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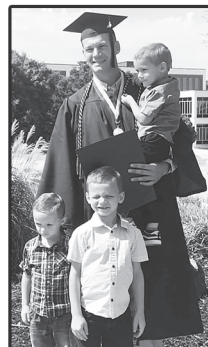
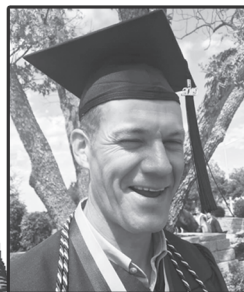
At The Corral Gate



Here's a local Army Veteran who retired after 20 years of service and went back for his education on the G.I. Bill at Texas A and M University in Commerce. It is with pride and excitement that I tell you that this Veteran who, on August 10, 2019, graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor's Degree from the College of Humanities, Social Sciences and Arts, is my son. Next he will pursue a second Bachelor's Degree in Biology, a path to an interesting second career. Now, by nature, Clay is quite humble, so I had a time getting his military history for this story. But I wanted to share it with you and he agreed that I could. It's long been my belief that on many days, we probably pass within arm's length of notable people, even heroes, and never realize it. Every soldier has a story to tell, and in fact, most of us have something remarkable in our own lives that may never be known outside of our family. But, if you will indulge me, here is a brief overview of the nearly 25 years I spent missing my son while he was away serving his country.

James Clayton Bounds of Sulphur Springs went into the Army in 1997 following a couple of years he had already spent in the National Guard and Army Reserves. After basic infantry training at Ft. Benning, Georgia he returned home to Sulphur Springs with an assignment to a mechanized National Guard unit based in Mt. Pleasant, Texas. Another part of his duty was with Army Reserves was spent with an engineering unit in Paris, Texas where he was re-trained as an all-wheeled vehicle mechanic. By request, Clay was released to Active Duty in 1997, and finally joined the active Army infantry in early 1998. His first duty station was the home of 101st Airborne Division, Ft. Campbell, Kentucky. He served there from Feb 1998 until May 2002. During those years, he took his first foreign tours of duty; in 1998 to Kuwait for brief time, then to Kosovo in 2000/2001. Back home at Ft. Campbell, Clay was assigned to 101st Airborne and promoted from E-4 to Staff Sgt. In 2002, he received Recruiting orders and served June 2002 til December 2005 as a recruiter headquartered in Memphis Tenn. About the time that assignment ended, Clay requested Ft. Hood to be closer to family, and his request was granted. Stationed at Ft. Hood from December 2005 until May 2010, he also completed two tours to Iraq, spending a total of 26 months in that country. A reassignment to Ft. Bragg, NC came up next, which would include another tour in Iraq and another stint as recruiter between August 2010 and June 2014.. And during this period, Clay began to realize that his Army career would someday come to an end, and he began to set his sights on distinctions he had hoped to achieve. Army Ranger was one of these. In 2014, he achieved both the prestigious Jumpmaster and the grueling Army Ranger distinctions. In fact, after three disappointing attempts, Clay finally qualified for the Ranger tab at the age 39, the oldest soldier in the graduating class! And next, although never assigned to a Ranger unit, Clay was placed to serve as a Ranger Instructor

at Ft. Benning, a job he carried out until his retirement on his 43rd birthday, Sept 1, 2017. Retirement back home in Northeast Texas has afforded him time to paint and fix up my house, and to purchase and remodel his own home near Campbell, Texas. This Fall brings more college classes, plus a new assignment, regular after-school duty on weekdays for his three grandsons (ages 6, 3 and 3) who live nearby, "possibly my greatest challenge" he says, smiling.



Miscellaneous

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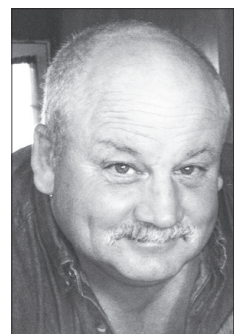
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Greta Sue Dixon Deaton

Graveside services for Greta Dixon Deaton, age 82, of Sulphur Springs, TX, were held at Posey Cemetery at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 14, 2019, with Fred Lewis officiating, along with Zach Adair, Will Gamblin, Chad Kopal, Payton Lowrie, Lance Smith, and Paul Kirkland served as pallbearers. Visitation was held one hour prior to service at Posey Church. Mrs. Deaton passed away on Sunday, August 11, 2019 at Carriage House Manor. Greta was born on December 20, 1936 in Posey, Texas, the daughter of Marvin (Buck) Dixon and Doyce Luckey Dixon. She married Billy Wayne Deaton on June 27, 1964 in Posey, TX. Greta was of the Baptist Faith. She retired from Alliance Bank. She is survived by her husband Bill, sister-in-law, Jo Ruth Hodge and husband Bill, brother-in-law, Larry Don Deaton and wife Judy of Sulphur Springs, sister-in-law, Moverine Deaton of Dike, numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews. Greta was preceded in death by her parents and one brother, Charles Dixon. The family would like to extend special thanks to Greta's caretaker's LaWanda Rape, Jennifer Harris, and Carriage House Group Hospice. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Posey Cemetery, c/o Johnny Ferrel, 6761 CR 4760, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482. Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. www.westoaksfuneralhome.com



Gary Micheal Bishop

Gary Michael Bishop, age 62, of Emory, passed away suddenly, early Monday morning, August 12, 2019. Funeral service will be held 10:00 AM, Thursday, August 15, 2019, at Emory Baptist Church. Interment will follow at Elm Cemetery. Visitation was held on Wednesday evening 6:00-8:00 PM at Wilson-Orwosky Funeral Home Chapel in Emory.

Gary Michael Bishop was born in Emory, on March 22, 1957, to the parentage of Marshall and Mary Ola Asbill Bishop. He followed the Lord in baptism at around the age of 10, in a stock pond in Emory. He has been a lifetime member of Elm Baptist Church. Gary graduated from Rains High School Class of 1976, where he loved to play football. He went on to take two years of classes at Tyler Junior College. Gary worked hard as a dairyman for 20+ years. On January 10, 2006, he married Teresa Kay Lee in Emory. He then worked and retired after 20

years as County Commissioner for Rains County Precinct 3. And for the last six years he has driven a truck for Gaston Sanitation. Gary loved Jesus and his family more than anything.

Survivors include his wife, Kay of Emory, sister Hilda Bishop Ellison and husband Rick of Emory, brother Homer Bishop and wife Kathy of Richmond, daughter Lacey Boyd and husband Chuck, currently stationed in Italy, son Lyndon Bishop of Middletown, CT, children Jamie Hailey, Chris Wright and wife Michelle, Ashley Wright, grandchildren Taylor, Kayte, Riley, C.J., Rylee, Tinsley, Hays, and Keaton, great-granddaughter Brooklynn and many special nieces and nephews. Numerous other loving family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents and mother-in-law Rosa Lee.

The family wishes donations be made to Elm Cemetery Association %Linda Terry, 1350 RCR 3425, Brashear, TX 75420.



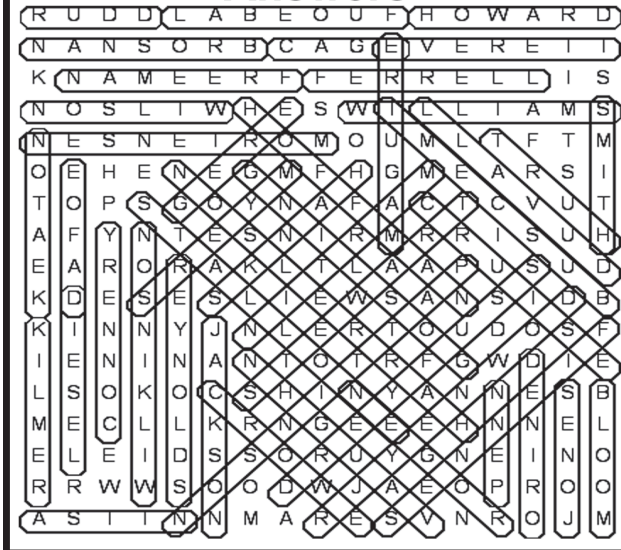
"Ronnie" R.O. Smith

Funeral services for "Ronny" R. O. Smith, age 73, of Sulphur Springs were held at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 13, 2019 at West Oaks Funeral Home Chapel with Bro. Damon Wilks officiating. Interment followed at Union Cemetery with Don Fallis, Arlie Bryant, Blake Chester, John Smith, Eric Smith, and Dustin Smith serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers were Ricky Wilks, Bill Bailey, and Rex Odell. Visitation was held Monday, August 12, 2019 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at West Oaks Funeral Home Chapel. Ronny passed away on Saturday, August 10, 2019 at Baylor Scott and White of Plano.

He was born November 8, 1945 in Sulphur Springs the son of Autrey O'Neal Smith and Lena Katherine Beasley Smith. Ronny was a machinist for Burney Valve Company and Rockwell. He married Judy Baxley November 1982 in Sulphur Springs, she survives. Other survivors include, Sons: Keith Smith and wife Gina, and Ryan

Smith all of Sulphur Springs, Daughters: Tammy Smith of Garland, and Angie Smith and husband Cubby of Sulphur Springs, Brother: Steven Smith and wife Carol of Cumby, Sister: Paula Ferrelland husband Bruce of Sulphur Springs, Grandchildren: Blake Chester, and Haylee Chester of Sulphur Springs, and Brooke Wright and husband Jerry of Greenville, and two great-grandchildren, adoptive grandkids Jazmine and Sam Tapley. Ronny was preceded in death by his parents and grandson Jaden Chester. Memorials can be made to Union Cemetery, c/o Sheila Funderburk, 157 CR 1213, Sulphur Springs, Tx 75482.

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After raising a daughter homeless, Letitia Conliffe wanted to give back to her community once she got back on her feet. That's why she created Lil 4's. A place where kids can walk through the door and find a hot meal, a computer to do their homework, mentors to help them succeed in school, and activities to keep them busy. *Fifty-something kids* rely on Conliffe's space in Sulphur Springs, Tx., and every donation made to this campaign directly benefits them.
This Organization operates in the Charitable Organization business/industry within the Membership Organizations sector. Operating in Sulphur Springs approximately 2 years. A lot of the funds for this comes out of her own pocket and donations are desperately needed. CASH DONATIONS needed at this time for a better location to provide for these kids. Lot is purchased need cash for a building.
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OBSERVATIONS AFTER WHEEL CHAIR

Tumbleweed Smith



Tumbleweed Smith

The thing about having a temporary setback (like my broken foot) is when you start telling someone about your situation, many of them will start telling you their experiences with broken bones that make yours seem trivial. I was in a wheel chair for about 4 months. During that time, some people totally ignored me. Wouldn't even look at me. When we would see people we know they would go right to my wife Susan instead of me and ask, "What happened?" Sometimes she would reply, "Ask him." Occasionally someone would ask,

"Did she kick you?" I can't believe so many people asked that. Some asked, "Wanna play soccer?" "Wanna kick some field goals?"

My wardrobe changed during that period. I found out about pressure socks. I also learned that there is no pair of pants made specifically for someone with a cast. We improvised with some pants that had zippers at the bottom of the legs. The shower was the hardest part. We bought a plastic sleeve that fit over my leg then secured it with tape. I felt so helpless, having to ask for little things. I had trouble reaching. Had to sleep on my back, something I thought I could not do. But I learned how to do it.

I am upright and wearing shoes that match. I am out of the wheelchair, healing boot, cast and splint. It has been a heck of a ride since I broke my driving foot while climbing over rocks along the Llano River near Junction last October. The surgery was scheduled two weeks away so in the meantime we went to see some friends in Florida. I hobbled around on the beach.

We had to cancel our planned trip in December to the Canary Islands. The surgery took place on October 31st of last year. My wife Susan pushed me everywhere and drove on interview trips. I had a second surgery to have two screws removed.

While I was in the wheel chair I had a chance to see some greatness of the human spirit and experience courtesies extended to us by generous and caring friends who offered a wheel chair and walker and called to check on us. At restaurants, customers would leave their tables to open the door for us. After lunch at a restaurant in Liberty, Susan was loading the wheel chair into the back of the car and wiping some mud off the wheels. It had recently rained and we had gone through a couple of puddles. Susan was using paper towels to get the mud off when a man in a pickup was starting to leave the restaurant. When he saw what Susan was doing, he turned off his engine, came over with a huge towel and wiped off the wheels.

It is now 10 months after I broke my foot. It has nearly completely healed and I can walk naturally without a limp. Walking and getting out of a chair are two things we take for granted. Shouldn't do that. Walking is a glorious thing. I had no idea my foot had so much to do with getting out of a chair. I was on the US Army's European Track Team and ran a big distance race in Berlin. I am not accustomed to being without both feet or dealing with broken bones. This was a new experience for me and I prefer not to have to go through it again. But I did have some wonderful experiences.

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