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#### TAMALE THURSDAYS IN FORT STOCKTON

Tumbleweed Smith

Every Thursday a store in Fort Stockton sells tamales.

"We start cooking our tamales at one o'clock in the morning," says JB Gallegos, owner of The Comanche Tortilla and Tamale Factory. "I come in, put them in the steamer and at seven o'clock they're ready to go. Our steamer cooks 14 trays of 6 dozen apiece, so

**Tumbleweed Smith** 

if you do your math, that's a lot of tamales that go out of here in the course of a day. We sell them only here at the store, only on Thursdays. They honk outside and we run outside, see what they want and we take them their tamales. They don't even have to get out of their car."

His grandfather started the business 75 years ago and it has been in the same location since the late fifties.

"The art of making tamales is almost a dying art. Whole families used to get together and have a tamalera. You just don't see that happen much anymore. I'd like to see that tradition revived."

His company makes only two types of tamales: pork and a cheese-jalapeno combination. JB says pork is king, the one that sells the most. His company makes other items that are sold all over west Texas. These include three types of tortillas, a salsa line and masa, which is stone-ground corn.

JB graduated from Fort Stockton High School in 1972 and left town.

"I hit that back door running, and knew that I was going to see the world and I did that for 40 years. I traveled from here to San Francisco where I finally got my degree, then went to New York City and was there for 10 years. I was at Julliard for 5 of those years working on a master's degree." He worked as a professional lighting designer in New York theaters.

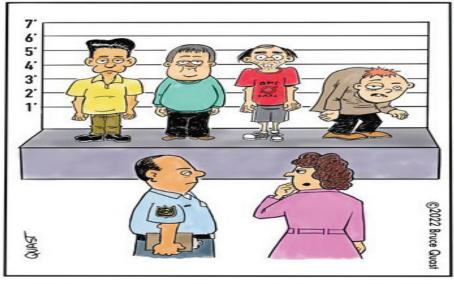
"It's a very specialized field that I enjoyed immensely. When I was at Lincoln Center at Julliard I worked independently and had the opportunity to work with many wonderful designers, directors and of course Julliard was the cream of the cream and I met and worked with numerous artists, just amazingly talented people. Eventually I left the theater because it wasn't paying what I expected and went into human resources and had a 35 year career in that field."

He retired, came home and planned to travel.

"You know life sometimes throws curves at you and you just kind of go with the flow. Three years ago, my father at 91 decided to retire from the tamale business, so I said, 'OK, Dad, let's give it a go. We'll try it.'"

JB's talents as a lighting designer are not being ignored. His store is just across the street from Fort Stockton's famous community theater that has just completed a multi million-dollar renovation and has plays and muscles year round. It is always seeking advice, counsel and muscle from JB, which he gladly supplies.

Comfortably Dumb By Bruce Quast



"The guy on the end rings a bell."

#### **WORD SEARCH**

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid.

The remaining letters spell a secret message.

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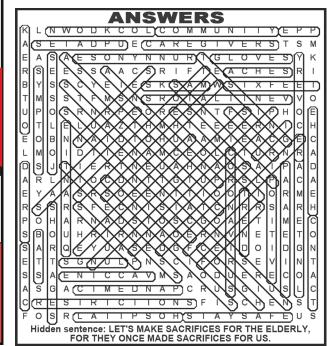
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## FAMOUS TEXANS

## MICKEY GILLEY



Mickey Leroy Gilley (March 9, 1936 – May 7, 2022) was an American country music singer and songwriter. Although he started out singing straight-up country and western material in the 1970s, he moved towards a more pop-friendly sound in the 1980s, bringing him further success on not just the country charts, but the pop charts as well. Among his biggest hits are "Room Full of Roses", "Don't the Girls All Get Prettier at Closing Time", and the remake of the Soul hit "Stand by Me". Gilley charted 42 singles in the top 40 on the US Country chart. He was a cousin of lerry Lee Lewis, Carl McVoy, and Jimmy Swaggart.

For many years, Gilley lived in the shadow of his well-known cousin, Jerry Lee Lewis, a successful rock and roll singer and musician in the 1950s and early 1960s. Gilley grew up in Louisiana, just across the Mississippi River from where Lewis grew up. Gilley, Lewis, and their cousin, Jimmy Swaggart, played together as children. Lewis taught them his piano style.

They sang both boogie-woogie and gospel music, but Gilley did not become a professional singer until Lewis hit the top of the charts in the 1950s. Gilley then cut a few singles and played sessions in New Orleans with producer Huey P. Meaux. His record "Call Me Shorty" on the Dot label sold well in 1958. In the 1960s, he played at many clubs and bars, gaining a following at the Nesadel Club in Pasadena, Texas. Paula Records released Gilley's first album, Down the Line, in 1967. He had a minor hit from the album called "Now I Can Live Again".

In 1970, Gilley joined in a partnership with Sherwood Cryer. Sherwood owned the club under the name Sherri's. His first nightclub in Pasadena, Texas, called Gilley's Club. It later became known as the "world's biggest honky-tonk". Gilley's Club and its mechanical bull were portrayed in the 1980 film, Urban Cowboy. He shared Gilley's Club with Sherwood Cryer, who asked Gilley to re-open his former bar with him. The club portion of Gilley's burned in 1990, and the rodeo arena portion was razed in 2005 to make way for a school. Recording career in the 1970s before Urban Cowboy. In 1974, Gilley recorded a song that originally was only supposed to be recorded for fun, titled "Room Full of Roses", written by Tim Spencer of the Sons of the Pioneers, which was a one-time hit for George Morgan. The song was released by Astro Records that year, and then Playboy Records got a hold of the single and obtained national distribution for "Room Full of Roses". From then on, Gilley was signed to Playboy Records, working with his long-time friend Eddie Kilroy. "Room Full of Roses" became the song that put Gilley on national radar, hitting the very top of the Country charts that year, as well as making it to No. 50 on the pop music chart.

**PERSONÁL LIFE:** Gilley's first wife was Geraldine Garrett, whom he married in 1953 (when he was 17 years old); they divorced in 1961. She was the mother of three of his four children (Keith Ray, Michael, and Kathy). She died on March 6, 2010. Gilley's second wife, whom he married in 1962, was Vivian McDonald. Together they have a son, Gregory. She died in 2019. Mickey and Cindy Loeb, his longtime friend and business associate, were married in June 2020. In July 2009, Gilley was helping a neighbor move some furniture when he fell with the love seat falling on top of him, crushing four vertebrae. The incident left him temporarily paralyzed from the neck down, but after intense physical therapy he was able to walk again and return to the stage a year later. However, he still lacked the hand-eye coordination necessary to play the piano.

His death was announced on May 7, 2022, by Jeff Wagner, mayor of Pasadena, Texas. He was 86 years old.

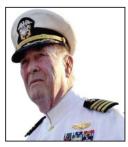




# West Oaks Funeral Home

500 Hillcrest Dr., Sulphur Springs, Tix. 75432

http://www.westoaksfuneralhome.com



Captain Joe Reid Scott October 4, 1934 - May 10, 2022 (age 87)

Funeral services for Captain Joe Reid Scott, age 87 of Sulphur Springs, TX were held at 11:00A.M. on Friday, May 13, 2022 at Murray Orwosky Funeral Home with Carla Cordova officiating. Interment followed at Restlawn Memorial Park with Joby Scott, Bryson Scott, Gabriel Cordova, Noah Post and Caleb Post serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers were the Plain and Fancy coffee group and Bill Williamson. Visitation was held one hour prior to the service. Mr. Scott passed away on May 10, 2022 at Christus Mother Frances - Sulphur Springs.

Joe was born on October 4, 1934 to Wade and Freida Reid Scott. He married Betty Sue Vaughn on October 4, 1989 in Arkansas. He earned a Bachelor of Science in economics at East Texas State University and studied Defense Economics at Naval War College. Joe was veteran of the United States Navy. He worked as a former Intelligence Officer in the US Navy Reserve, former Regional Sales Manager at Texas Instruments, owner and CEO at Miifax of North Texas, Owner

and CEO at Scotty's Liquor, Purchasing Manager at Rockwell International and former Area Six Commander in the U.S Navy. He was the Hopkins County Veterans Officer for 19 years. Joe was a member of the Kiwanis Club, Masons, and the VFW post 8560.

He is survived by his wife, Susan; daughter, Lana Kocorek and husband, Jim; sons, Joby Scott and wife Mitzi, Gabriel Cordova and wife, Carla and Caleb Post; grandchildren, Bryson Scott, Benjamin Scott, Chasity Cordova, Mitchell Cordova, Tanner Cordova, Ayden Cordova and Noah Post; great grandchildren, Ethan Arrington, Caybri Arrington, Harvey Cordova and Piper Cordova; brother Michael Scott and special cousins, Linda Dalmasso and Cindy Moreland

Joe was preceded in death by his parents and daughter, Liza Elizabeth Scott.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to VFW Post 8560 at 1 Veterans Drive, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482.



#### Arlene Lewis

Arlene Lewis was born in Sulphur Springs on July 4, 1937, to the late Henry Lewis, Sr., and Arbrie Elizabeth Epting Lewis. Arlene was the oldest of eight siblings, four of which have preceded her in death, Harold Wright, Arvie Wright, Mary Wright Hill, and "Baby Girl" Wright. She leaves to celebrate her life three siblings: Clarine Moore of Sulphur Springs, Texas; Henry Lewis, Jr. (Deborah) of Lancaster, Texas; and Claudie Sanders (Paul) of Athens, AL; and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends. She was educated in the Douglas Public School system and graduated Douglas High School in 1955. If one had to describe the life of Arlene it would be "Leader," "Caretaker, "and "Servant." Her passion has always been to show kindness to others in a kindhearted, compassionate, and deliberate way. Because she had a strong desire to be a caretaker, we celebrate her life as a Leader by being the first African American female in Hopkins County to accept, attend, and graduate from the License Vocational Nurse Training Program earning her a certificate as a LVN Nurse.

It was here that the door was opened for other African Americans to follow. She was blessed to have worked as an LVN in Sulphur Springs for over 40 years before retiring. Not only was she a leader, and caretaker; she was also a servant. At an early age Arlene was united with the St. Luke Baptist Church, during this time we would like to celebrate her life as a dedicated, faithful, dependable worker in the church, where she served as Church Clerk for over 60 years. Not only was Arlene a leader, caretaker, and servant; we as the family would like to celebrate her as just "Lena". She loved to travel, especially to family reunions. Even though she was never married, nor did she have children of her own, she was a mother to many, and she will be missed dearly by all who loved and respected her.

Funeral services will be held at 12 noon, Wednesday, May 18, 2022, at Morning Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. Interment will follow at St. Luke Cemetery. Visitation was held form 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 17, 2022, at West Oaks Funeral Home.

Arlene passed away on May 10, 2022. Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home.



#### Jimmie Gordon

A service for Jimmie Gordon, age 85, will be held at Mitchell Chapel on Wednesday, May 18, 2022, at 1 p.m. Interment will follow at Mel Haven Cemetery. A come and go visitation was held on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. at Tapp Funeral Home. Officiating will be Bishop Gatlin. Mr. Gordon passed away on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, at Sulphur Springs Health and Rehab.

He was born the son of Willie Gordon and Goldie Goodson Thomas in Sulphur Springs, Texas, on October 8, 1936. Jimmie was married to Sue Henley on March 20, 1970. Mr. Gordon worked at Rockwell International for many years then started his own yard mowing service before he retired. He was a child of the King.

Survivors include his wife, Sue Gordon of Sulphur Springs; daughters, Venda Gordon Wright (Terry), Venita Gordon Edwards (Bobby), both of Sulphur Springs, and Judy Gordon Sharp (Timothy) of Mesquite; son, Jimmy Joe Gordon, Jr.

(Oyon) of Severn, MD; 18 grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren; a sister, Sharon Thomas; and a brother, Don Thomas. He was preceded in death by his parents, Willie Gordon and Goldie Goodson Thomas; a son, Jay Paul Gordon; and four sisters, Patricia Gordon, Rosemary Thomas, Juanita Hale and Gayle Washington.



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