

Longview News-Journal (TX) - May 16, 2012

Deceased Name: James 'Jim' Gunn

KILGORE — Memorial services for James H. Gunn Jr. will be 2 p.m. today, May 16, 2012, at the Rader Funeral Home Chapel, with the Reverends David Hampton and Clint Covington officiating. Mr. Gunn passed away Monday in Kilgore.

Jim was born in Waskom, Texas, on December 26, 1935, to the late James H. Gunn Sr. and Evelyn Dodd Gunn. They settled in Troup, Texas, where his father coached and owned a service station. Jim attended Troup High School and Tyler Junior College, where he played football throughout the years.

Jim then enlisted in the United States Air Force and was stationed in Evreux, France, during the Korean War. He took great pride in his service as an aircraft radar-radio specialist, as well as his participation on the Twelfth Air Force football team in Europe.

In 1958, Jim married Karlene Edmonds, the love of his life, and together they attended Texas Christian University, where Jim graduated with degrees in marketing, accounting and finance. The Gunns moved back to Kilgore in 1962, where Jim worked in the oil industry for several years. Jim then began a career with Exxon U.S.A., where he received an associate degree in Petroleum Engineering and worked in Environmental Control before retiring in 1991.

Jim was the consummate family man, always present to witness his loved ones' most important achievements and events. An imposing figure at 6'-5", he was "Poppy" to his five adoring grandsons. He loved family vacations and activities; the beach and fishing were favorites for all. He was an avid reader, and greatly enjoyed visiting with family and friends. He was also a fantastic cook, famous for his hamburgers, shrimp gumbo and fried catfish, and loved working in his yard and listening to music.

Jim's steadfast optimism and sense of humor will always live on in his family. He also leaves his family with the devout faith which allowed him to face severe health problems in his later years with great courage.

Mr. Gunn was an active member of the 317th Korean War Veterans group of the United States Air Force and was a member of the First Baptist Church of Kilgore.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Karlene Edmonds Gunn; two sons and a daughter-in-law, Gary and Virginia Gunn of Houston and Gregory Gunn of Kilgore; a daughter and son-in-law, Karla and Allen McNickle of Katy; mother, Evelyn Dodd Gunn of Troup; five grandsons, Jacob and Garrett McNickle and Graeme, Braeden and Greyson Gunn; a brother and sister-in law, Anthony and Virginia Gunn of Dickinson; a sister and brother-in-law, Becky and John Covington of Rockwall; the families of Janie Edmonds, Diane Rushton, and Ron and Cindy Edmonds; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Mr. Gunn was preceded in death by his father, James H. Gunn Sr.; and his brother-in-law, Karl F. Edmonds Jr.

Memorials may be made to the East Texas Treatment Center or Helping Hands of Kilgore. Please sign the online register at www.raderfuneralhome.com.

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