

SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF JEFFERSON



Tumbleweed Smith

Jefferson was once one of the largest inland ports in the United States. Riverboats brought merchandise and people to town.

"They came from New Orleans up through Shreveport and they would hit Caddo Lake off the Red River and come on in. We still have the

Tumbleweed Smith wharf there, or remnants of it. That's why Jefferson is such a unique city. It looks like New Orleans because all those New Orleans Riverboat Captains would have a second home here. So they designed the town to look like their home."

Marion County Judge Leward LaFleur of Jefferson says one of the major events in Jefferson is the spring tour of antebellum homes. The city has dozens of them.

"Everybody dresses in period attire and you can tour all these beautiful old mansions. It's good for the little town and fills up restaurants and tourist venues. We're the bed and breakfast capital of Texas and these places are all full during the tour. We call it the pilgrimage and it takes place April 28th through May 1st. this year. This is the 75th year for it."

A play entitled THE DIAMOND BESSIE MURDER TRIAL is presented during pilgrimage.

"It's a bunch of local folks who like to tell the story of how Diamond Bessie was murdered and how Mr. Rothschild got off for murder not once but twice. It's the reason we have the double jeopardy law that says a person can't be tried twice for a crime. This is the 68th year for the play."

Another event in Jefferson is the annual Bigfoot conference in October.

"We are the Bigfoot Capital of the great state of Texas. People come from all over the country for this. They're hunters, scientists all sorts of people who are curious about the legend of Bigfoot, a cross between a human and an ape. A Bigfoot movie was filmed around Jefferson. There's a lot of swamp in the county where he could live and not ever be seen."

Pearl divers used to hunt for pearls in Caddo Lake. The city has ghost tours.

"Pay your money and you get an hour ghost tour. Those are offered every Friday and Saturday nights year round."

Jefferson is a tourist destination. It has 2,000 residents and 84 historical markers. You can ride a train, a riverboat or a horse drawn carriage where the driver gives a history of the town. You can dine in one of the city's fine white tablecloth restaurants and shop in a general store, gallery or unique boutique. You might even stay at the historic Excelsior House Hotel, one of the longest continuously functioning hotels in Texas.

"I think it's the most beautiful hotel in Texas and it has an outstanding breakfast."

Miscellaneous

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Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous

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THE MILLENNIUM SHOPPER January 4, 2023



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THE MILLENNIUM SHOPPER January 4, 2023





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Rex Allen Flippin

September 6, 1932 - December 31, 2022 (age 90) Services pending with West Oaks Funeral Home.



LaRoyce "Mac" McDaniel

A funeral service for LaRoyce "Mac" McDaniel will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, January 6, 2023, at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home with Stace McEwin and Rev. Fred Lewis officiating. Interment will follow at 2 p.m. Friday in Forest Chapel. Visitation will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, January 5, 2023. Mr. McDaniel passed away on January 2, 2023 at his residence.

LaRoyce was born on September 8, 1935, to O.B. and Beatrice (Hodgin) McDaniel. He married Helen Marie Drake on May 3, 1958, in Garretts Bluff, Texas. He was a veteran of the United States Army. LaRovce was retired from Price Ford. He was an avid fisherman and hunter. LaRoyce was a member of the First Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife, Helen; sons, Rory McDaniel, and Wade McDaniel and wife, Wendi; daughter, Shannon Brock and husband, Brett; grandchildren, Brian McDaniel and wife Jennifer, Amanda McDaniel, Whitney Spigener, Wylie McDaniel, Hayley McKinney and Landon Brock; eleven great-grandchildren; sister, Wanda Nell Durham; brother-in-law, Richard Drake and wife, Trava; sisters-in-law, Becky Pridemore and husband, Joe, and Ann Gooch; and numerous nieces and nephews.

LaRoyce was preceded in death by his parents. Arrangements under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. The online register can be signed at www.murrayorwosky.com



David Johnson

A memorial service for David Johnson, age 79, of Como, was held at 2 p.m. Friday, December 30, 2022, at First United Methodist Church with Tom Young and Jason Dietze officiating. Visitation was held one hour prior to the service. Mr. Johnson passed away Tuesday, December 27, 2022, at Christus Mother Frances Hospital in Sulphur Springs.

David Johnson was born on August 11, 1943, in Maywood, California, to Darrel Kenneth Johnson and Abbie Dell Youngblood Johnson, David grew up in the Dallas area. He graduated from Samuel High School in 1961 and attended Arlington State College. He passed away on December 27, in CHRISTUS Mother Frances Hospital of Sulphur Springs.

David was a hard worker taking a job as a bagging boy in the grocery store at 14. He always had a goal in mind for saving his money – usually owning a car. After college, he was hired in the construction industry learning how to estimate for various commercial painting companies. He worked for Hickman Painting company for several years and then for Shahan and Son. Both owners treated him like family taking him to Cowboy games, conventions all over the United States, and Las Vegas to play.

David loved to play as hard as he worked. He built his own cabin on Lake Whitney and spent many weekends on his boat or dune buggy at the lake. The whole neighborhood was full of friends who loved to have a good time. David was considered a confirmed bachelor.

In 1975, he met Suanne Shockey Johnson. They dated for 6 years and then married in Las Vegas on February 20, 1981. They both retired in 2006. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church and a founding member of the Sulphur Springs Corvette Club. His Corvettes were his prized possessions. David was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Linda Hurt. David is survived by his wife, Suanne, her sister, Sally Whightsil and Sally's husband, Gary Whightsil. He is also survived by nephew Wes Highfield, and wife, Linda; great-nephew, Jacob; and great niece, Caitlin. Also surviving is niece Haley Holliday and her son, Holden. He loved his nieces and nephews just like they were his own children.

Memorials may be made to Hearts of Life Animal Rescue, 471 CR 4510, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482; or First United Methodist Church, 301 Church St., Sulphur Springs, TX 75482.

Arrangements were under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. The online register can be signed at www.murrayorwosky.com



Steve "Cuz" Parris Steve "Cuz" Parris, age 75, of Sulphur Springs, Texas, passed away on December 30, 2022. Arrangements under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. The online register can be signed at www.murrayorwosky.com







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