



Weldon Rider

December 4, 1931 - March 31, 2018

Weldon Gail Rider was born on December 4th, 1931, to Scott and Melva (McCullough) Rider, on their family farm east of Binger, OK. Gail attended Centerville Country School before attending Binger Public Schools. He graduated Binger High School with the class of 1951. On May 23, 1951 Gail married his high school sweetheart, Lafon Kniffin, in Anadarko, OK. Shortly after marriage, the young couple moved to west Texas to work in the oil fields. In 1952 Gail enlisted in the United States Navy and was stationed in San Diego, where the newlyweds moved and made their new home. After a short time in the Navy, Gail was given a medical discharge, so the couple returned to the oilfields in west Texas. In 1958 they returned home and Gail operated the Bell Service Station in Anadarko. 1963 brought two new blessings for Gail and Lafon. In February they adopted their first and only child, Donald Gail. Later in the year they built and opened a brand new business, Rider's Shamrock Station on the corner of Texas and Mission. Gail operated the station until retirement in 1984. Gail believed in hard work and doing business with integrity and honesty. When he wasn't working he enjoyed fishing and camping with family and friends. Gail and Lafon traveled every summer to Fun Valley, Colorado with friends, but also made numerous new friends on their travels. They made a habit of visiting south Texas every winter for over thirty years and Mountain View, Arkansas every Labor Day weekend for over twenty years. After retirement, life brought them many new adventures, including their first grandchild, Tory. A hobby of theirs turned into another business

opportunity and Lafon's Swap Shop was opened. Gail loved auctions and garage sales looking for new treasures and inventory for the shop. Along with the new store came another new grandchild, Trevor. When Gail wasn't spending time with his family he enjoyed yard work, listening to country and gospel music, playing the dobro with a country music group and tinkering. Gail had a desire to help others and it showed his whole life through. He enjoyed teasing and following it up with his trademark smile and laugh. He was truly one-of-a-kind and will be greatly missed. He is survived by his wife, Lafon, of the home; granddaughter, Tory Crawford and husband Kent of Chickasha; grandson, Trevor Rider, of Moore; bonus granddaughter, Jerica Hester, of Chickasha; great-grandchildren, Mylie, Adlee and Brydon Crawford of Chickasha; bonus great-granddaughter, Bryar Hughes, of Chickasha; brother and sister-in-law, Paul and Sharon Kniffin, of Binger; niece, Suzanne Kniffin, of Oklahoma City; niece and family, April, Dave, Bronsen and Dru Umbarger of Binger; nephews; Jimmy Rider of Minco, Kenny Rider of Pueblo, CO, and Scotty Rider, of Pueblo, CO. Many other family and close friends. Gail was preceded in death by his son, Donald, his parents, two brothers; Kenneth and Johnny Rider and sister-in-law, Louise Rider. Funeral Services: 10:00 A.M., Tuesday, April 3, 2018 Bethel Baptist Church, Anadarko, OK Officiating: Rev. Kent Crawford Pallbearers: Jim Rider, Scotty Rider, Jay Upchurch, Gary Clark, Monte Allgood, Dan Sullivan, Dale Porter, Jack Moore and Jim Ferguson. Interment: Memory Lane Cemetery, Anadarko, OK Services under the direction of Smith Funeral Home, Anadarko, OK. Messages of condolences may be sent to the family at www.smithfuneralservices.com

Tribute Wall



“ 6 files added to the album *Obituary Wall*



Smith Funeral Home & Fort Cobb Funeral Home - April 09, 2024 at 03:53 PM

RM

“ Heartfelt thoughts go out to Mrs. Rider, who has always been an inspiration to both my daughter Jessica and myself. There are no words that could even begin to ease the pain you have after the loss of the love of your life. The memories you made together is what will help you get through this time of sorrow. You both will always hold a very special place in our hearts for your kindness and acceptance. Mr. Rider was a hard working man of his word. He could be a stern man but on the inside he was filled with kindness generosity and a big Teddy Bear. Mrs. Rider was the perfect match, she has a heart of gold, never speaks an unkind word, and is filled with love and kindness. Mr. Rider you will be missed by all who had the pleasure of meeting you, but you will never be forgotten! With loving thoughts for Mrs. Rider May your Blessings be many and your worries be few. Rhonda McFarland and Jessica Nelson



Rhonda McFarland - May 07, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ While I never met Gail, I feel like I knew him though my parents (Claudia & Harry) speaking about you both since the first year they went to Texas. My heart goes out to you and your family!



JenniferBrown - April 06, 2018 at 12:00 AM

SA

“ My heartfelt sympathy for Gail's family, Lavon. Please accept my condolences, love sympathy, prayers for u and praying for blessings. May Gail have a quick & easy easement transcending to Heaven. May u find comfort and some peace with Gods help. Blessings, thoughts, and prayers to all Riders family. So very sorry. Please accept our love and sympathy from all the Louise Keechi family, from Binger. So very sorry for your loss and pain. God bless u all.



Sharon Keechi Williams Ahpehtone - April 03, 2018 at 12:00 AM

PF

“ I have a lifetime of memories of Gail. I don't remember not having Gail and Fonzie in my life. They were wonderful friends to my parents and so supportive when my dad passed. Gail always made me laugh telling his tales of woe, most being not true. I never knew when it was a joke or the truth. It usually came out in the end. The last one he told me was the vacuum that would talk to you. I was sure I needed to upgrade ours. Life without Gail will not be as much fun as a life with him. He was one I couldn't imagine a life without his wit and humor. A more honest man would be hard to find. Gail will be missed by so , so many . Thanks for all of the love and support you gave us in your years on earth. You are now with your sweet son, Don.

Patty Ferguson - April 02, 2018 at 12:00 AM