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## THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE VIETNAM WAR

### Tumbleweed Smith



I have seen The National Vietnam War Museum grow from a vacant lot with a mobile home on it to an impressive complex of weapons, vehicles and artifacts from the Viet Nam War. The museum is located between Mineral Wells and Weatherford near Fort Wolters where helicopter pilots trained. The war was known as the helicopter war. A 20,000 square foot building is full of exhibits and a similar structure is planned for the future. Ean Tillett is the museum's first fulltime curator. He brings years of experience with some outstanding museums. A hiking trail surrounds the museum. Dr. Jim Messinger, a former helicopter pilot during the war, has guided the museum's growth. He says new exhibits in the works include major events during the war such as the Space Race, the Great Society, the civil rights movement, Women's Liberation, the assassinations of JFK, RFK and MLK, antiwar protests and hippies, yuppies and 1968.

### Tumbleweed Smith

The museum was incorporated in 1997 (the board has met every month since then) and had its formal opening in 2007. An annual fundraiser helps provide funds for the museum. This year's event takes place March 25 at the Parker County Sheriff's Posse Rodeo Grounds and Event Center in Weatherford.

When visitors walk into the museum they see an amazing display of patches, ribbons, awards, medals and other items that cover the entire history of the US Military. A Vietnam Veteran donated the items. Other veterans have generously donated many of the major exhibits. A library has books about the war and there is a replica of the oval office during LBJ's presidency. A broadcast booth is where DJs on Armed Forces Radio greeted each day with the phrase Good Morning Vietnam.

"It's amazing," says Dr. Jim. "When we need something it shows up. All the guys who started this were helicopter pilot in Vietnam and we learned to fly right across the street at Fort Wolters. We trained about 40,000 helicopter pilots in 10 years and sent them to Viet Nam. Our first board of directors was a girlfriend of a helicopter pilot, and guys who had flown helicopters. We wanted to put up a museum, knowing what needed to be done but we didn't know how, we didn't have any money or leadership. We just started one day at a time and we've got this far."

One of the displays honors women. "There were women in Vietnam who were not nurses. There were women who were POWs. Some were tortured. Some were executed."

Some Vietnam veterans visit the museum and say they have never mentioned a thing to their wives about the war. "They come here and see a piece of equipment, an aircraft or weapon and just start babbling about their experiences. We know that there's a trigger for these guys' memories and everybody has a different trigger."

Jim says his first job in Vietnam was to fly around and get shot at.

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Note: Although Cleveland appears twice in the list, he is only in the puzzle once.

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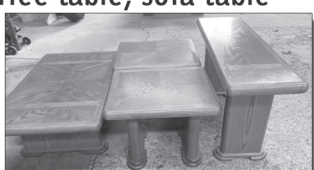
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**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**



**WALK LIKE MADD**

Walk Like Madd is our signature fundraising event to help us raise both awareness and funds to end drunk driving and fight drugged driving. Many who participate have a common bond, they know someone who has been injured or killed in a drunk driving crash, or they feel strongly about creating a future of No More Victims. In 2022, around 90 cities across the nation hosted Walk Like Madd events. With every step taken and each dollar raised, we support MADD's lifesaving mission to keep our families and communities safe.

**WHY WE FUNDRAISE**

Funds raised through Walk Like MADD events allow MADD staff and volunteers in our community to:

- ★ Provide emotional support and assistance with medical and legal struggles that follow a drunk and or drugged driving crash.
- ★ Conduct awareness and research-based prevention programs to end drunk driving, fight drugged driving and prevent underage drinking.
- ★ Support the heroes in law enforcement who work to keep our roads safe.
- ★ Work with state and local legislators to adopt tougher laws, including requiring ignition interlocks for all DUI offenders, and close loopholes in existing laws.

**SAVE THE DATE:**

Jay Hodge Chevrolet  
Test Drive Event  
Benefitting MADD  
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Where: 478 Wildcat Way,  
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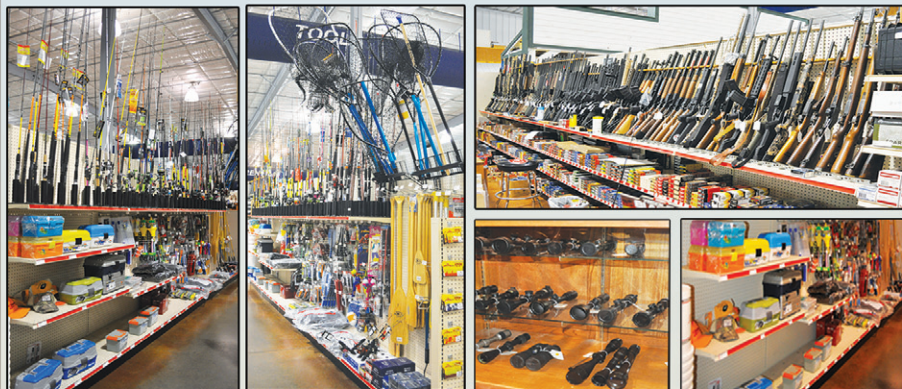
**SAVE THE DATE:**

MADD Northeast Texas  
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# Obits



## WEST OAKS FUNERAL HOME

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### **Billie Jean (Bagby) Hooten**

Billie Jean (Bagby) Hooten, 72, of Arkadelphia, Arkansas, passed away Thursday, February 23, 2023, at Baptist Health Medical Center while on a brief stay at Twin Rivers Rehabilitation Facility.

She was born January 22, 1951, in Sulphur Springs, Texas, to Billy Gene O'Shields and Nancy Lee Bagby. Billy Gene passed away shortly before her birth. After Nancy passed away in 1953, BJ was adopted by her beloved grandparents, William Edward Bagby and Mary Emelyn Miller.

Billie Jean was a member of the Sulphur Springs High School class of 1969. She was a long-time member of First Presbyterian Church of Sulphur Springs. She worked at HD Lee Manufacturing and Eckerd Drug Store for over a decade each. She enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren, her cats, and watching the Dallas Cowboys.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her son, Jimmy B. Hooten, her brother, William Henry Bagby, and her sister, Martha Ted Miller. Left to cherish her memory are her son, Cody (Chanda) Hooten of Arkadelphia, Arkansas; grandchildren, Clinton Blake Payne, Colton Blaze Hooten (Julia), Huston Thomas Hooten, Hayden Michael Hooten and Emelyn Jimi Cary Hooten; great-grandchildren, Maddox Lane Payne and Harper Lynn Hooten.

BJ's visitation will be held from 6-8 pm Wednesday, March 1, 2023, at West Oaks Funeral Home in Sulphur Springs. Her funeral service will be held at 2:00 Thursday, March 2, 2023, at West Oaks with Ricky Godbolt officiating.

Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. [www.westoaksfuneralhome.com](http://www.westoaksfuneralhome.com)



### **Louise Walker-Otts** April 11, 1948 - February 23, 2023

A graveside services for Clara "Louise" Walker-Otts age 74 of Sulphur Springs, Texas was held at 2:00 P.M. on Sunday, February 26, 2023, at Shirley Cemetery with Dr. Jason Rolan and Patrick Covington officiating. Pallbearers were Louise's grandsons. Louise passed away on February 23, 2023, at Hunt Regional Medical Center in Greenville, Texas. There was no formal visitation.

Louise was born on April 11, 1948, in Bandera, Texas to Calvin Andrew and Clara Ruth (Pritchett) Walker. She married Charles Otts on April 23, 1993. Louise was a member of Believers Baptist Church, she loved her savior. Louise is survived by her sons and their wives John A Stone Jr. (Lake), Jerry Wayne Stone (Stacie); grandchildren, Caanan Micah Greene, Aiden Riley Stone, Jaden Turner Mills, Jordan Andrew Stone, Bailey May Hammond, Savannah Reanne Stone, and Jerret Wallace Stone; great grandchildren, Avery Katherine Greene, Hallie Elizabeth Greene, Wrenley Jayne Greene and Rawley Jay Stone; mother, Clara Ruth Walker; brother, Clifford Andrew Walker and sister Lela Maria Lacy.

Louise was preceded in death by her father; Calvin Andrew Walker; husband Charles Otts and sister Doris Jane Daniel.



### **Anthony "Tony" Paul Jacobs** November 12, 1973 - February 19, 2023 (age 49)

Memorial services for Anthony "Tony" Paul Jacobs, age 49, of Sulphur Springs, were conducted at 3:00 p.m., Friday, February 24, 2023, at West Oaks Funeral Home Chapel with Bro. Jimmy Rogers officiating. Honorary pallbearers were Michael Strickland, Jamie Strickland, Michael Tucker, David Hebert, Marcus Jacobs, Jason France, David Weatherbee, and Brent Jones. Tony passed away on Sunday, February 19, 2023, at Christ Mother Frances Hospital in Sulphur Springs. Tony was born on November 12, 1973, in Commerce, TX. Tony proudly served as a United States Marine, and was most recently an IT project manager for Flowserve... He was gripped by a wanderlust that fed his love for adventure and the outdoors. He had a passion for hiking, camping, snowboarding and karate. Tony is survived by his Son, Hayden Jacobs and significant other Alexas Bouley of Campbell, Mother, Karen Gayle Ware Gaddy, Brother, Marcus Jacobs, Granddaughter, Hadley Jacobs, and numerous, Aunts, Uncles, Cousins, Nieces, Nephews, and friends. He was preceded in death by his Father, Walter Paul Jacobs and Brother, Jonathan Cunningham. Arrangements were under

the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. [www.westoaksfuneralhome.com](http://www.westoaksfuneralhome.com)



### **W.T. "Butch" Huddleston** August 11, 1938 - February 20, 2023

Funeral service for W.T. "Butch" Huddleston, age 84 of Sulphur Springs, Texas, will be held at 2:00 P.M. on Saturday, March 4, 2023, at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. Interment will follow at Restlawn Memorial Park with Bryson Barnes, Brandon Barnes, Angel Cabrera, Alex Hayes, and James Vanderburg will serve as pallbearers. Trey Petty, Trent Petty, and Michael Huddleston will serve as honorary pallbearers. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service. Mr. Huddleston passed away on February 20, 2023, at Baylor Scott and White Heart Hospital of Plano.

Butch was born on August 11, 1938, in Big Lake, Texas to Fred Charles, Sr. and Marguerite (Dickson) Huddleston. He married Gloria Mae Petty on August 20, 1960, in Levelland, Texas. Butch was a veteran of the United States Navy. He worked as an electrician and lead lineman for Texas Electric. He later became the regional safety coordinator. He was the president of the Odessa, Texas, Lion's Club in his younger years. Butch was a member of the First Baptist Church in Sulphur Springs.

He is survived by his daughter, Tracy (Huddleston) Barnes and husband, Roger; grandchildren, Bryson Barnes and wife Kristen, and Brandon Barnes; as well as numerous beloved nephews and one niece. Butch was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Gloria; daughter, Sonia Eve Huddleston; brother, Fred Charles Huddleston Jr and sister, Sue Huddleston DuPree.



# Texas Independence Day!

**The Texas Declaration of Independence** - March 2nd 1836.

December 6, 2020 by Lyman

The Texas Declaration of Independence was produced, literally, overnight. Its urgency was important as the Alamo in San Antonio was currently under siege by Santa Anna's army of Mexico.

Immediately upon the gathering for the Convention of 1836 on March 1, 1836, a committee of five of its delegates was appointed to draft the document. The committee, consisting of George C. Childress, Edward Conrad, James Gaines, Bailey Hardeman, and Collin McKinney, prepared the declaration, essentially overnight. It was briefly reviewed, then adopted by the delegates of the convention the following day.

It parallels the United States Declaration of Independence, signed almost sixty years earlier. It contains statements on the function and responsibility of government, followed by a list of grievances. Finally, it concludes by declaring Texas a free and independent republic.

## Full Text of the Texas Declaration of Independence

When a government has ceased to protect the lives, liberty and property of the people, from whom its legitimate powers are derived, and for the advancement of whose happiness it was instituted, and so far from being a guarantee for the enjoyment of those inestimable and inalienable rights, becomes an instrument in the hands of evil rulers for their oppression.

When the Federal Republican Constitution of their country, which they have sworn to support, no longer has a substantial existence, and the whole nature of their government has been forcibly changed, without their consent, from a restricted federative republic, composed of sovereign states, to a consolidated central military despotism, in which every interest is disregarded but that of the army and the priesthood, both the eternal enemies of civil liberty, the everready minions of power, and the usual instruments of tyrants.

When, long after the spirit of the constitution has departed, moderation is at length so far lost by those in power, that even the semblance of freedom is removed, and the forms themselves of the constitution discontinued, and so far from their petitions and remonstrances being regarded, the agents who bear them are thrown into dungeons, and mercenary armies sent forth to force a new government upon them at the point of the bayonet.

When, in consequence of such acts of malfeasance and abdication on the part of the government, anarchy prevails, and civil society is dissolved into its original elements. In such a crisis, the first law of nature, the right of self-preservation, the inherent and inalienable rights of the people to appeal to first principles, and take their political affairs into their own hands in extreme cases, enjoins it as a right towards themselves, and a sacred obligation to their posterity, to abolish such government, and create another in its stead, calculated to rescue them from impending dangers, and to secure their future welfare and happiness.

Nations, as well as individuals, are amenable for their acts to the public opinion of mankind. A statement of a part of our grievances is therefore submitted to an impartial world, in justification of the hazardous but unavoidable step now taken, of severing our political connection with the Mexican people, and assuming an independent attitude among the nations of the earth.

The Mexican government, by its colonization laws, invited and induced the Anglo-American population of Texas to colonize its wilderness under the pledged faith of a written constitution, that they should continue to enjoy that constitutional liberty and republican government to which they had been habituated in the land of their birth, the United States of America.

In this expectation they have been cruelly disappointed, inasmuch as the Mexican nation has acquiesced in the late changes made in the government by General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, who having overturned the constitution of his country, now offers us the cruel alternative, either to abandon our homes, acquired by so many privations, or submit to the most intolerable of all tyranny, the combined despotism of the sword and the priesthood.

It has sacrificed our welfare to the state of Coahuila, by which our interests have been continually depressed through a jealous and partial course of legislation, carried on at a far distant seat of government, by a hostile majority, in an unknown tongue, and this too, notwithstanding we have petitioned in the humblest terms for the establishment of a separate state government, and have, in accordance with the provisions of the national constitution, presented to the general Congress a republican constitution, which was, without just cause, contemptuously rejected.

It incarcerated in a dungeon, for a long time, one of our citizens, for no other cause but a zealous endeavor to procure the acceptance of our constitution, and the establishment of a state government.

It has failed and refused to secure, on a firm basis, the right of trial by jury, that palladium of civil liberty, and only safe guarantee for the life, liberty, and property of the citizen.

It has failed to establish any public system of education, although possessed of almost boundless resources, (the public domain,) and although it is an axiom in political science, that unless a people are educated and enlightened, it is idle to expect the continuance of civil liberty, or the capacity for self government.

It has suffered the military commandants, stationed among us, to exercise arbitrary acts of oppression and tyranny, thus trampling upon the most sacred rights of the citizens, and rendering the military superior to the civil power.

It has dissolved, by force of arms, the state Congress of Coahuila and Texas, and obliged our representatives to fly for their lives from the seat of government, thus depriving us of the fundamental political right of representation.

It has demanded the surrender of a number of our citizens, and ordered military detachments to seize and carry them into the Interior for trial, in contempt of the civil authorities, and in defiance of the laws and the constitution.

It has made piratical attacks upon our commerce, by commissioning foreign desperadoes, and authorizing them to seize our vessels, and convey the property of our citizens to far distant ports for confiscation. It denies us the right of worshipping the Almighty according to the dictates of our own conscience, by the support of a national religion, calculated to promote the temporal interest of its human functionaries, rather than the glory of the true and living God.

It has demanded us to deliver up our arms, which are essential to our defence, the rightful property of freemen, and formidable only to tyrannical governments.

It has invaded our country both by sea and by land, with intent to lay waste our territory, and drive us from our homes; and has now a large mercenary army advancing, to carry on against us a war of extermination.

It has, through its emissaries, incited the merciless savage, with the tomahawk and scalping knife, to massacre the inhabitants of our defenseless frontiers.

It hath been, during the whole time of our connection with it, the contemptible sport and victim of successive military revolutions, and hath continually exhibited every characteristic of a weak, corrupt, and tyrannical government. These, and other grievances, were patiently borne by the people of Texas, until they reached that point at which forbearance ceases to be a virtue. We then took up arms in defence of the national constitution. We appealed to our Mexican brethren for assistance. Our appeal has been made in vain. Though months have elapsed, no sympathetic response has yet been heard from the Interior. We are, therefore, forced to the melancholy conclusion, that the Mexican people have acquiesced in the destruction of their liberty, and the substitution therof of a military government; that they are unfit to be free, and incapable of self government. The necessity of self-preservation, therefore, now decrees our eternal political separation.

We, therefore, the delegates with plenary powers of the people of Texas, in solemn convention assembled, appealing to a candid world for the necessities of our condition, do hereby resolve and declare, that our political connection with the Mexican nation has forever ended, and that the people of Texas do now constitute a free, Sovereign, and independent republic, and are fully invested with all the rights and attributes which properly belong to independent nations; and, conscious of the rectitude of our intentions, we fearlessly and confidently commit the issue to the decision of the Supreme arbiter of the destinies of nations.

## About Lyman

Lyman Hardeman has held a deep interest in Texas history. He spent his youth in College Station, Texas and received a degree in Electrical Engineering at Texas A&M in 1966. In 1995, Lyman created Lone Star Junction, a popular Texas history website that later merged with TexasProud.com. Lyman is a life member of the Texas State Historical Association and the author of Texas A&M The First 25 Years.

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