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VOL. 22 ISSUE 1123, November 3, 2021

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Charleston →

## Charleston, Texas



Charleston, Texas is in Delta County and is usually a sleepy little town. At Halloween, however, some folks go all out with their decor! The one big thing on record that happened in Charleston was spooky enough...that's when a meteorite fell to earth outside of town on May 19, 1910. That's sure to have caused some screams! I guess we could say that 'Charleston Rocks!' But sadly, hardly anyone is still around to give an eye-witness account. Delta County's most publicized event of the decade was not without precedent, however, as more than 230 meteorites have been catalogued in Texas. The earliest written record dates from 1772, when Athanase de Mézières learned of the Texas Iron from Tawakoni Indians near the Brazos River. Considered the largest preserved find from Texas, this 1,635-pound meteorite was venerated by several Indian cultures for its supposed healing powers and is currently housed at the Peabody Museum of Natural History at Yale University.



Other finds in Texas include the 500-foot-diameter Meteor Crater at Odessa, the third largest crater in the United States, and the Peña Blanca Spring meteorite, which plunged into a swimming pool on the Gage Ranch in Brewster County on August 2, 1946

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Answers On pg. 7



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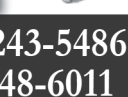
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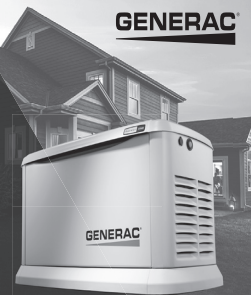
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**OPENING CEREMONY**

Thursday, November 4, 2021; 6:00 pm, SSHS Track  
Opening Comments and Welcome, Recognize Dignitaries  
John Sellers, Mayor of Sulphur Springs, Texas  
Posting of the Colors – Hopkins County Civil Air Patrol  
Pledge Allegiance to the Flag – Led by Mayor Sellers  
National Anthem sung by Alina Tatum Sanders  
Invocation – Pastor Jeff Gravens

Recognition of Carol Gunn Vernon, Underwriter of  
The Wall That Heals

Introduced by Mandy Kennedy

Recognition of Gold Star Widows and Family Members

Introduced by Dena Lloyd

Reading Names of Hopkins County Soldiers  
Killed-In-Action in Vietnam

Judge Robert Newsom

Ringling of the Bell in Honor of These Soldiers  
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Sulphur Springs ISD Asst. Superintendent, Josh Williams

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# Obits



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### **Barry Gene (B.W.) Washington**

Barry Gene (B.W.) Washington was born December 12, 1956, to Troas Ben Washington and Virginia Kate Washington. However, he didn't enter this world alone. His identical twin brother, Harry Dean Washington, arrived shortly after him.

Barry graduated from Sulphur Springs High School in 1975. He loved sports and God. Upon graduation from high school, he received a scholarship to John Brown University in far northwestern Arkansas where he received his Bachelors' Degree in 1979. After graduation from JBU, he was a high school teacher and coach in McKinney, Texas, where he helped coach the McKinney Lions to a State football championship.

Barry married Gladene Curry in Carthage, Texas on January 29, 1990. To this union a daughter, Brianna Gabrielle Washington, was born. Barry and Gladene worked hard, raised livestock, and were once owners of GW's Barbecue.

In 1982, Barry joined the Texas Department of Public Safety, and became one of the DPS' most decorated State Troopers, after a career filled with many arrests and seizures of illegal narcotics, and millions of dollars of illegal drug money. During his decades at DPS, he also gained another "bonus son," partner, and friend in Trooper Tom Ball, now a DEA Special Agent.

Barry's career in DPS included management as a Highway Patrol Corporal and as a Narcotic Sergeant Investigator. He was often featured in local and State news including episodes of the TV show "Real Stories of Highway Patrol," the Dallas Morning News, and Parade Magazine for pioneering and leading Texas in highway drug interdiction. He received high praise and recognition from the International Conference of Chiefs of Police and National Sheriff's Association for drug interdiction operations, training officers in other states, and for mentoring high school age and other young people.

Living to cherish Barry's memories are his mother, Virginia Kate Dunlap Washington; his daughter, Brianna (Tony) Rabon; his grandchildren, Ember and Kimber Rabon; sister, Jeanice Johnson; brothers, Donald (Yvonne) and Harry Washington; nieces, LaTosha (Tyron) Ivery and Tiffany Washington; niece in love, Jennifer Johnson; nephews, Jerome (Amy) Johnson, Greg, Everett, Donny (Ashley) and Trevon Washington; uncles, Aubrey (Lillian) Washington and Rev. J.B. (Doris) Dunlap; and aunt, Connie Dunlap; his bonus sons, Johnnie (Vanessa) Balous and Tom Ball; bonus daughters Tai Asia Davis and MaKya Elizabeth Hearn; and bonus grandkids, Bryce, Kyre, Jacobi, Rhyon, Paris, Preston, Bo, and Isaiah Balous. Barry also precedes in glory his many, many friends and colleagues in law enforcement and Christian worship and prophesy.

Barry is preceded in death by his father, Troas Ben Washington; grandparents, G.C. and Maudie Harrison Washington, and Arthur and Bennie Ethel Dunlap; Brianna's mom, Gladene Curry Washington; and nephew, Noah O. Johnson (Jennifer).

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Saturday, October 30, 2021, at League Street Church of Christ. Interment followed at Restlawn Memorial Park.



### **Tonya Wyly**

Funeral service for Tonya Wyly, age 50 of Sulphur Springs, Texas, were held at 2 p.m. Monday, November 1, 2021, at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home with Mike Eason officiating. Interment followed at Pleasant Grove Cemetery with Cooper Adams, Blake Adams, Hobi Adams, Brian Wyly, Shawn Wyly and Logan Merrell serving as pallbearers. Visitation was held one hour prior to the service. Mrs. Wyly passed away October 27, 2021, at her residence.

Tonya was born on September 6, 1971, in Dallas, Texas, to Vance Wilson and Mary Stonaker. She married David Wyly on May 4, 1990, in Hopkins County. She was a homemaker. Tonya was a member of the Cross Spur Cowboys Church.

She is survived by her husband, David; daughters, Lindsay Wyly and Brittany Wyly; son, Justin Wyly; mom, Mary Robinson; stepdad, Wendell Stonaker; brothers, Rickey Adams, and Brian Adams and wife RaDona; sister, Emily Stonaker; and numerous stepsiblings, nieces, nephews and others that loved her. Tonya was preceded in death by her father, Vance, and grandparents.

Arrangements under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. The online register can be signed at [www.murrayorwosky.com](http://www.murrayorwosky.com)



### **Carolyn Burns**

Visitation for Carolyn Burns, 71, of Miller Grove, was Tuesday, November 2, from 6 to 8 p.m. at West Oaks Funeral Home in Sulphur Springs. Funeral services will be held Wednesday, November 3, at 10 a.m. at County Line Baptist Church. Interment will follow at Clifton cemetery.

Carolyn Maree Garmon Burns was born November 29, 1949, to Robert and Maree (Garrett) Garmon of Miller Grove. She passed away October 24, in her home surrounded by her loved ones.

Carolyn was married to Dewey Ray Burns, Jr. on May 25, 1968. Junior gave his life serving our country as a Navy medic who traveled with the Marines during the Viet Nam war. Carolyn became a champion of the armed services and was always quick to recognize and honor the commitment and sacrifice of our military personnel.

Carolyn loved Miller Grove, and she faithfully served her community both personally and professionally her entire life. She was an active member of County Line Baptist Church. She especially loved her ladies' Sunday School Class, and she was quick to

help with food for any event. She served on the Miller Grove ISD school board for over a decade, 8 years of which she was school board president. She donated countless cakes and baked goods for FFA auctions and various school fundraisers. After being the local rural carrier for 31 years, she retired from the U.S. Postal Service, where she earned her million mile award.

Carolyn was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; her brother, Robert (Henry) Garmon II; and her son-in-law, Randy Thornton.

Carolyn is survived by daughters Tammy Thornton of Palestine and Teresa Burns and husband Robert of Emory; sister Lynda Wood of Grapeland; sister Sherri Cockrell and brother-in-law Rick of Miller Grove. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Tarah Thornton of Tyler; Hunter Thornton and wife, Autumn, of Honolulu, Hawaii; Caitlyn Norwood and husband, Braden, of Shawnee, OK, and their son, Ben; Colton Burns and wife, Mariah, of Emory and their daughter, Evalynn; Taylor Nisbet and husband, Nolan, of Tyler and their son, Ezra; Collyn Burns of Emory; and numerous nieces and nephews.



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**THE VIETNAM WALL VISITS TEXAS**

Tumbleweed Smith



Tumbleweed Smith

A three-quarter-size replica of the Vietnam Wall will be in Sulphur Springs November 4 through 7.

"We're the only site in Texas," says Mandy Kennedy, who works with veterans' organizations in Sulphur Springs. "There's only 28 sites this year. In fact, we're the only site in the entire southern states area. The closest ones are Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico."

Mandy says she is expecting a large crowd from a wide area.

"They told us to expect 25,000 visitors over the 4 days. This has been designated nationwide as the year to welcome home Vietnam veterans. Our goal is to have the streets lined with people and yellow ribbons and banners. We're doing student tours and planning on a hundred kids every 30 minutes. That means about 1,200 kids in two days."

There is no admission charge. The wall will be on display at the high school track 24 hours a day.

"There's a big command center that will be in the concession stand area and there will be plenty of parking. It's just a perfect place to set it up. It takes a lot of space because it's 375 feet long and nearly 8 feet tall. Our athletes are helping to carry the granite wall sections. We're responsible for putting it up."

Visitors will be able to do rubbings of names on the wall.

"The staff will provide the paper. We provide the pencils. Our volunteers will help people get their etchings. There will be a kiosk there so family members can look up their veteran's name and they can print out a photo of the loved one and get details about where they died and other information."

A detailed education station accompanies the wall that has the history of the war and personal stories.

"There are printed materials, videos, maps, even shadow boxes that contain memorabilia such as photos, testimonials and things like that. There's just so much to see."

Students have been involved throughout the process. A resident, Carol Dunn Vernon donated \$10,000 to get the wall to Sulphur Springs. "We truly have a community that rallies and supports our veterans."

Mandy has a personal interest in the wall.

"I have a cousin on that wall. A lot of my family was in the Vietnam War, so I've kept up with veterans' issues nearly my whole life. It's a privilege to be able to help handle the hundreds of volunteers and other factors that go into getting the wall here."

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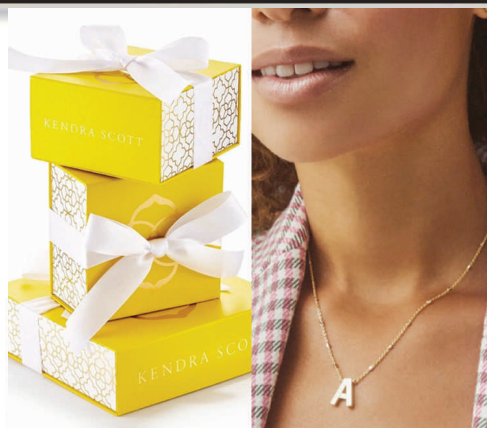
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