



William Henry Matchett

February 18, 1932 - August 16, 2011

William H. Matchett was born on February 18, 1932 in Trinity, Texas. He passed away after a lengthy illness on August 10, 2011 in Crockett, Texas. Bill worked hard his entire life. He began working as a young adult on the farm, at the sawmill and in the family chair factory. He joined the United States Army where he proudly served the United States in both the Korean and Vietnam wars as well as many other posts across the United States. Bill also proudly worked for the Texas Department of Corrections for over 20 years at the Huntsville (Walls) Unit. Bill was a recognized leader in the Boy Scouts of America. He proudly honored the organization and tried to shape the lives of many young adults based on the Christian principles of his life that he always illustrated in everything he said and did. He married Lenetta Fayne Hendricks Matchett on January 26, 1958. They were married for 50 years until her death in 2008. He is also preceded in death by his parents James H. and Dora Matchett; two brothers James Donald and Benny Ray Matchett and one sister Inez McLaughlin. Bill is survived by his daughter Patricia Prasifka and husband Thomas of Huntsville, sons William G. Matchett and wife Joy of Huntsville, and Charles A. Matchett and wife Katrice of Quanah. He is also survived by six grandsons James Matchett and wife Tala, Clay Matchett and wife, Morgan, Cory Venable, Thomas Matchett, Kolton Matchett and Cord Matchett; two great-granddaughters, Anjelica Gonzales and Ella Rose Matchett; sister-in-laws Billie Jenkins, Mona Hendricks, Audrey Matchett and brother-in-laws Clay Hendricks and Mac McLaughlin; also numerous cousins,

nieces, nephews and friends. Bill also known as "Papa" Matchett will always be remembered in our hearts. Visitation will be held on Monday, August 15, 2011 from 5:30 to 8:00pm at Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home. The funeral service will be held Tuesday, August 16, 2011 at 10:00am in the chapel of Sam Houston Memorial Funeral Home. Burial will be at Brooks Cemetery in Huntsville, Texas. Pallbearers will be James Matchett, Clay Matchett, Cory Venable, Thomas Matchett, Kolton Matchett, Cord Matchett and Nolan Nichols. The family would like to send a special thanks to Houston County Nursing Home in Crockett, Texas for all the love and support that was given to Bill over the past two years. They are truly wonderful and caring people. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Boy Scouts of America, George Strake District, P.O. Box 1739, Conroe, Texas 77305; or Boy Scouts of America, online at www.scouting.org or the Texas Prison Museum, 491 Hwy 75N, Huntsville, Texas 77320. Memorial condolences may be made at www.shmfh.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *William Henry Matchett*

November 15, 2022 at 08:33 PM



“ *My mother was married to Donald Matchett, brother of 'Uncle Bill' in the '70's. I loved Uncle Bill and Aunt Fayne so much! I remember being at your home for family get-togethers and playing with you boys and Patricia. I would love to be in touch if anyone else would be so inclined. You can look me up on Facebook. <3*

Carrie Gillen

Carrie Gillen - February 16, 2019 at 11:45 AM



“ *I am sorry your father passed away. I first meet him in the early 1980's when I went to work for TDC. My favorite memory is when he played Santa for the children attending the Christmas party for the Data Processing Department of TDC. Bill was a great positive influence to the young and some of older residences of Huntsville. My love and condolences to each of you.*

Patricia Hawes - Hipps - November 19, 2011 at 10:05 PM



“ *Dear Sweet Family,
We were sorry to hear about "Papa". We were out of town when we rec'd the news. His presence will be missed at our scouting events. It was such a blessing to have been able to know Papa Matchett. Our prayers are with you and your family.*

Sylvia Rosenberger - August 27, 2011 at 11:41 AM

SR

“ Charlie, I am very sorry to learn of your dad's passing. I was blessed to know him and your mom through our friendship. Though much time has passed, I never forgot his smile or "larger than life" personality and always felt welcome in your home. I know your family will miss him. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Sherry Chambliss Richardson - August 21, 2011 at 02:43 PM

TH

“ To my Sweet Uncle Bill,
I love you and will miss you more than words can say.....
Tammy

Tammy Matchett Henry - August 18, 2011 at 07:50 PM

DS

“ Patricia:
My deepest sympathies to you & your family. From reading all the stories above & listening to those from my father, your father was highly respected & thought of. Men of his kind are few & far between these days & I hope the many wonderful memories & well wishes help you through the days ahead.
Please know that you & your family are in my thoughts & prayers.
-Denise Snyder-Pharries

Denise Snyder-Pharries - August 17, 2011 at 12:32 PM

DS

“ I knew SGT Matchett when he worked at TDCJ. He was always upbeat and conscientious when he came to the admin building, in front of the Walls unit, with his crew of inmates. I admired his dedication to duty and the way he supervised his inmates. He Had an inmate named Shorty in his crew, who because of his size would be the one to crawl in the ceiling to locate or run cable. I can still hear SGT Matchett hollering at him saying "Shorty, where are you? Bill Matchett will be missed by me and all who knew him.

Dave Shute TDCJ-ITD Retired

Dave Shute - August 17, 2011 at 10:29 AM

JM

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Huntsville Boys Scouts of America has lost a wonderful leader and friend. You are in our prayers.

Judy and Larry Miller - August 16, 2011 at 07:53 PM

JJ

“ You may not remember me, but I am the youngest daughter of Amanda Ella Matchett Rice, a sister to Jim Henry Matchett. I knew you Dad well and I was so sorry to hear of his passing, but I also realize he and Fayne can now enjoy the next step in our lives, i.e. Eternity. Please know that my prayers are with each of you, his loved ones and that I send my love to each of you.

Thanks, Jeannie, aka Alma Jean Rice Juergens

Jeannie Juergens - August 16, 2011 at 02:49 PM

KM

“ I met Bill at Ella Smither, and immediately grew of his caring and gruff nature. I enjoyed helping him and just talking with him. When I learned he was being moved, it broke my heart that I wouldnt see his smile when I teased him about his long legs. He was a sweetheart and he will certainly be missed! My sincere condolences to his family.

kimberly m. - August 16, 2011 at 12:04 PM

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kimberly m. - August 16, 2011 at 12:04 PM

CM

“ William, Charlie, Patricia and family - we are so very sorry for your loss. We will never forget how hard your dad and mom worked to make sure the the Matchett Reunion was a success every year. Always remember how blessed you have been to have such wonderful parents.

Clarence and Fran Matchett - August 15, 2011 at 11:26 AM

JA

“ My Uncle Bill was the best man I have ever known. He was a true Christian and family man. My heart breaks for my cousins, but I am happy for my Aunt Fayne and him to be together again. You will be missed by all the lives you have touched in your time on Earth. I love you Uncle Bill. Jackie

Jackie - August 14, 2011 at 11:23 PM

SM

“ You are in our thoughts and prayers. Asking God to provide His peace and comfort for you during this difficult time. We love you.
Steve and Janna

Steve and Janna McSpadden - August 14, 2011 at 08:20 PM

DP

“ I love the motto of SHSU, “The measure of a Life is its Service.” Bill Matchett has a special place in the heart of the members of the Huntsville congregation of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the hearts of my family members. He was responsible for keeping us organized and registered as Troop 1046 in the Sam Houston Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He was patient and dependable. As the Bishop at the time, I appreciated seeing his big silhouette in the doorway. His love of youth was legendary. It will take a devine measuring tape to measure Bill's life! May the Lord give your family peace at this time. I celebrate the life of Bill Matchett and pray there are more men like him in this world!

David Prier - August 13, 2011 at 05:21 PM

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David Prier - August 13, 2011 at 05:21 PM

VL

“ Will be praying for you all during these days. He must have been a wonderful man, to have raised such a wonderful son as you, Charlie. Thinking of you and your family. Love, Vicky

Vicky Lindsey - August 12, 2011 at 11:06 PM

WS

“ To the Matchett family:

Andrea and I were distressed to learn of the loss of Mr. Matchett. I have the fondest memories of him as I was coming up as a young correctional officer. I think of him as an iconic figure in my career. He was big and brash, but he also had a great big heart and loved to mentor young people. I will really miss him.

Wayne & Andrea Scott - August 12, 2011 at 09:56 PM

SU

“ Charlie, I love you and I am praying for peace for your entire family. May God continue to bless you all....Susan

Susan - August 12, 2011 at 08:09 PM

HV

“ We are very sorry for you family's loss. It must be a comfort to see the legacy Mr. Matchett has left in the form of his children and grandchildren - what living testimonies of enduring faith, work ethic, and love. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His godly ones." Psalm 116:15

Our prayer is for comfort and peace during this difficult time.

Heath Veuleman - August 12, 2011 at 06:29 PM

TR

“ Charlie,

We are so sorry for your loss, I know it is difficult. We are lifting your family in prayer.

Tim Rich - August 12, 2011 at 03:57 PM

BS

“ Charles, our thoughts and prayers are with you and you family at this time. Know that we will be lifting you up. We love you. Billy & Scooter

Billy & Scooter - August 12, 2011 at 03:53 PM

TE

“ Charlie, you and your family are in our thoughts and on our hearts. Please know that you are loved and lifted. Your Dad walks the streets of gold today with other loved ones. Love ya'll.
Tina and Billy

Tina and Billy Edwards - August 12, 2011 at 03:51 PM

MG

“ Charlie, know that Richard & I are praying for you during this time of loss. Much love to you, Katrice and boys.
Richard & Marie

Marie & Richard Griffin - August 12, 2011 at 03:39 PM

RA

“ Charlie, Lifting you and your entire family in prayer. May God comfort you all during this time. Rae Nell

Rae Nell Andrews - August 12, 2011 at 03:20 PM

JA

“ Hey Uncle Bill you were the best man in the world~ we had some great fun with you! Ann and I drove our volkswagen to ElPaso one year and stayed with you and Aunt Fayne on the Army base

Jan - August 12, 2011 at 01:35 PM

AN

“ I remember your love and kindness, writing to you & sending you packages while you were away in Vietnam! I remember you were always a true and gentle man & a great Uncle. You always saw the good in people. Thanks for being good & kind to me. I will always cherish the memory of you Uncle Bill!

Ann - August 12, 2011 at 01:23 PM

TF

“ *Our Heartfelt condolences to your family. Your family is in our thoughts and prayers.*

The Pinney Family - August 12, 2011 at 11:34 AM

JP

“ *You are in our thoughts and prayers during this time. Your father was a good man and a good friend.*

Jerry & Billie Peterson - August 12, 2011 at 11:01 AM

RH

“ *Deepest condolences for Charlie and the rest of the family. Bill was a neat guy; he always had words of encouragement, and we always had a great time competing with Troop 97 at camporees. I remember when KSAM stopped him on the street for some promotion they were doing, and he said his panel was his "Boy Scoutin' rig". He also has the "guests of the State" weld up our troop trailer around 1983 (?), and he was a great guy all around. He will be remembered and missed. Randy Hines MD, Eagle 1987, Josey Award winner 1985.*

Randy Hines - August 12, 2011 at 10:02 AM

NG

“ Willie and Charlie:

I am so sorry to hear of your dad's passing. I'll always have such fond memories of him as our maintenance guy when our office was located on Avenue J. He always had a good laugh when the wind would blow out the pilot on the heating system and find us all wearing coats and gloves, sitting at our computers. Growing up on Pool Road, I'll always remember that white delivery truck tearing around the corner with a cloud of dust as he made his way back to the Jenkins' place. Such a dear and sweet man. I'll be keeping you all in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Nancy Gray - August 12, 2011 at 09:53 AM

GM

“ Many condolences to the family. I always enjoyed the competition that Mr. Matchett fostered between Troop 97 and Troop 98 when I was in my training. I think it made both Troops stronger.

*Greg Hines, MD
Eagle Scout, Class of 1987*

Gregory Hines, MD - August 12, 2011 at 09:47 AM

JH

“ Our heartfelt condolences to your family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. He had to be a wonderful man to instill so many good things in his family. God bless you all. Jean Ann and Victor; Brandi, Coen, Talon, and Kannon

Jean Ann Hollenbaugh - August 12, 2011 at 09:42 AM

GB

“ I am very sorry to hear of the passing of your Father. Your Dad meant the world to me for many years, from the days we were all in Boy Scouts together to high school and beyond. He was a very special man that shaped the lives of many people. My prayers are with your family in this time of grief.

Glen Breder

Glen Breder - August 11, 2011 at 10:31 PM

CH

“ He was my Brother-law, by marriage, But he was my Brother, whom I loved so much. A very wonderful man. I will miss Him very much. I love all my nephews and my neices.

Clay Hendricks - August 11, 2011 at 10:10 PM

GV

“ Your family is in our thoughts and prayers.

Greg and Suzann Vaughn - August 11, 2011 at 07:57 PM

EK

“ Will was a very dear and special man to my husband and I. Shortly after moving to Huntsville I lost my dear father. My husband, who had loved my dad as his own, then met Will. My husband came running over to me at the annex one day exclaiming that I just "had" to meet Will as he reminded my husband so much of my dad. He was right! My dad was an extraordinary man and so was Will! Will and Fayne will always hold a special place in my heart and will be sorely missed by my family!

Elaine Kane - August 11, 2011 at 06:54 PM

JB

“ I did not realize that Mr. Matchett had been at Houston County Nursing Home. My father-in-law has been over there for the past 7 years and he loves it over there. The staff there is wonderful about taking caring of Pop and about keeping us informed of incidents we should know about. We go over there to see him every other weekend and sooner if he is sick. I am sure I have probably seen Mr. Matchett there and did not recognize him from all those years ago! God Bless...

Jamie Brinegar

Jamie Brinegar - August 11, 2011 at 04:14 PM

JB

“ Patricia and family, I am so sorry for the loss of your father. He was a wonderful and dedicated man to the boy scouts in our area! My son has so many great memories of his camping trip with Mr. Bill and I am sure there are so many others with similar stories. May your wonderful memories of your dad help you through the trying days ahead! God Bless...

Jamie & Don Brinegar

Jamie Ellisor Brinegar - August 11, 2011 at 09:40 AM

PY

“ Uncle Bill,
I always looked up to you as a big strong man. When Charlie and Willie would get after me you would always "get'em" :). You will be missed very much. I know you and Daddy and Uncle Donald are probably playing a wild game of 42. I love you, Pamela

Pam Matchett Yocham - August 10, 2011 at 11:26 PM

BK

“ I met Bill when I first moved to Huntsville in 94. He helped my family and I find a Cub Scout Pack for our oldest son. He and his family became my second family and he mentored me in my experience as a Scout Leader. He will be sorely missed in Scouting but his kindness, fairness and love for teaching others the way of the outdoors will live on in the memories and friendships that emerged from knowing and loving him.

Bob Kane - August 10, 2011 at 10:26 PM

LG

“ Will Matchett was the first person I remember when my son was joining Scouts. He was a gruff but gentle giant. We won't see his kind again soon and he will be sorely missed. I fondly remember him and his big van. We will all miss such a good man and Scouting has lost a great supporter. His memory will be with me forever. God Bless you Will, larry

Larry Gildon - August 10, 2011 at 05:39 PM

NJ

“ So sorry to read about William. He went to school here in Lovelady years ago. He was a nice person, good student. My prayers and thoughts are with all of you. Norma Dell (Monzingo) Jones of Lovelady.

Norma Dell Jones - August 10, 2011 at 02:54 PM