



William Ray Hardy

November 15, 1927 - October 30, 2013

Ray Hardy Born November 15, 1927, to Dan and Iris Hardy, Ray Hardy came into this world making waves...waves of laughter in his boyhood home in New Waverly, Texas, waves of service in the Navy, and waves of progress in a career lasting 41 years in the District Clerks Office of Harris County. He died, 10/27/2013, at age 85. He is survived by his Wife, Mary Elizabeth ("Connie") Hardy; his Son, David Hardy; his Daughter-in-law, Phyllis Hardy; and his Grandchild, Gabrielle Leslie Hardy. He is preceded in death by his Son, Leslie Hardy, and his Sister, Dorothy Martin. He served in the Navy for two years, and was honorably discharged in 1946. He then began college at Sam Houston State Teachers College. He met and married Mary Elizabeth Conner in 1949. Mary Elizabeth, "Connie," had always said she would never marry a politician or a farmer. She never said she would not marry both. He started work in the Harris County District Clerk's office as a temporary typist in 1949, eventually working in every department. In 1967, he was appointed District Clerk of Harris Co. by a unanimous vote of the judges to fulfill the unexpired term of the late R.J. (Dick) Lindsey. He retired from the position of District Clerk of Harris County in January, 1990. And, in the course of his career, Ray Hardy traveled from pen and ink, when all court cases were indexed by hand, to the optical disk - the "wave" of future document recording, well before the home PC was an item. His zeal for progress brought many improvements to the District Clerk's Office and better service to the public. Throughout their marriage, Ray and Connie also ran the family ranch in New Waverly, TX and

taught their sons how to care for the ranch and how to live as free thinking individuals, i.e. DEMOCRATS. Ray never met a stranger, and would talk to everyone, sometimes much to our and their dismay. Ray challenged everyone to do more than they thought possible and to look and plan for the future. His presence and his inspiration will be missed. Love you, Husband, Dad, Father-in-Law, Grandfather, & Friend. Visitation will be 5-7 PM Tuesday, October 29, 2013 and Funeral Services will be 10AM Wednesday, October 30, 2013 at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home in Huntsville, TX (1700 Normal Park, Huntsville, TX. Phone: 936-291-7300). Burial will immediately follow at Old Waverly Cemetery. Those wishing to leave memorial condolences for the family may do so at www.shmfh.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *William Ray Hardy*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *I served as First Assistant Harris County Attorney in Mike Driscoll's office from 1987 to 1996. From 1982 through 1985 I served as Chief of the Tax Division in that office. In both capacities I had many occasions to work with Ray, especially in connection with developing computer programs to file delinquent ad valorem tax lawsuits. Ray was one of the most dedicated, hard-working, and intelligent public servants I encountered in 30 years of public service. He was proud of his family, loved his farm, and when he decided that a course of action was the right way to proceed he never wavered. The citizens of Harris County lost a champion when Ray left public service.*

Marsha Floyd - November 08, 2013 at 12:28 PM



“ *Mr. Hardy hired me in 1976 upon the recommendation of attorney Mr. Mills. I was able to go to law school while there and made life long friends. I practiced law, became a representative, and had great kids. He was such a tremendous influence in my life - all without probably even being aware of that. He truly was a community builder and selfless giver. I know you will miss him but he will never be forgotten.*

Sue Schechter - October 31, 2013 at 02:12 PM

DF

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. May God comfort your sorrow .Ray will never be forgotten .

David Hardy and Family - October 30, 2013 at 08:25 PM

MB

“ *.... how to live as free thinking individuals": what beautiful words. I'm a total stranger but one who grew up with Ray Hardy. I was born in 1937 and moved to Houston in June, 1940, as my mother often said "as France was falling". I wish there were more people in our public life like he.*

Marsha Berryman - October 30, 2013 at 11:55 AM

SB

“ *Connie, David & Phyllis, I was saddened when Carolyn told me of Ray's death, but then I felt glad to know he is whole again, in no pain. I shall always remember how much he helped me with the Hardy family genealogy....and the funny stories he always had to share. My daddy loved Ray, but always said, "That boy is full of mischief." Daddy was right, but we would not want him any other way. May our Father grant you peace and strength for the days ahead. Love, Sara*

Sara Hardy Bartee - October 29, 2013 at 10:31 PM

JF

“ *As a beginning lawyer in 1964 I spent lots of time in the criminal division of the Clerk's office and got to know Ray well. Great guy, great Clerk. He and his kind of dedication are sorely missed.*

John Farra - October 29, 2013 at 07:56 PM

DW

“ When I was elected in 1982 as County Clerk of Fort Bend County, I called upon county and district clerks who had been in office at least 10 years to provide expertise in the field of record keeping. Ray was gracious and spent some time with me over his years as district clerk. He always had a smile, a story and a laugh. Thanks Ray for your support and wisdom. You will be missed by many. And thanks Connie and family for sharing him with the public and with his fellow clerks. It was a privilege serving with Ray during his tenure.
Dianne Wilson, County Clerk, Fort Bend County

DIANNE WILSON - October 29, 2013 at 07:53 PM

CC

“ *Our Condolences to the family*

Connie Williams , Dessa Harrison and Buck Reeds Children - October 29, 2013 at 05:21 PM

HT

“ *Faye and I , while receiving news of Ray's passing, felt sorrow in losing a very good and long lasting friend; but know that it was God's Will and Ray's time to receive a well deserved eternal reward. So, Connie, and all the other members of Ray's wonderful family, we send our condolences, love and prayers, and know that, being the good Christians that you are, you accept Our Heavenly Father's Will, and say with you "Thy will be done."*

Hugo and Faye Touchy - October 29, 2013 at 04:16 PM

MR

“ *The Ravens of Sam Houston appreciate Ray's membership, loyalty and his contribution to our fraternity. He was one of the founders.*

Mike Basquette 1957 Raven - October 29, 2013 at 12:30 PM

ED

“ Loretta and I are saddened by Rays passing. Having worked for him for many years where he was my boss he was also my friend. Our prayers and condolences go out to Connie and David.

Ernie Davis - October 29, 2013 at 11:03 AM

WM

“ My condolence to the Hardy Family. May God Bless and keep you during this difficult time. I was honored to have served under the leadership of Ray Hardy from 1972 until the time he retired. Mr. Hardy will always be remembered for the many positive innovations he brought to the District Clerk's office.

Wes McCoy - October 29, 2013 at 10:39 AM

MS

“ Connie, David and Phylis,
I've known all of you since 1968 and have spent some enjoyable times with all of you at the ranch in New Waverly. I always looked forward to spending time with the Hardy Family as you made me feel so welcome. Thank you for those memories. David, Phylis, Teri and I remain friends too this day.
Ray will be missed by all who knew him. I'm so sorry for your loss. May God bless Connie and the entire Hardy Family during this sad time. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Mike & Teri Summers - October 29, 2013 at 09:01 AM

LJ

“ It was an honor to be the only Democrat District Clerk of Harris County since Ray. Much of my senior staff were good folks who started out under Ray's leadership. He led them well! I so cherished the few opportunities I was able to speak to him as a candidate and in office. He was an inspiration to me personally and professionally and his legacy lived on while I was a public servant. His passion for progress and just doing a good job were great teaching tools for the young man I was when elected in 2008.

Ray - may the Creator welcome you into his holy presence with open arms. You won't be forgotten. I'll see you one day and we can share stories. I will pray for your loved ones, that they may have life and have it more abundantly.

Loren Jackson - October 28, 2013 at 06:32 PM

JB

“ Sorry for your loss. Please know how much we care for your family. Bonne, Amy, Angie and John Asbury

john & Bonnie - October 28, 2013 at 04:17 PM

TR

“ Sending my deepest Condolences to the Mr. hardy's family. I can say it was a true pleasure to have served under Mr Hardy. I worked under Mr Hardy from 1981 thur 1990 when he retired, he was the best District Clerk I can remember and he always remember me as the young lady that walked into his office unannounced to ask him to hire me permanent and 32 yrs later I'm still employed with the county. I will always appreciate him for giving me that life changing chance. R I P Mr. Ray Hardy...

Tracey Rankins - October 28, 2013 at 03:27 PM

DM

“ Prayers to the Hardy family. I worked for Mr. Hardy from 1982 through 1990. He was the best District Clerk that ever was. He will be missed. May he rest in peace.

Donna McDaniel - October 28, 2013 at 02:00 PM

JS

“ My condolences to the Hardy family. It was a pleasure to have served Ray Hardy for many years. He was and has been the best District Clerk for Harris County. No one can replace him.

Jackie Struss - October 28, 2013 at 01:55 PM

NR

“ Love to Connie and Family

*Nickie (Wallace) Robbins
472 Muscovy Trail
Livingston, Tx. 77535*

Nickie (wallace) Robbins - October 28, 2013 at 01:48 PM