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KENNETH PHILLIPS: A REMARKABLE MAN



Tumbleweed Smith

Tumbleweed Smith

When Kenneth Phillips was in his mid 40s he lost all of his fingers and toes due to frostbite. This was not in the arctic or some other frigid place. It was in San Angelo, Texas. He faced years of hospitalization and depression then one day decided he was tired of inactivity and feeling sad. He applied for several jobs but when they saw his hands they didn't hire him (even though a sign in the window read hiring now). He finally got a job at Dollar General and later worked as a cashier at McDonalds for six years. Last year he started a company doing mowing and edging. He named his company ALL THUMBS LAWN CARE. He told me how he got into this situation.

"About 8 years ago I was living in San Angelo feeling depressed because I was in so much back pain from an oil field accident. One winter night I went out to the lake and started listening to gospel music. After about an hour I got to feeling better so I started home. It was about midnight. I made a wrong turn and ended up in the water. It was about three feet deep, fairly close to shore. I got out of the car and went about 30 yards on dry land and passed out from the cold. They didn't find me until around noon or 1 o'clock the next day. I woke up a week later in a Lubbock hospital. My fingers and toes were black and some of them were gone. I was in the hospital several months and when I left I had no fingers or toes. Then I went to rehab for 6 months."

One of the reasons he was depressed was the death of his mother while he was in rehab. He was on some heavy medication and finally when he decided to try to improve his life he went through withdrawal by himself for 3 months and moved to Big Spring to be with his daughter and son in law and their 4 children. "I couldn't do anything without them. My grandkids are my best friends. My 9-month job at Dollar General showed me I could work and I gained some confidence. I realized that God gave me thumbs so I could do something. I discovered I could do nearly everything other people can do. It may take longer because I have to figure things out. I don't like people telling me I can't do something."

He doesn't wear shoes with laces or shirts with buttons. He wears casual pants without buttons or zippers but with an elastic waistband so he can just pull them on.

"Doctors said I was the worst frostbite victim in Texas. They had never seen anything like this. I think it has made me a better father and grandfather. I can write and like doing carpenter work. My grandkids help me a lot. They're my fingers."

Kenneth does beautiful lawn care. When we agreed on a price for him to mow and edge our lawn I gave him a little extra. He left, then came back and told me I had given him too much money. I asked Kenneth if he could stain our deck and an exterior wall of our house. He said he could. Then I asked him if he could remove a large dead bush with branches the size of my arm. He took care of that, too. His grandkids helped pick up the pieces and load them in Kenneth's pickup because he has trouble gripping things. "I don't think you should ever be afraid to ask for help."

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The remaining letters spell an additional summer item.

J	U	N	E	S	T	S	S	S	Y	K	S	E	U	L	B	M	
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Dorothy Howell

A funeral service for Dorothy Howell, age 93, of Sulphur Springs, Texas was held at 2:00 P.M. on Friday, June 16, 2023 at First Baptist Church with Rev. Fred Lewis officiating. Interment followed at Greenview Cemetery with Andrew Howell, Matthew Howell, Phillip Troy Howell, Phillip Morgan, Kyle Prater, Seth Prater, Bradley Howell, and Kevin Prater serving as pallbearers. Visitation was held one hour prior to the service. Mrs. Howell passed into the arms of Jesus while being surrounded by her family members on June 12, 2023.

Dorothy was born on August 31, 1929 to Henry Vester and Edna (Smith) Pike. She married Thomas Howell August 26, 1950 in San Antonio, Texas. Dorothy worked at Micro Pack, TX Instrument as an assembler for Electronic Components. She was a member of the First Baptist Church in Sulphur Springs where she was also a member of the senior choir.

Dorothy loved going shopping with her daughter, daughters-in-law, and granddaughters every chance she could. Christmas was her favorite time of the year. Not only did she do lots of shopping, but she also loved to give to others.

Having a large family, she spent months shopping and preparing for everyone who were all given well thought out gifts. It brought her great joy to watch them open their presents and squeal with delight. Dorothy also loved to travel. She and Thomas took many trips together, with friends and with their church choir. She was always ready for a new adventure.

She was always ready to prepare meals for any family or friend who arrived unexpectedly at her home. She could take leftovers and turn them into a gourmet meal! Dorothy spent endless hours every summer canning the wonderful fruits and vegetables that Thomas grew in the garden.

Dorothy (Memaw) was quite a lady and she left behind a legacy of children, grandchildren and great grandchildren who were lucky to call her "Mom" or "Memaw." She will be missed.

She is survived by her daughter, Beverly Prater and husband, Troy; sons, Larry Howell and wife, Gwen, Gary Howell and wife, Diana, George Howell and wife, Trisha; daughter-in-law, Gladys Howell eleven grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her parents; husband; son, Tom Howell; three sisters and six brothers.

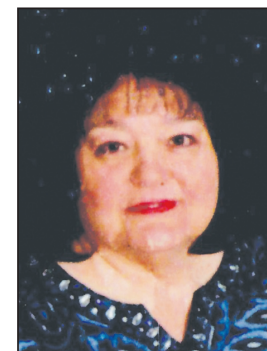
In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Alzheimer's Association.



Eduardo Zamora, Jr.

Funeral services for Eduardo Zamora, Jr., age 30, of Sulphur Springs, were conducted at 1:00 p.m., Saturday, June 17, 2023, at West Oaks Funeral Home with Deacon William O'Brien officiating. Interment followed at Sulphur Springs City Cemetery with David Zamora, Anthony Dominguez, Marcos Gutierrez, Jonathon Galvez, Erick Olivarez, and Kenny Gilbert serving as pallbearers. Visitation was from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., with Rosary beginning at 7:00, on Friday, June 16, 2023, at West Oaks Funeral Home. Eduardo passed away on Monday, June 12, 2023, at Christus Mother Francis Hospital in Sulphur Springs. He was born on October 22, 1992, in Dallas, TX, the son of Eduardo Zamora and Annette Giron Saldana. He was a machine operator for Bob Evans Food for many years. Eduardo is survived by his parents, wife, Elizabeth Gilbert Zamora, children, Jovani Zamora and Estela Zamora, siblings, Veronica Zamora, Jessica Aamora, Anthony Dominguez, Cristina Saldana, Yesenia Zamora, Davis Zamora and Pedro Zamora, along with numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

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



Patsy Joy Carr "Patty"

A graveside service for Patsy Joy Carr "Patty", age 81, of Flint, Texas was held at 11:00 A.M. on Monday, June 19, 2023 at Shooks Chapel Cemetery. Visitation was held from 10:00 to 11:00 A.M. in the Fellowship Hall at Shooks Chapel. Mrs. Carr passed away on June 15, 2023 at her residence.

Patsy was born on August 21, 1941 in Hopkins County to L.B. and Pauline (Irby) Vick. She married Gerald Carr on December 31, 1959 in Sulphur Springs, Texas, who she has been married to for 63 years. Patsy was a homemaker and a housewife.

She is survived by her husband, Gerald; son, Todd Carr; daughter, Tina Michele Carr; sister, Jan Mobley and husband, Glenn; aunt, Christine Mathews; numerous nieces and nephews.

Patsy was preceded in death by her parents.

Arrangements were under the direction of Murray-Orwosky Funeral Home.

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