

1930-2009

Bridgeport: Richard Walker died July 26, in Wise Regional Hospital in Decatur.

Richard Walker was born December 29, 1930, in Manhattan, Kansas, to Thomas and Agnes Walker.

He retired from Mitchell Energy & Development Corporation in 1995.

He began his 37-year career with the company in Houston in 1958, and moved to Bridgeport in 1967. He was named Vice President of MND Drilling, a Mitchell subsidiary, in February of 1974. Walker was

one of the pioneers of the North Texas oil and natural gas industry, and was instrumental in the development of the Barnett Shale natural gas field.

He was described by many as a "true war hero" for his service in the Korean Conflict. Walker was 17 years old when he and his two best friends, Joe Friedman and Augie Pach-azina, joined the Marine Corps in 1948. He was assigned to Korea in July, 1950, and became a member of the machine gun squad in October of

that year. On December 2, 1950, Walker was wounded in combat when he was injured by an enemy missile. He remained hospitalized in Korea, Japan, and the U.S. for five months, and was honored for his service with the coveted Purple Heart medal. He was discharged from the Marines in July of 1952.

Walker remained with the Marine Corps Active Reserve from his discharge until 1956.

Mr. Walker graduated from the University of Texas-Austin in 1956 with a Petroleum Engineering degree. His first job in the oilfield following graduation was with Unocal in Midland, Texas.

He and Kemper Fall were married June 25, 1960, in Houston, Texas .

He was inducted into the Wise County Roughnecks' Club on October 26, 1970.

Walker remained actively involved in the affairs of his children and grandchildren throughout his life.

Mr. Walker is survived by Kemper, his wife of 49 years; mother Agnes Walker of Bridgeport; daughters Jennifer Walker of Bridgeport, and Laura Craft and husband Larry of Houston; son David Walker, Wise County Sheriff and his wife Christi; and son, Kevin Green and wife Cynthia of Dallas, Texas.

He is also survived by grandchildren Forrest Walker of Bridgeport; Jordan and Taylor Craft of Houston; Tyler Arozamena and Baby '09 of Bridgeport; Ben Green, Jenna Green and Caroline Green of Dallas.

He was preceded in death by his father.

Visitation is set for 6:00-8:00 pm Wednesday, July 29, at Jones Family Funeral Home in Bridgeport. Burial will be in Bridgeport's East Side Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that donations be made to a charity of choice.

Funeral arrangements are scheduled for Thursday, July 30, 11:00 am, at Ascension and St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Bridgeport at 5094 Hwy 380 near Bridgeport .

*Jones Family Funeral Home
1401 Halsell St. • Bridgeport, Tx.*

