



Virgil Sowell

June 22, 1921 - January 10, 2008

Virgil Odell Sowell, 86, passed away in Georgetown, Texas, Monday, January 7, 2008. He was born at Cobbs Creek, Madison County, Texas, June 22, 1921, to John Onan and Alpha Dickey Sowell. The family moved to Huntsville when he was 5 so Virgil could get a college education. Alpha always planned ahead. He attended public schools in Huntsville and graduated from Sam Houston State Teachers College in 1943 with a degree in agriculture. He began work at Sam Houston in 1942 in the maintenance department. In 1943 he began teaching auto mechanics and farm machinery repair in the War Production Program, and continued work on his masters degree. After the war he taught in the Josey Vocational School. He later became director of maintenance at Sam Houston. He retired in 1980. After his retirement he worked at the Huntsville Memorial Hospital in maintenance until 1997. He and his wife, Joyce, had a frame and ceramic shop. In 1949, he married Joyce Elaine Davis, in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Milling in Madisonville. They had 52 wonderful years together, until her death in 2001. The light of his life was his two daughters, Teresa Lynn and Lori Elaine. He was very talented in "fixing" things. As a child he tinkered with all kinds of tools and machinery. All his friends called on him to help them fix whatever was broken. He was talented in heavy machinery. He was as much at home on top of a bulldozer or maintainer as he was in a jeep or truck. The family never knew what to expect he would be driving next. After the war, Sam Houston President Harmon Lowman, had a talent for buying army surplus for \$1.00. It was Virgil's

job to take an 18 wheeler and go wherever and pick up these purchases and bring them back to Huntsville. He had some very interesting experiences and stories to tell about these trips. His hobby was model trains. He had an elaborate setup of trains that he loved to share with his grandchildren and others. Virgil was a faithful member of the First Baptist Church, where he served as a Deacon. Virgil was preceded in death by his parents, his brother Brady Onan Sowell and his beloved Joyce. He is survived by his daughters: Teresa Lynn Glenn and husband Steve, of Georgetown, and Lori Elaine Mentzel and husband Tim, of Waxahachie. Grandchildren: Kimberly Ann Mahlke and husband Travis, of Georgetown; Kevin Lee Glenn, of College Station; Kyle James Mentzel and Courtney Elizabeth Mentzel, of Waxahachie. Sister: Johnnie Jo Dickenson and husband J. D. of Huntsville. Three nephews: John Euell Sowell and wife Etta, of Vidor; Charles Wayne Sowell and wife Regena, of Denson Springs; and, Joe Brady Sowell and wife Charlotte, of Vidor. Also several great nephews and nieces and numerous cousins. Visitation will be Wednesday evening, January 9, 2008, 5:00 to 7:00 P. M. at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home, 1700 Normal Park Drive. Services for Virgil Sowell will be conducted from Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home Chapel, Thursday, January 10, 2008, at 10:00 A. M., with the Rev. Carroll Williams officiating. Burial will follow at Brooke Cemetery. Pallbearers will be John Sowell, Charles Sowell, Joe Sowell, Kyle Mentzel, Kevin Glenn and Travis Mahlke. In lieu of usual remembrances the family request donation be made to the Campus Crusade for Christ, Att: Contributions, P. O. Box 628222, Orlando, FL 32862-8222, or the American Heart Association, 10060 Buffalo Speedway, Houston 77054. Those wishing to leave memorial condolences for the family may do so at www.shmfh.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Virgil Sowell*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *Virgil Sowell*

February 04, 2008 at 10:36 AM



“ *Teresa, Lori & families, Our family is praying for you with the loss of your father. Your dad always made us feel welcome in your home.*

Claire & Tom Meador - January 09, 2008 at 11:00 PM



“ *Your father sounded like a very special man...I know he was because he has left you to continue on with his legacy. My thoughts are with you...ever need to talk...call me as my daddy died four years ago and yet it seems only four heartbeats have passed.*
bjp

Brenda Jean Patrick - January 09, 2008 at 10:01 PM



“ *Teresa and Lori and families, So sorry to learn of you loss. I worked in the Maintenance Department at SHSU for 23 yers and knew your dad very well. He was a friend and fellow worker who I respected.*

All of you are in my thoughts and prayers.

Kathryn Thomson McNa - January 09, 2008 at 08:52 PM

KM

“ Teresa and Lori and families, So sorry to learn of you loss. I worked in the Maintenance Department at SHSU for 23 yers and knew your dad very well. He was a friend and fellow worker who I respected.

All of you are in my thoughts

Kathryn Thomson McNa - January 09, 2008 at 08:51 PM

SM

“ We are thinking of you and your family you are in our prayers. from:
Ashley and Shelly Michael

Shelly and Ashley Michael - January 08, 2008 at 10:38 PM

CS

“ Dear Lori and family,

Even though I did not know your dad personally, I feel like I did through the stories you have shared with me at school. I could relate to them since my dad is 88. You have some wonderful stories to remember him by. Please continue to share your stories about your parents with me. We will remember you and all of your family members in our prayers.

Cathy and Rocky Schultz - January 08, 2008 at 10:09 PM

EO

“ Lori & Tim,
You are all in my prayers during this difficult time. I only knew your father through the wonderful stories you both shared, but it is clear he was well loved. May the years, memories, and the love you both shared with him bring you comfort now.
Elaine Owens - Midlothian, TX.

Elaine Owens - January 08, 2008 at 06:10 PM

TF

“ Keeping you in our thoughts and prayers. Don't hesitate to ask if you want or need anything. We're here for you.
Love,
Theresa

Theresa Gossett & Family - January 08, 2008 at 05:28 PM

LF

“ Lori and family,
You are in our hearts and prayers this week. Call if you need any help getting assignments for the kids. Austin can pick up things in the MHS office if teachers need to leave anything and I can drive them by your house.
Remember the good times and know your father in is God's loving hands.
Lisa Floyd

Lisa Floyd - January 08, 2008 at 12:53 PM

TP

“ Dear Lori and Family:
You are in our hearts and prayers. Please let us know if we can do anything for you.
Love,
Nichole & Kevin

The Penners - January 08, 2008 at 12:02 PM

BC

“ Dear Lori,

We are lifting you up in prayer today as you prepare for your precious father's funeral. I know that he was truly a wonderful man because of the respectful and loving way you and Tim have always spoke about him. But more importantly, I know this by watching your life and character, Lori. Your kindness, gentle spirit, joy, faithfulness, selflessness, I am sure are the result of a loving, Godly father and mother. Our hearts ache with you in your loss but also rejoice in heaven's gain.

*All our love,
Beth and Jay Childs
Midlothian, Tx*

Beth and Jay Childs - January 08, 2008 at 11:04 AM

NJ

“ So very sorry for the loss of Mr. Sowell. He was a man of character and much knowledge. Norma Dell & Jerry D. Jones of Lovelady-- formerly of Huntsville.

Norma Dell & Jerry D. Jones - January 07, 2008 at 04:31 PM