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### **Sulphur Bluff Volunteer Fire Department Receives Community Builder's Award**



Sulphur Bluff VFD received a Community Builder Award from the Sulphur Bluff Masonic Lodge 246 during the Hopkins County Commissioners Court meeting on February 8, 2021. Hopkins County Commissioner Wade Bartley presented the award, on behalf of Masonic Lodge No. 246 and the Grand Lodge of Texas, to Sulphur Bluff VFD Chief Chris Bassham, and extended thanks and appreciation to him and all the members of SBVFD for all of their help.

The award recognizes outstanding non-Masons who have distinguished themselves through their service to the community; to local, state and national governments; to the church or to humanity, and may be found in service clubs, through public school systems, religious activities and office in military or patriotic organizations, through all sorts of volunteer work.

This award brings a focus to the service that volunteer fire departments provide for us. SBVFD is one of eleven volunteer departments which serve Hopkins County, coming into existence in 1975 as one of the first to become organized. It's heritage of providing fire protection began following a disastrous fire at the Sulphur Bluff School gym in 1974. Residents of the community had fought the fire as best they could. Dairyman T.L. Sanderson lent help to firefighting efforts at the gym fire by sending his '68 Chevy milk truck to haul water to the site where volunteers operated with buckets and water-soaked feed sacks. Following that fire, over a dozen community members gathered to begin organizing a department to provide fire protection for citizens of the north part of the county. In 1976, Sulphur Bluff received the first of five fire trucks purchased by Hopkins County through Price Ford Sales of Sulphur Springs. The trucks were 1976 one-ton chassis which could be fitted out for

service. In the group's efforts to generate revenue toward buying land and constructing a volunteer fire facility, the Sulphur Bluff volunteers hauled a 1976 half-ton pickup truck to area events throughout northeast Texas to sell tickets. As of 2020, SBVFD had 13 members supporting six fire apparatus who continue to serve and protect the Sulphur Bluff community and Hopkins County.



Congratulations to the Sulphur Bluff Volunteers. In 2021, the department observes 46 years of courageous service. Many of it's fellow departments have long histories too. News of this kind makes us proud to be part of a county with such a rich heritage. Just think back 50 years to how things were then, before standardized equipment, radios and cell phones existed. Today, communication is more efficient and well-equipped fire and rescue units are the norm. But let's don't ever take that for granted! It's the diligence and devotion of people in town and in the far reaches of our county that laid the groundwork for the safety we enjoy today. Thanks to all the volunteer fire fighters who provide peace of mind, and safety for our lives, our families, our homes and property! Til next week, stay warm, stay safe and stay well. I will watch for you at the Corral Gate!

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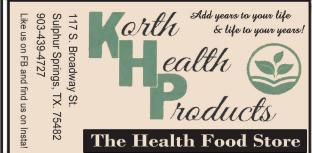
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### Amber Hughes Cody

Amber Hughes Cody, 48, went to be with the Lord on Tuesday, February 2, 2021. She was born April 19, 1972 to Sandra Kay Ishmael and Anthony (Tony) Hughes in Sulphur Springs, Texas. Amber graduated from Sulphur Springs High School in 1990 and from Texas A & M — Commerce with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice in 2007.

She was a loving daughter, sister, mother, and grandmother. She cherished her most recent title as "Adee" to her precious grandson Jase David Owens.

Amber is survived by her father Tony and wife Freddie Hughes of Sulphur Springs, daughter Toni Owens and husband Justin and grandson Jase of Russellville, Arkansas, daughter Maci Merrell of Sulphur Springs, brother Todd Hughes and wife Kathy of Sulphur Springs, sister Cris Hughes of Sulphur Springs, brother Jarred Pickett and wife Amanda of Sulphur Springs, Brooke Sikes and husband Ben of Dallas, Joie Pickett of Austin and Jeffrey Pickett of Wichita Falls, and friend John McNeill. She is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews whom she loved dearly.

She was preceded in death by her mother Sandra Ishmael Pickett and stepfather Joe Pickett. Paternal grandparents, Len and Ruth Hughes and Auda Mae Word. Maternal grandparents Jessie Faye and J.O. Walker and Melvin Ishmael.

An open visitation was held from 1:00 to 6:00 with a formal visitation following from 6:00 to 8:00 on Friday, February 5, 2021 at West Oaks Funeral Home. Funeral Services were at West Oaks Funeral Home on Saturday, February 6, 2021 at 10:00 am and burial followed at Sherley Cemetery.

Pallbearers are David Graves, Tory Humphries, Dave Graves, Dallas Osborn, Casey Osborn, and Rick Modesitt.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to either Sherley Cemetery, P.O. Box 493, Sulphur Springs, Texas 75483 or Cru at give.cru.org/1021870. Arrangements were under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. www.westoaksfuneralhome.com



### Charles "Chuck" Carter

Funeral services for Charles "Chuck" Carter, age 82, of Sulphur Springs, were held at 10:00 a.m., Monday, February 8, 2021 at Spence Chapel of First Baptist Church. Interment followed at Nelta Cemetery with Chris Carrell, Scott Lee, Wayne Bolton, Tanner Bolton, Brian Coleman, Justin Coleman, Matthew Covington, and Zac Ivey serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers were Stanley Walesiak, Fred Lewis, and Median Adult 4-Glenn Sunday School Class. Visitation was held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., Sunday, February 7, 2021 at West Oaks Funeral Home.

Charles went to be with his heavenly father on Thursday, February 4, 2021. He was born on March 27, 1938 in Childress, TX. He was a loving husband, father, brother, uncle and friend. He will be missed by all who knew him. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Sulphur Springs. Charles was a proud Air Force Veteran, he loved his sales, and his last few years he loved being a courier for Alli-

ance Bank. But what he enjoyed best was his Sunday School Class. Charles was such a people person. That's what helped him excel in his career of sales. He is survived by wife, Frances Carter, daughters, Delores Lynn Upp, and Vickie Renee Girtz. His three sisters Patsy Cook and husband W.A., Claudette Harwell and husband Joe, and Kathy Carrell. Sisters-in-law, Brenda Ingram, Kathy Sandell and husband Rickie and brother in law, Mike Honzell and wife Becky. As well as numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his paternal father, William Arthur Carter, mother, Mavis Gertrude Bartlett, and blessed with a wonderful daddy Roy Bartlett, and sisters, Peggy Sue Carter and Lee Ann Lee. The family ask that donations be made in lieu of flowers to Hope's House First Baptist Church.



### Helen R. Moss

Funeral services for Helen R. Moss, age 79, of Sulphur Springs were held at 2:00 P.M. on Monday, February 8, 2021 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Chapel with Rev. Fred Lewis officiating. Interment followed at Restlawn Memorial Park with Larry Moss, Danny Ray Moss, Scott Moss, Kyle Moss, Kirk Brown, Jason Helm, Jon David Crowson, and Shane Crowson serving as pallbearers. Visitation was held one hour prior to the service. Mrs. Moss passed away on Thursday, February 4, 2021 at her residence.

Helen was born on January 14, 1942 in Wheeler, Texas to John and Estelle (Phillips) Crowson. She married Jerry Ray Moss on May 9, 1959 in Oklahoma. Helen worked in the Business Office for Rockwell International. She was of the Baptist faith. Helen loved to read, cook and spend time in her yard. She was a great caregiver, an artist and a seamstress.

She is survived by her husband, Jerry Ray; brother, John Crowson Jr. and wife, Kathy; sisters, Edna Perry and husband, Robert, Betty Hicks. Helen was preceded in death by her parents, mother-in-law, Sarah Moss, and son, Anthony Ray (Tony) Moss.

Dorothy Beasley

A graveside service for Dorothy Beasley, age 89, of Cumby was held at 2:00 P.M. on Saturday, February 6, 2021 at Cumby Cemetery with Jeremy Webb, Ricky Beasley, Craig Beasley, David Hayworth, Rocky Wishon, and Steve Smith serving as honorary pallbearers. There was no formal visitation. Mrs. Beasley passed away on February 4, 2021 in Greenville, TX. Dorothy was born on October 25, 1931, in Hunt County, TX to Robert and Claudia (Street) Rayburn. She married Fred Beasley, on February 18, 1950 in Greenville, TX. Mrs. Beasley worked as quality control for Sherwood Medical Industries in Commerce. She was a member of Cumby Methodist church.

She is survived by her daughters, Betty Phillips and husband Curtis, Pam Agee and husband Steve; grandchildren, Jeremy Webb, Jonathan Webb, Kelly Belt, Jessica Wishon; great grandchildren, Zoe Webb, Joaquin Webb, Titus Webb, LiamWishon; sisters, Iva Combs, Judy Bornhiem; brother Eddie Rayburn.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her parents; husband; daughters, Brenda Walls, Linda Collins; sister, Edna Wallace; brothers, Billy Joe Rayburn, R.M. Rayburn; great granddaughter, Phoebe Webb.

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Tumbleweed Smith the neighborhood, collecting old worn out pots, pans and anything else made of any type of metal that might be used in the war effort. I also used my little red wagon to haul newspapers I had collected to the place where they were being picked

My parents bought war bonds. I gave dimes to patriotic causes. At Bell's Hill Elementary School I played a wounded soldier in a wartime skit. I loved doing it because the prettiest girl in my second grade class acted as the nurse. I remember blackouts. Civil Air Patrol wardens walked around and if they saw a light on in a house they knocked on the door and told the residents to keep their house dark so enemy planes wouldn't spot it.

All the kids in the neighborhood had pictures of German planes so they could be identified if we happened to see them in the skies over Waco. My first job was counting the ration stamps in my daddy's butcher shop. A little sticker on the windshield facing the driver in our car read: IS THIS TRIP REALLY NECESSARY? It was a time of saving everything and everybody did because we in our own way were helping win the war. Everybody was pulling together. All of us had family members in the armed services. When they came home after the war, they were somehow different.

When I was with the Army Security Agency during the cold war, I was sent to Germany for a couple of years. It was a time of turmoil there because the country was divided into east and west. When I went to the World's Fair in Brussels the American Pavilion had a display of what was called Circarama. A movie showing the Statue of Liberty, the Golden Gate Bridge, a baseball game, the Grand Canyon, aerial sights of American cities, wheat fields of Kansas, children playing and other aspects of Americana were projected onto a 360-degree screen in a round building. You could turn completely around and wherever you looked you saw images of the United States. And vou did this while America the Beautiful played over loud speakers. I have chills today thinking about it. When you are away from your country for two years you get a good look at what we have as Americans. And it makes us proud. I remember driving along the coast of Spain by myself one midnight while Armed Forces Radio was signing off with the national anthem. I stopped the car, got out, and stood at attention with my hand over my heart until the music stopped. When I got back to New York I took my duffel bag off my shoulder hit the ground and kissed the asphalt. I was glad to be home. I really thought everybody was patriotic, like I was, proud to be Amer-

icans. I thought that until January 6, 2021.



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