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### THE TRAVELING AGGIES



**Tumbleweed Smith** 

Tumbleweed Smith

Jennifer Bohac took Aggies all over the world during the twenty years she was the travel director of Texas A & M's Alumni Association. She always packed two special items: patience and flexibility. When she finished her three degrees at A & M she took a job at the University of Minnesota. Although she grew up in the Houston area and didn't see much snow or ice, she decided to take up ice

skating in the cold northern state.

"They were shocked to find out that someone my age didn't know how to skate. Up there they start skating about the time they start walking," says Jennifer. One February she got a call from A & M and was offered a job.

"The Traveling Aggies were looking for a director because the previous director was retiring. At the time it was below freezing in Minnesota and it was 82 degrees in College Station. I said I would come down and interview for the job." She got the job in 2001, not a good travel year.

"Here I was brand new starting the program and had to deal with the effects of the September 11th attack on New York's World Trade Center buildings. It took about a year to recov-

When she took over, the Traveling Aggies were going on about ten trips a year. When she left that position a couple of years ago there were ninety trips a year.

"I was on the road probably 240 days a year and traveled to nearly 100 countries. My house is filled with all kinds of things from my trips. You get on a plane and end up on a river cruise or on a safari in Africa and by the end of that trip people are new lifelong friends. They end up going to each other's houses, then going on another trip together. Many members of the TAs have been on several overseas jaunts." When she took Aggies through the Panama Canal, one of the favorite tours, she and her group got special treatment because an A & M grad was in charge of getting ships through the canal. After all those countries and all that travel including 26 safaris, Jennifer has some favorite places.

"I think the place that probably stole my heart is East Africa."

She always carried an Aggie flag on her trips. It's been on every continent. Jennifer says the travelers sang the Aggie War Hymn all over the world.

"I think the most memorable Aggie War Hymn story I have is when we were on a golf trip to Scotland and there was an Aggie couple that owned the pub there at Saint Andrews where we were having a big Aggie celebration. The owner of the pub Jack Willolby decided for our party he would have a bagpiper learn the Aggie War Hymn, something that's very hard to do on bagpipes. It took him a few weeks, we understand. So we were having this great party and in comes this bagpiper and literally played the Aggie War Hymn on a set of bagpipes much to the delight of the happy Aggies."

Dr. Jennifer Bohac now works with the A & M Foundation.

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And thanks to her rise on #BookTok, she has motivated an entire generation of readers back to bookstores and libraries. But Colleen—who is a Texan—hailing from small town Sulphur Springs, has not forgotten her home. She is also paying it forward with her nonprofit bookstore, the Bookworm Box, on Main Street and a literary festival Book Bonanza in Texas for up-and-coming writers.

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### Clyde "Nick" Nichols

Memorial services for Clyde "Nick" Nichols of Sulphur Springs, Texas were held at 11:00 A.M. on Monday, April 24, 2023, at League Street Church of Christ with Jerry Savage and Buddy Wiggins officiating. A visitation was held one hour prior to the service. Mr. Nichols passed to his Lord on April 16, 2023, at Christus Mother Frances — Tyler. Nick was born on January 20, 1936, in Dallas, Texas to Clyde R. Nichols, Sr. and Lillian Mae (Cook) Nichols. He married Dorothy Wranosky on May 14, 1966, in Corpus Christi, Texas. Because his father's career was in the

oil business, Nick grew up in various locations in Texas where the petroleum industry was significant. He attended Sundown High School. He was an outstanding athlete excelling in football, track and basketball. After graduating from high school in 1954, he spent a short time at Paris Junior College and then transferred to Texas Tech where he earned a bachelor's degree in kinesiology and education. He began his career in the Corpus Christi area schools and spent most of that stint teaching and coaching at Flour Bluff High School. It was there he met Dorothy who was a senior at

Texas A&I College in Kingsville, Texas. (Now known as Texas A&M-Kingsville) They were married on May 14, 1966, and three years later decided to relocate to Sulphur Springs where they have lived for 53 years. In Sulphur Springs he taught physical education, health, physical science, history, driver's education and coached his first four years. Nick and Dorothy decided that to assure their being able to continue living in Sulphur Springs, Nick would resign from coaching and become a full-time classroom teacher. He spent the rest of his 37- year career teaching U.S. History and driver's education. He was the History Department chair and director of Driver's Education. Nick enjoyed gardening, cooking and spending time with his family.

He is survived by his wife Dorothy; sons, Corey Nichols and Kyle Nichols; grandchildren Camden Nichols, Peyt Nichols, Ryan Johnston and Madison Goodwin.

Nick is preceded in death by his parents and sister Diana Nichols.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the League Street Youth Fund or League Street Church of Christ.



### Monte Glenn Roland

Memorial services for Monte Glenn Roland, age 79, of Cumby, were conducted at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, April 23, 2023, at West Oaks Funeral Home Chapel with Bro. Jimmy Rogers officiating.

Monte passed away on Monday, April 17, 2023, at Carriage House Manor after an extended battle stemming from a stroke. He was born on January 28, 1944, in Fayetteville, TN, the son of John Walker "J.W." Roland and Nellie Land Roland. He was also the sibling of his older sister Kay Roland Wood and younger brother Don Roland.

Monte was an avia-tion engineer for over 30 years during which time he traveled extensively all around the world. Throughout his life he maintained a connection to the agricultural world as well and was involved with his family in the raising of beef cattle and hay. He always enjoyed his time on the farm as much as any other activity.

In addition to his wife Carolyn, he is survived by two sons, Jonathan Roland and wife Brooke and Jeremy Roland and wife Misty. Monte is also survived by one precious grandson, Jake Roland. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Monte will be missed by his family and many work associates here on earth, but he is surely in that better place now where he's rejoined all those that went before him and will be waiting, no doubt, for those close to him to arrive one day.

Arrangements are under the direction of West Oaks Funeral Home. www.westoaksfuneralhome.com



### Jerry McGowan

Graveside service for Jerry McGowan, age 90, Hopkins County native, longtime resident of Mesquite and recently of Plano, was held at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at Miller Grove Cemetery with Father David Houk officiating. Mourners are requested to join the funeral procession, departing from Murray-Orwosky at 11:00 a.m.

Jerry was born at home in Miller Grove, a fifth child for Everett Roy McGowan and Verna Anderson McGowan, Everett dying when Jerry was four months old. The family moved to Sulphur Springs when he was 10. He was a cheerleader for and graduate of Sulphur Springs High School, Class of 1950. He graduated from East Texas State Teachers College, Commerce in 1955. He married the love of his life, Betty, August 1, 1958 in Dallas, then settled in Mesquite to raise a family. He earned a Master's degree from Amber University, Garland in 1983.

He worked as a Personnel Director for several companies, retiring from Parkland Hospital, Dallas. Jerry was predeceased by his parents and his siblings Junior McGowan, Shirley Preston, Dona Mae Taylor and Bobby McGowan, and

by his wife Betty in 2021. He joins many McGowans buried in the Miller Grove Cemetery. Jerry is survived by daughters Cynthia Keithly of Sydney and Sharon McGowan of Dallas, son-in-law Hugh Keithly and granddaughter Grace Keithly.

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

# Obits Continued



### Roger Reed

April 24, 2023

An obituary is not available at this time for Roger Reed.

Services: A visitation was held Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at West Oaks Funeral Home, 500 South Hillcrest Drive, Sulphur Springs, TX 75482. A memorial service will be held Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. at West Oaks Funeral Home.



Sherrie Lee Cooksey

Funeral service for Sherrie Lee Cooksey, age 45 of Sulphur Springs, Texas was held at 2:00 P.M. on Saturday, April 22, 2023 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. Interment followed at Shooks Chapel Cemetery. Visitation was held from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Friday, April 21, 2023 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home. Mrs. Cooksey passed away on April 17, 2023 at Christus Mother Frances — Sulphur Springs.

Sherrie was born on July 28, 1977 in Sulphur Springs, Texas to Jerry Cooksey and Rosemary (Boone) Springer. She worked as a CNA for several local nursing homes. She found her passion in her ministry Ray of Hope where she would spend countless hours spreading the word and love of God to death row inmates.

She is survived by her daughter, Zoey Cooksey; son, Drew Cooksey; mother, Rosemary Springer; father, Jerry Cooksey; sister Jeannie Robinson, her children Justin Dixon of Midland Texas and Ashley Alexander of Coke Texas, sister Christie Yanez of Odessa Texas, her children Mason Yanez, Matthew Yanez, Marisol Yanez and Mattison Yanez, all of Odessa

Texas. Brothers Jerry Lee & Jeremy Cooksey and their children, Marie, Hazel and Jaxon. In addition to multiple aunts, uncles and cousins.



Jimmy Gafford

A graveside service for Jimmy Gafford, age 66 of Brashear, Texas was held at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, April 24, 2023 at Brashear Cemetery with Bro David Burns officiating. There was no formal visitation. Mr. Gafford passed away on April 20, 2023 at Christus Mother Frances — Sulphur Springs.

Jimmy was born on September 5, 1956 in Hopkins County, Texas to Bobby Carl Gafford and Marry Jo (Rogers) Gafford. He married Crystal Garrett on June 1, 1979 at Brashear Baptist Church. Jimmy worked as a painter. He loved riding motorcycles and drinking coffee with friends. Jimmy was a member of the Brashear Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife, Crystal; sons, Jeremy Gafford and wife, Jayme, Jeffery Gafford; grandchildren, Kyleena Gafford, Sammantha Gafford, Jaxon Gafford and Jovi Gafford; brother, Justin Gafford; numerous nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Jimmy was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Carla Petty; brothers, Mike Gafford, Mark Gafford and Kevin Gafford.



Cari Kirkpatrick September 19, 1979 — April 13, 2023

Funeral service for Cari Kirkpatrick, age 43 of Emory, Texas was held at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, April 17, 2023 at Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home with Rev. L.D. Baxley and Rev. Danny Ballard officiating. Interment followed at Harmony Cemetery with Jerry Gordon, Rodney Keller, Jesse Don Brown, Jarrod Deas, Travis Baxley, Jacob Ireland, and Daniel Weatheread serving as pallbearers and Delane Baxley, Jonathon Keller and Stephen Brown serving as honorary pallbearers. Visitation was held one hour prior to the service. Ms. Kirkpatrick passed away on April 13, 2023 at Hunt Regional Medical Center.

Cari was born on September 19, 1979 in Sulphur Springs, Texas to Benny Ray and Judy Carol (Brown) Kirkpatrick. She is survived by her life partner, Jerry Gordon; father, Benny Ray Kirkpatrick; brother, Matthew Kirkpatrick; grandmother, Mona Rheu Brown; aunts and uncles, Jan Ballard and husband, Danny, Kim Keller and husband, Rodney, Sherry Baxley, and husband, L.D., Carolyn Walker and husband, Rob, Carolyn Diviney, Jesse Brown and

wife, Sheryl, Ramona Smith, Chris Ireland and husband, Danny; great aunts and uncles; and numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the family for funeral expenses.

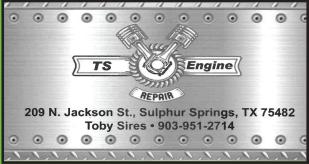
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