



Robert "Tuffy" Cornell Oliphant

November 7, 1924 - February 4, 2013

Robert Cornell "Tuffy" Oliphant Robert Cornell "Tuffy" Oliphant, 88, of Huntsville, Texas, passed away on January 30, 2013 in Huntsville, Texas. Mr. Oliphant was born on November 7, 1924, in Shiro, Texas to Curtis Oliphant and Gertrude Leigh Oliphant. He is preceded in death by his parents, sister Erma, and brothers Curtis and Wendell. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, LaVera; sons Robert Jr. and Jonathan Reed; grandchildren Chase and Caly Reed. "Tuffy" loved sports. He was a 1942 graduate of Huntsville High School and while there, he was a 3 year starter and letterman in football and basketball. In football, he was twice All District, All Region, and All Southeast Texas. He was the recipient of the Roy Sandell trophy for most outstanding player and was elected to the All Century Hornet team. After graduation, he joined the Merchant Marines and was selected for officer training in the Army Transportation Corps. Because he wanted a more active role in the war after he was commissioned, he obtained a release and joined the Marine Corps. Upon completion of boot camp he was placed in V-12, an officer training program, and was sent to Southwestern Louisiana Institute and then to the University of North Carolina where he was a football letterman and member of the basketball "B" team. After the war, he received several offers from major colleges but signed with Sam Houston State to be near family. He also received an invitation from one of the pro teams to attend training camp. He graduated from Sam Houston State with a BBA degree, was a football letterman, and president of the senior class. After graduation in 1948, he was

employed by Shell Oil for 34 years. He was a lifetime member of First Baptist Church in Huntsville, Texas. Funeral services for Mr. Oliphant will be held Monday, February 4, 2013, 1:00 p.m., at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home Chapel in Huntsville, Texas. Interment will follow at Independence Cemetery in Shiro, Texas. He will lie in state before the service on Monday, February 4, 2013, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., with family receiving friends from 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m., at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home. Those wishing to leave memorial condolences for the family may do so at www.shmfh.com

Tribute Wall



“ Robert "Tuffy" Cornell Oliphant

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ LaVera, I hope you remember me. We worked together at Westinghouse. The last time that I saw you was at a Shell Christmas dance, many years ago. Jack left Shell years ago to go into private practice and is still doing it!! I know that your husband was a very special man but know he is in a good place now. Take care of yourself.

Carlene and Jack Thompson

Carlene Thompson - February 04, 2013 at 03:57 PM



“ I was sorry to read of Bob's passing in the paper yesterday. I worked with Bob in the early 1970's while we were with Shell. I always found him to be a sage adviser and one who never hesitated to help those new to the organization. I will remember Bob with fondness and admiration. My wife and I extend our sympathy to your family.

*Sincerely,
Dick Broderick, Houston*

Richard Broderick - February 04, 2013 at 01:45 PM



“ Dear LaVera,
It has been over 30 years since we last spoke as we used to work for Westinghouse Credit Corporation together (you in Houston and me in Dallas). Saw that your husband passed away in the paper today and wanted to give you my condolences as I remember you talking about many times in our telephone conversations. I am sorry to read this.

*Nathan Margolis
Houston, Texas*

February 03, 2013 at 02:00 PM



“ *A 32 year friendship with Jonathan has made me feel like I knew Cornell fairly well. I only had the privilege of meeting him in person a few times, but when I was with him I knew I was in the presence of a very special person. My wife and I would like to send our condolences from North Carolina to Jonathan, his mother and all his family at this time of loss.*

Love Nick and Carol Piornack

NICK J. PIORNACK - February 02, 2013 at 05:32 PM

SW

“ Cornell, or rather, "Uncle Tuffy" to me, was a special person to us. He is going to be missed by many.

Uncle Tuffy told us some funny & adventurous stories through the years. I remember when I was younger, Mom & Dad, (Dorothy & Curtis), and my family would sometimes go and visit him at the home he had in Shiro. We had fun riding the horses, watching the beautiful peacocks and the cool animals out there. Uncle Tuffy always welcomed us with a smile, hug, and open arms.

Even though he will no longer "physically" be with us on this Earth, his memory will live in our hearts forever. I can just see him being greeted at Heaven's gates by his brothers, sister, parents, and Jesus, with open arms.

Uncle Tuffy, we love you. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. You are at peace now and will suffer no more. You will be missed.

Susan Oliphant Williams (& our family)

Susan Oliphant Williams - January 31, 2013 at 10:57 PM