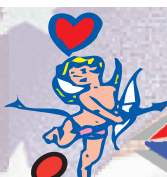


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**Sat., February 13, 6pm - 10pm - Kiss It to Cancer.** Celebration Plaza, Sulphur Springs, Texas. The Power of Love, Relay for Life Team, presents Kiss it to Cancer - A fun evening of The Newly Wed Game, The Dating Game and Relay Idol (singing competition). For more information regarding being a contestant on The Dating Game or Relay Idol call Yorri at 903.885.7541.

**Thu., February 18, 6pm - 9pm - 2016 Chamber Banquet** Hopkins County Civic Center, Sulphur Springs, TX  
 The 2016 Chamber of Commerce Banquet, catered by Big Smith's BBQ.

**Fri., February 19, 6pm - 10pm - Jordan World Circus**  
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09 Kia Rio.....\$8,550	10 Ford Focus.....\$12,550	13 Dodge Avenger.....\$13,550
12 Chrysler 200.....\$12,950	08 Chevy Cobalt.....\$9,550	08 Chevy HHR LT.....\$8,950
11 Chevy Malibu.....\$13,550	08 Mercury Milan.....\$8,950	11 Ford Fusion.....\$12,950
08 Saturn Vue.....\$10,950	12 Dodge Avenger.....\$11,950	08 Pontiac Grd. Prix...\$8,550
07 Saturn Ion.....\$6,550	06 GMC Yukon.....\$13,550	10 Chrysler Sebring LTD..\$10,950
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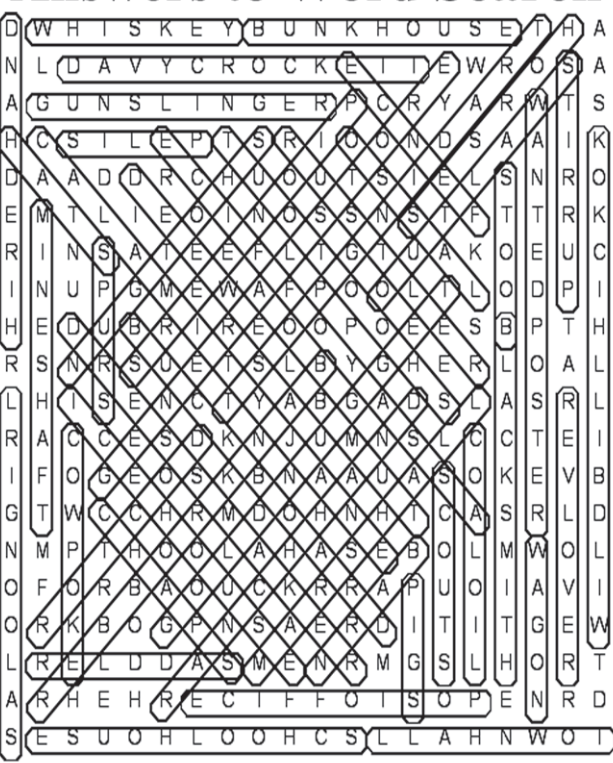
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## A BUDGET TRIP AROUND THE WORLD

**Tumbleweed Smith**



Tumbleweed Smith

Jim Glendenning is originally from Scotland but found a home in Alpine. It's like he was planted there. He had a bed and breakfast for a while and has a travel company that takes people to Mexico to visit the area around Copper Canyon. He says it's safer now than it has been in previous years mainly because the Mexican government has made it a priority tourist destination.

Jim has written books about personalities in the Big Bend, a Big Bend Guidebook that is in its 4th printing and a book about his personal travels. Jim, who got his education at Oxford, has little demands when it comes to traveling. He is single and looks for bargains. He has become an expert at budget travel, something he has practiced for fifty years. Late last year he treated himself to a trip around the world, saying he deserved it since he had a good year with his tours and book sales.

"I needed to see my sisters in England," says Jim, "and thought well, I'll just travel around the world. I was gone 26 days and covered 23,600 miles, stopping in five places. My total transportation cost was \$1,800."

Jim lives just a few blocks from the Amtrak station in Alpine. He walked there from his house and got on an overnight train to Los Angeles. The ticket cost \$100. At the Los Angeles airport he boarded a plane.

"LA to London. \$330 with Norwegian Airlines, a newcomer on the transatlantic air scene. It's a budget airline out of Norway. Three of its planes left LA at the same time. One went to London, one to Oslo and one to Copenhagen."

Jim says when you're traveling on a budget, you don't expect planes to leave at a reasonable hour like 11 AM. They leave at 2 AM. And you don't go to fine restaurants or hotels. I asked Jim where he traveled.

"I went to Oxford, England to see my sister who lives there, I then went to Tbilisi, Georgia. That's not the Georgia that we know. It's an independent country that used to be Soviet and is now free of the Soviets. Saint George is their patron saint. Then I went on to Calcutta, India up in the northeast corner to see the India I remembered from many years back. I needed to relax a little because this type of travel is hard work. So I went down to Kuala Lumpur and indulged a little with air conditioning and getting a massage and that sort of thing. And then it was a long haul, seventeen hours back from Kuala Lumpur Malaysia, to Shanghai, to Los Angeles."

Then he got on a train, went to Alpine and walked to his house. He spent two nights on planes and four nights on trains.

"Two of those were on Amtrak getting to and from Los Angeles. The other two were on Georgia railroads, when I was traveling from Tbilisi, Georgia, in that area between Europe and Asia. And I wanted to go to Yerevan, Armenia to see the Armenian genocide memorial, which I did."

Tumbleweed Smith has traveled nearly 2 million miles on Texas highways finding all kinds of folks with all kinds of stories. Contact: [ts@tumbleweedsmith.com](mailto:ts@tumbleweedsmith.com)

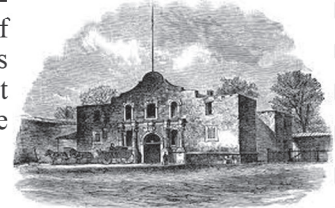


## At The Corral Gate

Texas is so vast that there is more than one weather season going on at any given time within it's borders. If we could imagine Texas during the final weeks of 1835 and early weeks of 1836, it would not be hard to see ourselves in the cold-and-muddy then hot-and-dry picture, struggling for independence from Mexican rule while battling the elements. Was it Pony Express that kept up the postal services as letters flew between Stephen F. Austin in Texas to interested parties in the United States? Truly, our fore-parents were hardy and hard-core individuals on a mission...they wanted freedom and prosperity! And they were coming to the realization that they may have to die for it. A little like the Pilgrims who settled in the New World, they determined success would be theirs, sooner or later. "Victory or death!" to quote Travis. Texas history is YOUR history, even if you are new to the territory! Let's look at this time 180 years ago.

According to the Timeline of the Texas Revolution, in the summer of 1835 Stephen F. Austin was in position as civil head of the Anglo-Americans in Texas. His father had previously held this position. It had long been their hope that compliance with Mexico's rules would allow for a peaceable independence for Anglo families living there. But as summer came to a close, Austin realized this was not ever to be. He put on a hard face for the inevitable fight. Allies were already in place...Texas committees across the United States were meeting, donating money and enlisting volunteers for the fight. About the time that Stephen F. Austin was calling for war with Mexico, the Mexican Congress sent a declaration to Santa Anna that all foreigners in arms against the government were to be treated as "pirates" and shot. The 1835 Christmas season in Texas must have been a gloomy one ..and January was probably a good month to stay indoors. But things soon began to happen again. In February 1836, elections were held in settlements across Texas for an Independence Convention. That month, Santa Anna crossed the Rio Grande into Texas. Davy Crockett and 12 volunteers arrived in San Antonio. The Alamo fort had come under fire from Mexican troops. Two successive cold fronts and few supplies provided miserable challenges for those inside the fort. By February 23, siege preparations of the Alamo were in place. The "13 Days of Glory" were to end on March 6...and yes, 1836 was a Leap Year. There was no turning back now! Next week, we'll examine that thirteen-day timeline, the last days in the lives of the Alamo's defenders.

*God Bless Texas!*



## FORT WORTH STOCK SHOW & RODEO

If I have a Texas mecca, it's probably Ft Worth. I went to this year's Stock Show and Rodeo, and took three grandsons along, but honestly I had so much fun that I forgot to take any pictures! I did gather this information about the 2016 Stock Show...11,000 head of livestock (steers, barrows, lambs, goats) were shown at the various Jr. shows held in the barns by students of 238 of Texas' 254 counties. The Grand Champion Steer sold for \$210,000. (down by \$30,000 this year!) shown by Jagger Horn age 14 of Anson, Tx. The Reserve Grand Champion steer sold for \$170,000 (up by \$20,000 this year!) shown by Miss Saige Martin, age 12 of Hereford, Tx. The Grand Champion Barrow auctioned for \$44,000 was shown by Miss Carsyn Hodde age 14, member of a Brenham 4H Club. The Reserve Champion Barrow went for \$21,000 at auction. It's owner is Colt Wolf of Whitesboro in the Denison/Sherman area. These youth are the farmers and ranchers of tomorrow! Your chance to give a handshake and pat on the back to some local youth is coming up! On February 25-27 in the Hopkins County Regional Civic Center, the Northeast Texas Livestock Association's Jr. Market Show and Sale will be held. PLEASE go and look at the animals, congratulate the kids on their hard work of feeding and care during these bad-weather weeks. Participate in the Sale of Champions auction, whether as a buyer or with add-on money. The dollars these kids earn from the sale of their market animals goes toward college funds and next year's project animal purchases. It's very worthwhile to invest in Texas agricultural future!



Looks like we may have an early Spring. I'm ready for it. Onions are going in the ground this week. The greens that were already planted are really starting to grow now, and a few small messes enjoyed. And are those robins on the lawn a sure sign of Spring?

Til next week, I'll be dreaming of bluebonnet time and watching for you at the corral gate!





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**10am-Noon**

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Tickets can be purchased from any Pilot Club of Sulphur Springs member.

Tickets can also be purchased at the door on the day of the brunch.

The Pilot Club of Sulphur Springs is now a 501C-3 organization and is committed to offering service and financial support to those in our area who have special needs, focusing especially on those with brain related disorders. All proceeds will go toward our projects in Sulphur Springs.

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# Happy Valentines

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2. Make a video
3. Buy roses for your love
4. Candle-lit dinner
5. Prepare a dessert
6. Balloons in the car
7. Take a walk together
8. Send a love letter
9. Build a fire in the fireplace
10. Leave love notes in surprise places



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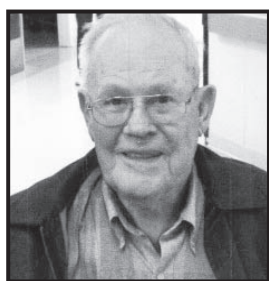
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# Obits



## Leon Chapman

Mr. Leon Chapman, age 95, of Winnsboro, passed away on Tuesday, February 9, 2016 in Quitman. Leon was born on July 2nd, 1920 in Madill, OK., to the late Reuben Joseph and Helen Avo Fox Chapman. He was a retired firefighter after thirty years of service with the Lubbock Fire Department; after retiring he owned a saw mill in Winnsboro. He was a member of the Winnsboro Church of Christ.

Preceding him in death are his parents; his loving wife, Elsie Boatman Chapman, and his only brother, Floyd Chapman. He is survived by a son, David Chapman and wife Karen of Lavon; four daughters, Helen Parsons and husband Homer of Cross Plains, Judith Nerren and husband Jimmy Mac of Houston, Linda Stringer and husband Robert of Irving, Deena

Johnson of Benton, AR.; twelve grandchildren, and numerous great and great-great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, February 13, 2016 from 12:30PM to 1:30PM at Beaty Funeral Home. Graveside services will follow at 2:00 pm at Pleasant Grove Memorial Park in Winnsboro.



## Haley Nicole Pogue

Memorial services for Haley Nicole Pogue, age 31, of Sulphur Springs, TX, were conducted at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 10, 2016 at West Oaks Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Mike Eason and Rev. Bryan Wright officiating. Visitation was from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at West Oaks Funeral Home. Honorary pallbearers Logan Pogue, Lee Pogue, Gage Pogue, Jess Jenkins, Carston Moore, David Fowler, Francis Pogue, Joe Don Pogue, Clarence "Bubba" Powdrill, Evan Darling, Todd Williams, Jr., Kaden Moore and Jacob Jenkins. Haley passed away on Sunday, February 7, 2016. Haley was born September 9, 1984 in Sulphur Springs, the daughter of Lee Pogue and Tammy Clifton.

Haley was the manager at Mama Faye's Barbeque and she was a member of First Baptist Church. Haley is survived by her father, Lee Pogue of Sulphur Springs, mother, Tammy Powdrill and husband Clarence "Bubba" of Sulphur Springs, son, Straton Pogue Darling, daughter, Daci Ryann Darling both of Dike, brothers, Logan Lee Pogue and wife Michelle, Gage

Alfred Pogue both of Sulphur Springs, sister, Kelsy Kay Williams and husband Todd, Jr. of Sulphur Springs, step-brother, Miguel Powdrill of Sulphur Springs, grandparents, Kay Fowler and David Fowler of Sulphur Springs, Frances and Rose Pogue of Sulphur Springs, nieces and nephews, Ryder Ray Williams, Harper Lee Williams, River Rose Pogue, Bryar Lee Pogue, many aunts, uncles and cousins.

## Dewey "Ed" Harris

Dewey "Ed" Harris, age 91 of Winnsboro, passed away on Tuesday, February 9th, 2016 in Winnsboro. He was born on December 31st, 1924 in Winnsboro, TX, to the late John Harris and Jewel Harris. He was a retired truck driver, and was a member of Coldwater Baptist Church.

He was preceded in death by parents, John Dewey Harris and Jewel Lee Hargiss Harris; two sisters, Laurene Evans and LaVerne Byars and one brother, Rayford Harris.

He is survived by his wife, Billie J. Busby Harris of Winnsboro; daughters, Brenda Brown and husband Willie of Scury and Donna Harris of Oklahoma; brothers, Roy Harris of Corsicana, George Harris of Winnsboro and Lawrence Harris of Yantis; four grandchildren and several great grandchildren.

Graveside Service will be held on Friday, February 12th, 2016 at Hopewell Cemetery at 2:00 pm, Rev. Donny Chamberlian conducting, interment will follow at Hopewell Cemetery in Winnsboro.

## Modine L. Stricker

Mrs. Modine L. Stricker, age 87 of Winnsboro, passed away on Thursday, February 4th, 2016 in Sulphur Springs. She was born on January 1st, 1929 in Emory to the late Isaac Horace Rackely and Indy Alma Bishop Rackley.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her loving husband of 68 years, Willie Clyde Stricker; brother, Isaac H. "Sonny" Rackley, Jr.; and great-granddaughter, Savannah Michelle Horton.

She is survived by her daughters, Anita Anderson and husband Charles of Winnsboro, Linda Norman and husband Eddie of Decatur; sisters, Joy Stewart of Terrell, Louise White of Mineola, Tommie Pryor and husband David of Lindale; five grandchildren, Tracy Marr, Angie Blevins, Tara Horton, Chet Frank, Shawna Kelley; ten great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, February 13th, 2016 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Beaty Funeral Home-Winnsboro. Funeral Services will be held on Sunday, February 14th, 2016 at First Baptist Church of Hawkins 210 E Forest St. Hawkins, TX 75765 at 2:00 pm, Bro. Zachary Tunell, Bro. Bob Lyman, and Bro. Chauncey Willingham officiating, interment will follow at Pilgrims Rest #1 in Emory, with Kyle Mabry, Garrett Blevins, Cory Marr, Madison Horton, Allie Blevins, Ethan Marr, and Brennan Horton serving as pallbearers.

## John Griffith

Mr. John Griffith, age 56 of Winnsboro, passed away on Saturday, February 6th, 2016 in Tyler. He was born on February 7th, 1959 in Phillips, KS., to Delbert Griffith and Marjorie Buckley Griffith. He worked as the Shear Department Supervisor for Priefert Manufacturing in Mt. Pleasant. He was preceded in death by brother, Don Griffith.

He is survived by his loving wife, Sue (Sherwood) Griffith of Winnsboro; parents, Delbert and Marjorie Griffith of Wichita, KS.; son, Joshua David Griffith and wife Amber of Tulsa, OK.; step-children, Joshua Don Taylor and wife Lisa of Minco, OK., Brandy Nicole Johnson and husband Brian of Lindsey, OK.; sister, Barbara Pressley of Austin; grandchildren, Nash Griffith, Gunner Taylor, Ashlyn Taylor, Hunter Taylor, Kendrick Johnson, Reaganne Johnson.

Memorial Services will be held on Saturday, February 13th, 2016 at Pineview Baptist Church at 2:00 pm, Bro. Ronny Spence conducting.

## Chesaline Frank

Graveside Services for Chesaline Frank, age 85 of Sulphur Springs, were held at 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, February 10, 2016 at Winterfield Cemetery with Rev. C. J. Duffey officiating. There was no formal visitation.

Mrs. Frank passed away on Sunday, February 7, 2016 at Carriage House Manor. She was a retired homemaker.

She was born on March 10, 1930, the daughter of G.C. and Allie Mae (Ellidge) Cain in Hopkins County.

Survivors include husband, Bob Frank of Sulphur Springs; daughter, Sherry Therwanger and husband, Phillip of Sulphur Springs; son, Steve Pool of Lantana; sisters, Essie Sickles of Mansfield, Ina Dodson of Houston and Annita Morris of Flint; brothers, Lee Cain of Mansfield and Gilbert Cain, Jr. of Joshua; grandchildren, David Therwanger, Mark Pool, Karen Beckwith, Jeremy Pool, Richard Pool and eleven great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; one son, Rodney Pool; one grandson, Marty Therwanger and one brother, Earl Cain.

Memorials can be made to the Gideons International, P.O. Box 140800, Nashville, TN 37214 or at [www.gideons.org](http://www.gideons.org).



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# THE IDLE AMERICAN

## Mort Muddles in Merry Mix-up...

Commentary by Dr. Don Newbury

Uncle Mort, staring down the barrel at his 104th birthday on July 4, lives in utter fascination of the moment--whatever he's doing, wherever he is. Aunt Maude says he can entertain himself for a good four hours in

an empty room with a minute, with gusts to fly swatter. "Add a fly to the mix, and his day is made," she laughs. He gabs about tiniest shreds of minutia. One of his domino buddies claims Mort's verbal discourses have been timed at 250 words per

traction resulting from a casual glance at the newspaper rack. The stark headline foretold numerous Walmart closings. This was "big news," begging for dissection. Clearly, the domino game would have to wait....

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\*\*\*\*  
"Some of my best spontaneous conversations have been at Walmart with other husbands resorting to idle conversation while wives shop," another guy mentioned. "It's either talk or watch the greeter welcoming customers."

### WORD SEARCH

D W H I S K E Y B U N K H O U S E T H A  
N L D A V Y C R O C K E T T E W R O S A  
A G U N S L I N G E R P C R Y A R W T S  
H C S T L E P T S R I O O N D S A A I K  
D A A D D R C H U O U T S I E L S N R O  
E M T L I E O I N O S S N S T F T T R K  
R I N S A T E E F L T G T U A K O E U C  
I N U P G M E W A F P O O L T L O D P I  
H E D U B R I R E O O P O E E S B P T H  
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R A C C E S D K N J U M N S L C C T E I  
I F O G E O S K B N A A U A S O K E V B  
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O F O R B A O U C K R R A P U O I A V I  
O R K B O G P N S A E R D I T I T G E W  
L R E L D D A S M E N R M G S L H O R T  
A R H E H R E C I F F O T S O P E N R D  
S E S U O H L O O H C S L L A H N W O T

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| BUNKHOUSE     | GUNSLINGER  | RANCH HAND  | TRADING POST     |
| CALAMITY JANE | HATS        | REVOLVER    | TUMBLEWEED       |
| CHAPS         | HIRED HAND  | RUSTLER     | WAGON            |
| COAL OIL      | HORSES      | SADDLER     | WANTED POSTER    |
| COWPOKE       | ICE HOUSE   | SALOON GIRL | WHISKEY          |
| DAVY CROCKETT | LIASSO      | SCHOOLHOUSE | WILD BILL HICKOK |

\*\*\*\*  
"The closings will complicate many lives, way beyond mere inconvenience," he commented. "Think of the thousands of husbands who had signed off on their funeral plans and now must make critical changes."

Gripped by the puzzlement, his friends couldn't imagine what Walmart has to do with husbands' earthly exits.

Mort clarified: "I know several guys who'd planned on cremation, with their ashes spread at Walmart, thus guaranteeing spousal visits at least twice a week."...

\*\*\*\*

"Some of my best spontaneous conversations have been at Walmart with other husbands resorting to idle conversation while wives shop," another guy mentioned. "It's either talk or watch the greeter welcoming customers."

One fellow told about a recent Walmart session. A "new friend" dominated the conversation immediately, describing what he called "two minefields in life" that get him "off the subject at best and off the track at worst."

The minefields? "Neon and nylons," the guy

Uncle Mort, staring down the barrel at his

shreds of minutia. One of his domino buddies claims Mort's verbal discourses have been timed at 250 words per minute, with gusts to 300.

Mort's arrival at the general store on a Saturday morning typically means domino-shuffling is soon to commence. Recently, though, the table was turned--so to speak--because of distraction resulting from a casual glance at the newspaper rack. The stark headline foretold numerous Walmart closings. This was "big news," begging for dissection. Clearly, the domino game would have to wait....

\*\*\*\*

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The minefields? "Neon and nylons," the guy laughed....

\*\*\*\*

Another member of Mort's foursome spoke of a second "mart" in the news.

"Kmart says shoppers with firearms need only abide by state law without checking 'em at the door."

He claims, "Saturday night specials are compatible with blue light specials."...

\*\*\*\*

They were all agog about Los Angeles' re-entry into the National Football League, as well as excited about LA's proposed new \$2 billion sports palace purported to make Jerry Jones' AT&T Stadium look, uh, "so yesterday."

Someone rekindled the conversation about San Antonio getting an NFL franchise.

One guy thought they might consider "Toros" for the team nickname. "Political correctness being what it is, they'd need to clear the mascot idea with the bulls and the lawnmower people," he laughed....

\*\*\*\*



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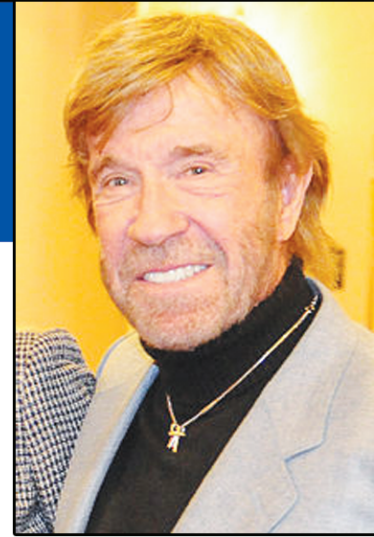




## FAMOUS TEXANS

# Chuck Norris

Actor, Martial Artist, Film Producer and Screenwriter



Carlos Ray "Chuck" Norris (born March 10, 1940) is an American martial artist, actor, film producer and screenwriter. After serving in the United States Air Force, he began his rise to fame as a martial artist, and has since founded his own school, Chun Kuk Do.

Norris appeared in a number of action films, such as *Way of the Dragon*, in which he starred alongside Bruce Lee, and was The Cannon Group's leading star in the 1980s. He played the starring role in the television series *Walker, Texas Ranger* from 1993 until 2001.

Norris is a devout Christian and politically conservative. He has written several books on Christianity and donated to a number of Republican candidates and causes. In 2007 and 2008, he campaigned for former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, who was running for the Republican nomination for president in 2008. Norris also writes a column for the conservative website *WorldNetDaily*. Since 2005 Norris has been widely associated with an internet meme which documents fictional and often absurd feats associated with him.

### Early life

Norris was born in Ryan, Oklahoma on March 10, 1940, the son of Wilma (née Scarberry) and Ray Norris, who was a World War II Army soldier, a mechanic, bus driver, and truck driver. Norris is one half Irish and one half Cherokee Indian, whose paternal grandmother and maternal grandfather were full blooded Cherokees. Norris was named after Carlos Berry, his father's minister. He has two younger brothers, Wieland (1943-1970; killed in Vietnam) and Aaron (a Hollywood producer). When Norris was sixteen, his parents divorced, and he later relocated to Prairie Village, Kansas, and then to Torrance, California, with his mother and brothers.

Norris has described his childhood as downbeat. He was nonathletic, shy, and scholastically mediocre. His father, Ray, worked intermittently as an automobile mechanic, and went on alcohol drinking binges that lasted for months at a time. Embarrassed by his father's behavior and the family's financial plight, Norris developed a debilitating introversion that lasted for his entire childhood.

He joined the United States Air Force as an Air Policeman (AP) in 1958 and was sent to Osan Air Base, South Korea. It was there that Norris acquired the nickname Chuck and began his training in Tang Soo Do (tangsudo), an interest that led to black belts in that art and the founding of the Chun Kuk Do ("Universal Way") form. When he returned to the United States, he continued to serve as an AP at March Air Force Base in California.

Norris was discharged in August 1962. He worked for the Northrop Corporation and opened a chain of Karate schools including a storefront school in his then-hometown of Torrance on Hawthorne Boulevard. Norris' official website lists celebrity clients at the schools; among them Steve McQueen, Chad McQueen, Bob Barker, Priscilla Presley, Donny Osmond and Marie Osmond.

### Martial arts career

Norris was defeated in his first two tournaments, dropping decisions to Joe Lewis and Allen Steen and three matches at the International Karate Championships to Tony Tulleners. By 1967 Norris had improved enough that he scored victories over the likes of Lewis, Skipper Mullins, Arnold Urquidez, Victor Moore, Ron Marchini, and Steve Sanders. Norris would be a two time winner at S. Henry Cho's All American Championship. In early 1968, Norris suffered the tenth and last loss of his career, losing an upset decision to Louis Delgado. On November 24, 1968, he avenged his defeat to Delgado and by doing so won the Professional Middleweight Karate champion title, which he held for six consecutive years. In 1969, he won Karate's triple crown for the most tournament wins of the year, and the Fighter of the Year award by *Black Belt* magazine.

Norris made history in 1990 when he was the first Westerner in the documented history of Tae Kwon Do to be given the rank of 8th Degree Black Belt Grand Master. In 1999, Norris was inducted into the Martial Arts History Museum's Hall of Fame. On July 1, 2000, Norris was presented the Golden Lifetime Achievement Award by the World Karate Union Hall of Fame.

### Acting career - Rise to fame

In 1969, Norris made his acting debut in the Dean Martin film *The Wrecking Crew*. In June 1970, his younger brother Wieland, a private in the 101st Airborne Division, was killed in Vietnam while on patrol in the defense of Firebase Ripcord. Norris later dedicated his *Missing in Action* films to his brother's memory.

At a martial arts demonstration in Long Beach, Norris met the martial artist Bruce Lee. In 1972, he acted as Lee's nemesis in the movie *Way of the Dragon* (titled *Return of the Dragon* in its U.S. distribution), which is widely credited with launching him toward stardom. In Asia, Norris is still known primarily for this role. In 1974, McQueen encouraged him to begin acting classes at MGM.

Norris' first starring role was 1977's *Breaker! Breaker!*, and subsequent films such as *Good Guys Wear Black* (1978), *The Octagon* (1980), *An Eye for an Eye* (1981), and *Lone Wolf McQuade* proved his increasing box office bankability. In 1984, Norris starred in *Missing in Action*, the first of a series of Rambo-inspired POW rescue fantasies themed around the Vietnam War POW/MIA issue that were produced by Israeli cousins Menahem Golan and Yoram Globus and released under their Cannon Films banner. The film, however, was criticized heavily as being a preemptive cash-in on the Rambo film series.

Over the next four years, Norris became Cannon's most prominent star, appearing in eight films, including *Code of Silence*, *The Delta Force*, and *Firewalker*, in which he co-starred with Academy Award winner Louis Gossett, Jr.. Many of the aforementioned films were produced by Norris' brother Aaron Norris, as were several episodes of *Walker, Texas Ranger*. In 1986, he was involved in the production of the Ruby-Spears cartoon *Karate Kommandos*.

In October 2014 he revealed that he would be shooting a new film, *The Finisher*, in March 2015.

### Walker, Texas Ranger

By the end of the 1980s, Cannon Films had faded from prominence, and Norris' star appeal seemed to go with it. He reprised his *Delta Force* role for MGM, which had acquired the Cannon library after the latter's Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Norris went on to make several more films before making a transition to television. In 1993, he began shooting the series *Walker, Texas Ranger*, which lasted eight years on CBS and continued in heavy syndication on other channels, notably the Hallmark Channel.

On October 17, 2005, CBS premiered the *Sunday Night Movie of the Week*, *Walker, Texas Ranger: Trial by Fire*. The production was a continuation of the series, and not scripted to be a reunion movie. Norris reprised his role as Cordell Walker for the movie. He has stated that future *Walker, Texas Ranger* *Movie of the Week* projects are expected; however, this was severely impaired by CBS's 2006–2007 season decision to no longer regularly schedule *Movies of the Week* on Sunday night.

### Product endorsements

Norris has appeared with Christie Brinkley in a long-running series of cable TV infomercials promoting Total Gym home fitness equipment.

In 2010, Norris appeared in advertisements for communications company T-Mobile in the Czech Republic. In 2011, Norris appeared in advertisements for the *World of Warcraft* video game. In 2012, Norris appeared in a series of commercials for the Polish bank BZ WBK.

Norris has also appeared in a commercial for Mountain Dew.

### Chun Kuk Do

Norris created the martial art Chun Kuk Do, which is based primarily on Tang Soo Do and includes elements from every combat style he knows. Like many other martial arts, Chun Kuk Do includes a code of honor and rules to live by. These rules are from Norris' personal code. They are: I will develop myself to the maximum of my potential in all ways. - I will forget the mistakes of the past and press on to greater achievements. - I will continually work at developing love, happiness and loyalty in my family. - I will look for the good in all people and make them feel worthwhile. - If I have nothing good to say about a person, I will say nothing. - I will always be as enthusiastic about the success of others as I am about my own. - I will maintain an attitude of open-mindedness. - I will maintain respect for those in authority and demonstrate this respect at all times. - I will always remain loyal to my God, my country, family and my friends. - I will remain highly goal-oriented throughout my life because that positive attitude helps my family, my country and myself.

### Family

Norris married Dianne Holechek in 1958. In 1963 their first child, Mike, was born. His daughter Dina was born in 1964 out of an extramarital affair. Later, he had a second son, Eric, with his wife in 1965. After 30 years of marriage, Norris and Holechek divorced in 1988.

On November 28, 1998, he married former model Gena O'Kelley, born in 1963 and 23 years Norris' junior. O'Kelley had two children from a previous marriage. She delivered twins on August 30, 2001: Dakota Alan Norris, a boy, and Danilee Kelly Norris, a girl. The wedding was performed by Lawrence Kennedy, who is featured in Norris' autobiography.

On September 22, 2004, Norris told *Entertainment Tonight*'s Mary Hart that his daughter Dina was the result of an extramarital affair. He did not meet her until she was 26, although she learned that he was her father when she was 16. She sent a letter to his home informing him of their relationship. After meeting her, Norris said he knew she was his daughter upon seeing her.

In 2005, Norris mentioned in an autobiography that his mother gave birth to him when she was 18 years-old and that his deceased brother Wieland was his first black belt when he was teaching him how to fight.

Norris has nine grandchildren.

### Christianity

An outspoken Christian, Norris is the author of several Christian-themed books, such as *The Justice Riders*. He has also been in a few TV commercials promoting Bible study and prayer in public schools in addition to efforts to reduce drug use. In his *WorldNetDaily* columns, he has expressed his belief in Biblical creationism.

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