

Terry Franklin Wood | 1946-2014

Published Wednesday, November 19, 2014



Terry Franklin Wood

Terry Franklin Wood, 68, died peacefully at home, on his ranch in Decatur, Sunday, Nov. 16, 2014

Funeral is 2 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 20, at the First Baptist Church in Decatur with burial at East Side Cemetery in Bridgeport.

Pastor Ken May will officiate, assisted by Berl Pedigo and Mike Wheat.

Visitation is 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19, at the church.

Pallbearers are Mike Wheat, Carey Williams, David West, Jeff Horn, Asa Johnson, Robert Baker, Clay Ellerbee and Gary Cooper.

Terry was born Aug. 16, 1946, in New Orleans to Bennie Ray and Bennie Wayne Johnson Wood. He shared a birthday with his mother, which has been a joy for her. He and his brother Walter spent their lives virtually inseparable and were the closest of friends.

Terry graduated from Decatur High School in 1964 and went on to play basketball at Sam Houston State University. He served in the U.S. Army during Vietnam, earned the Purple Heart and was honorably discharged.

Terry came home from Vietnam to join his dad, Walter and Uncle James Wood in the car business at Bennie Wood Motors in Fort Worth. He married Jane Winder in 1966 and was blessed with a son, Terry Kenton (TK) in 1971. Terry went on to open his own business, Terry's Motors, in Fort Worth and spent many years turning that into a successful operation.

Later, his grown son TK proudly followed in his grandfather's and father's shoes, joining Terry's Motors in 1992. Terry has long been considered the industry standard as a wholesale and auto dealer.

In 1998, Terry built a home on the family ranch in Decatur and went full speed ahead pursuing his lifelong passion – the horse racing industry. He married the love of his life and his best friend, Patricia Burks (Trish), in 2001, and while Trish held down the home front, Terry went on to become a renowned quarter horse breeder. Some of his horses were Andthebeatgoeson, A Stone Runaway, Illegally Special, Winninginthebuff, Dasher Winner and On The Map – most descendants of Cautious Winner, who was one of the premier quarter horse dams of her generation.

Those horses won or qualified for such big races as the Ruidoso, West Texas, and All-American Futurities, as well as the Ruidoso, Rainbow and All-American Derbies. They were, and continue to be, at the forefront of the industry.

Terry went on to breed pedigreed quarter horses over the next 15 years, building and enforcing his racing name with the same integrity that he lent to life. Only in the last years, with his health declining did Terry scale back with Wood Racing, keeping only his younger stock at the ranch.

This did not mean Terry slowed down; quite the opposite, he began breeding Charolais cattle with the same zest and passion he put into his horses and at last count had some 60 head of the prettiest white cows and calves grazing on those green pastures. Terry lived and breathed “livestock” and was as much at home in a barn or pasture as he was driving in his truck, lazing by the fireplace watching football, playing cards at the trailer with his buddies, or wetting a crappie hook at the ranch lake.

Business aside, Terry was an avid sportsman, card player and horseman in the true sense of those words, tackling each of those endeavors as seriously as he did his car business – with knowledge and honesty. Terry was a man of his word and defined integrity with his life.

Terry loved his family beyond anything else, especially his wife Trish, his mom, his brother and his son and their families. The lights of his life were his grandchildren, whose various activities filled his days. He attended ballgames regularly, and many times when he should have been at home, you would find Terry in the stands or on the bleachers rooting for his boys, come rain or shine.

His largest form of entertainment was to gather the entire family for the holidays. If one was missing, he took it to heart. Terry found contentment with his large and loving family close by his side. Birthdays called for cake and balloons, Easter called for an egg hunt, Thanksgiving was all about the turkey and literally, being thankful, and Christmas promised a visit from Santa Claus and gifts galore.

Being in the Wood household for any one of these magical events meant going home with love and a deep sense of family in your heart.

Terry was a large man, with an even larger personality. His value in life lay in giving as much as he could give each day, working as hard as he could work, loving as hard as he could love, being a good friend to all. He pursued every moment of life with a passion and strength that was enviable.

Those who were lucky enough to be close to Terry will walk with the knowledge that he took life in his stride, in his own time, in his own way and he is at peace with his Lord and Savior.

Terry was preceded in death by his infant brother, Bennie Ray Wood Jr.; his father, Bennie Ray Wood; and aunt and uncle, Lorene and Wayne Garrett. He is survived by his wife, Patricia of Decatur; son Terry Kenton Wood and wife, Amber, of North Richland Hills; mother Bennie Wayne Johnson Wood of Haltom City; brother Walter Ray Wood and wife, Cindy, and their daughter, Ali, of Kirkland, Wash.; grandsons Landry and Riley Wood and Tanner and Kale Burks; Patricia's sons Mark Burks and wife, Teresa, of Decatur and Michael Burks and wife, Shari, of Haslet; numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and friends. Further, Terry will be missed by the entire family of employees at James Wood Motors.

Memorials may be made to a charity of choice.