
„MUCH LOVE Stacy aka Kiki*

STACY TUOHY - March 26, 2021 at 03:13 PM

LA

“ So very sorry to hear about Raye! Riley, you and your family are in our prayers during this time. — Lynn and Armando

Lynn Ayala - March 13, 2021 at 10:44 PM

MM

“ Mr. Tilley and Steven,

My thoughts and prayers are with you. I have many fond memories as band parents. May God comfort you during this time.

Mertha McHenry - March 12, 2021 at 10:54 PM

AW

“ My deepest condolences and prayers for the Tilley family during this difficult time. Raye was such a sweet and kind woman and she will be missed tremendously.

Andrew Wolverton - March 12, 2021 at 10:38 PM

SR

“ Dear Riley and Steven,
We are so sad to hear of Raye's passing. Wolf loved working with Raye and remembers her so fondly. Please know we will keep your family in our prayers.

Susan and Wolf Retzlaff - March 12, 2021 at 03:08 PM

MA

“ Mike, Debbie, Matt, Dillon and Abby purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Raye Ellen Tilley.



Mike, Debbie, Matt, Dillon and Abby - March 12, 2021 at 12:35 PM

LM

“ Raye was one of the most special people I've ever had the privilege of knowing. It was always a joy to spend time with Raye - whether at the office or at the beach. Her laughter was infection and her heart huge. She will be so missed.

Lynne Mosley

Lynne Mosley - March 12, 2021 at 10:11 AM

JH

“ Riley, I have always admired Raye. She was a very special person. I am so sorry for your loss.

Jeannie Hightower - March 11, 2021 at 11:50 PM

JH

“ Jeannie Hightower lit a candle in memory of Raye Ellen Tilley



Jeannie Hightower - March 11, 2021 at 11:47 PM



“ *Vivid Recollections* was purchased for the family of Raye Ellen Tilley.



March 11, 2021 at 08:21 PM



“ *Sara Creagor* purchased the *Emerald Garden Basket* for the family of Raye Ellen Tilley.



Sara Creagor - March 11, 2021 at 05:37 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Raye Ellen Tilley.



March 11, 2021 at 08:48 AM



“ *Guy, Jael, Sadie, & Sophie Prothro* purchased the *Full Of Love Bouquet* for the family of Raye Ellen Tilley.



Guy, Jael, Sadie, & Sophie Prothro - March 10, 2021 at 06:09 PM

JM

“ Dear Riley.... You and Raye were our first friends when we moved to Huntsville. Quickly Jeff and Matt were playing baseball together and you were coaching. I will always remember Raye and her kindness, positive attitude, and her laughter. We were so saddened to hear of her passing. You two knew a great love and devotion to each other and how you cared for her all these months. Our hearts are grieving with you; and we are lifting you and all her family in our prayers for comfort and peace. Ed and Jo Anna

Jo Anna McMenemy - March 10, 2021 at 05:02 PM



“ Sweet Sincerity was purchased for the family of Raye Ellen Tilley.



March 10, 2021 at 04:41 PM

DM

“ Dawn Bradley Moore lit a candle in memory of Raye Ellen Tilley



Dawn Bradley Moore - March 10, 2021 at 03:34 PM

BL

“ Riley, Buffie, Kelly and family, so sorry for your loss. Bill and Bonnie Blum

Blums - March 10, 2021 at 02:08 PM

KE

Bill and Bonnie, I'm just now seeing this. Thank you for your kind words. Much love...Kelly

kelly - July 23, 2021 at 09:56 PM

DW

“ *Riley, so sorry for your loss. God bless you and your family during this difficult time.* ”



Deb Williams - March 10, 2021 at 10:36 AM

HB

“ *Steven, I am so sorry to hear the passing of your mother. May the Lord comfort and keep watch over Kari, Logan, Kate and you during this hard time.* ”



Heddi Bonham - March 09, 2021 at 10:49 AM

FA

“ *Frank AuBuchon lit a candle in memory of Raye Ellen Tilley* ”



Frank AuBuchon - March 09, 2021 at 10:38 AM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Raye Ellen Tilley.*



March 08, 2021 at 07:31 PM



“ *Martha Grisham lit a candle in memory of Raye Ellen Tilley*



Martha Grisham - March 08, 2021 at 03:27 PM



“ *Divine Light was purchased for the family of Raye Ellen Tilley.*



March 08, 2021 at 01:50 PM



“ *Riley,so very sorry to hear of Raye’s passing. I treasure my time I worked with her and she will always be one of my favorite people.*
Gregg

Gregg Bush - March 08, 2021 at 12:50 PM

CS

“ *Riley, I am so sad to learn of Raye's passing. My prayers will be with you and your family during this heartbreaking time.*
Carol Shaw, a Westridge neighbor

Carol Shaw - March 08, 2021 at 10:13 AM

RK

“ *Ramona Koch lit a candle in memory of Raye Ellen Tilley*



Ramona Koch - March 08, 2021 at 12:23 AM

LA

“ *Rest in peace my dear friend.*
Linda Parish Andrews



Linda Parish Andrews - March 07, 2021 at 11:11 PM

DN

“ *David and Neva purchased the Dawn of Remembrance Basket for the family of Raye Ellen Tilley.*



David and Neva - March 07, 2021 at 10:01 PM

TM

“ Tommy and Cathy Martin purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Raye Ellen Tilley.



Tommy and Cathy Martin - March 07, 2021 at 09:12 PM

CH

“ Riley I'm so sorry to hear of Rayes passing. I pray that God gives you strength as you go through this journey. Raye was a sweetheart . You two were the perfect pair. Sorry I won't get to come to the service I'm in bed with a ruptured disk. I Send you my love , prayers and condolences. God bless!

carolyn cooksey hanselman - March 07, 2021 at 11:59 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Raye Ellen Tilley.



March 07, 2021 at 11:46 AM

AS

“ Allen and I were so sorry to hear of Raye's passing. She was a sweet and loving lady. May God watch over you and your family and giver you peace and comfort.

Allen & Noma Sylvester - March 07, 2021 at 11:18 AM

AS

“ *Allen & Noma Sylvester lit a candle in
memory of Raye Ellen Tilley*



Allen & Noma Sylvester - March 07, 2021 at 11:09 AM

MW

“ Riley & Family: I am so sorry to hear of your loss. Raye was such a wonderful person to be around. She had such a beautiful smile & was so kind to everyone. I was blessed to be able to work in the same building (the old Medical Arts building—Inmate Records) at my first job with TDCJ with Raye. Then, my second job with TDCJ, I worked with Riley in Inmate Trust Fund/Commissary when the department was at TDCJ Headquarters. From there, I worked the rest of my 24 1/2 years in TDCJ HR where our paths still crossed from time to time (even at the ballpark). After retirement I enjoyed keeping up with your family on FB & when we would see each other at Dr. Ward’s office. Raye had such a positive attitude no matter what she was dealing with medically & she talked so highly about how Riley was being such a precious caregiver to her. Raye loved Riley, their children & grandchildren. Raye fought a good fight with the help of Riley & family. It is so hard to be the sick patient but it is also hard to be the caregiver. My husband was sick with cancer of the jaw for over 11 years before he passed away 10 years ago. I can relate to what Raye & Riley have gone through in the recent years. I look up to & appreciate Riley taking such wonderful care of Raye. “In sickness & in health” is an important vow that not everyone can handle. It takes a real man/woman to follow through when this happens in life. Riley-thanks for taking that vow serious & taking such good care of Raye. I know she really loved & appreciated you & all you did for her. RIP Raye. You will be missed on this earth, but we will see you again some day!



Mellicent (Sikes) Wiley - March 07, 2021 at 09:56 AM

GC

“ You have my deepest sympathy Riley. Prayers that you will find peace and comfort in knowing Raye is truly at peace and in the presence of our King.

Georgiann Christopher - March 07, 2021 at 01:55 AM

LO

“ It has been many years since I have seen Raye, but I remember her sweet smile. She was a very special lady. Praying for Riley and your family.

Lynda Langston Owen - March 07, 2021 at 12:55 AM

JM

“ We are so sorry for your loss. I remember many times I spoke with Ms Tilley at TDCJ when I was working with Parole. She was always a delight to talk with. May God Bless you during this time with much love and peace. Judith, Larry Miller Jr



Judith D Miller - March 06, 2021 at 09:49 PM

BC

“ Thoughts and prayers are with you. In memories we find comfort, in time we find peace.



Bridgette (Neeley) Clay - March 06, 2021 at 09:20 PM

JJ

“ She was such a wonderful and sweet person. Enjoyed her sweet smile and friendship when we worked at TDCJ. Prayers for Riley and family.

Jacquelin Jordan - March 06, 2021 at 04:15 PM

TS

“ I worked with Raye from the start to finish at TDCJ. She always had a smile on her face and made me laugh when I felt like crying. Raye never let anyone down. Riley, you are the ultimate husband! Prayers for you and all your family.

Terri Salmasi - March 06, 2021 at 02:25 PM

DG

“ Our deepest condolences to Riley and family. I will always have fond memories of working with Raye and Riley at TDCJ. Raye had a sweet soul. May you find peace and comfort in your memories.
Donna and John Gilbert

Donna Gilbert - March 06, 2021 at 01:24 PM

BS

“ Raye and I were part of a girls group that went to the beach every year. Oh what fantastic memories, we always laughed till we cried. Raye came with her world famous chicken salad and a stack of trashy tabloid magazines that we all pored over for hours. Riley, we are going to miss your girl. You were the best husband any woman could wish for. Sending up prayers for you and your family.

Beverly Stewart - March 06, 2021 at 12:56 PM



“ As a good matchmaker, Raye arranged a blind date with me and one of her co-workers, Jay. After we married and had a daughter we named her after Raye! So this sweet lady had a tremendous influence in my life. She was lucky to have such a devoted husband who was her caregiver.

Dena Byrd - March 06, 2021 at 12:20 PM

DN

“ Dorothy Nichols sent a virtual gift in memory of Raye Ellen Tilley



Dorothy Nichols - March 06, 2021 at 11:44 AM

DN

“ My deepest sympathy to the family of Raye McLendon. I am so saddened to learn of Raye's passing. Raye put up a good fight to get well, but God saw she needed rest, so He called her home. May you find peace in the knowledge that she is well now, with a healed body. I pray that you will feel the loving Father's arms around you, and that HIS love will sustain you during this time of grief. She will always be remembered for her beautiful smile and her love for her family and friends. May God Bless You with his Peace.,
Sincerely, Dorothy J. (Reader)
Nichols

Dorothy Nichols - March 06, 2021 at 11:43 AM

SS

“ Sue Sprott lit a candle in memory of Raye Ellen Tilley



Sue Sprott - March 06, 2021 at 11:35 AM

MH

“ *M. Hyvl sent a virtual gift in memory of Raye Ellen Tilley*



M. Hyvl - March 06, 2021 at 11:33 AM