



Robert Lee Southerland

February 17, 1937 - July 12, 2018

Robert Lee (R.L.) Southerland, age 81, of Midland, Texas, died Thursday July 12, 2018, at home surrounded by his family. He was born February 17, 1937 in Olustee, Oklahoma, the son of Halam and Hattie (Anderson) Southerland. R.L graduated from Olustee High, and it was then he developed a life-long love for baseball. Following graduation from high school, he went on to play in the semi-pro league. Whether playing, coaching, umpiring or simply being a spectator, R.L. did it all. As a spectator he loved watching his children and grandchildren in any activity they were involved in and taught that first pitch, first golf ball hit to several of them.

In Farmington, New Mexico he began his career in the oil field industry with Halliburton where he worked until he accepted a position with Dowell in 1962. After 28 years, he retired from Dowell (now Schlumberger) in 1990. After a brief retirement, he worked for Hughes Services. He transitioned to a sales position for Rooster Spolton with T&C Tank Rentals. He went on to accept a sales position with Keith and Stephen Herriage with Permian Anchors where he worked until his health issues recently prevented him from continuing his 61 year career in the Oil Industry. R.L's dedication for the work, and more importantly, the personal and business relationships that he built throughout his career earned him much respect in the industry.

R.L. was a member of Northside Baptist Church in Kermit, Texas and after

moving attended Grace Christian Fellowship in Odessa, Texas. He was a faithful servant to his Lord and Savior.

On March 1, 1958 he married Scarlett McMillan of Farmington, New Mexico. Together, they had five children and were married for 23 years. R.L. met the "love of his life" Wanda Blair in Midland, Texas where they married in 1982. Wanda had two children of which R.L. accepted like they were his own and they in turn, loved him.

First on his priority list was his wife and seven children. R.L. is survived by his wife, sons Robert L. Southerland Jr. (Marie) of Casper, Wyoming; Michael A. Williams (Misty) of Midland, Texas; daughters Kimberly K. Williams of Casper Wyoming; Kathy D. Carpenter of Midland, Texas; Lori A. Southerland of Phoenix, Arizona; Tara Nicole Lee (David) of Fort Worth, Texas; thirteen grandchildren and twenty-one great-grandchildren. Brother Marlin Southerland (Starla) of Sapulpa, Oklahoma. He was preceded in death by his parents; five brothers and two sisters and his son, Damon Ray.

A celebration of R.L.'s life will be held July 16, 2018 at American Heritage Funeral Home: 4100 North FM 1788 Midland, Texas with visitation at 1:00 pm followed by services at 2:00 pm. Family graveside services will be held at a later date in Hobbs, New Mexico.

R.L.'s passing will forever leave an empty space in the hearts of his family and many friends.

Pallbearers are his grandsons Aaron Williams, Austin Williams, Derek Reynolds, Chad Evans, Trey Southerland, Aric Williams, Andre Williams and Justin Wallender. Honorary Pallbearers are good friends, Stephen Herriage, Marcos Granado and Dr. William (Bill) Carpenter. Officiating the service will be his nephew, Don E. Southerland

But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. --- Isaiah 40:31

Cemetery Details

American Heritage Cemetery

4100 North FM 1788
Midland, TX 79707
(432) 563-9767
info@thehealingstartshere.com
<https://thehealingstartshere.com>

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 16. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

American Heritage
4100 N FM 1788
Midland, TX 79707
bekah@thehealingstartshere.com

Celebration of Life

JUL 16. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

American Heritage
4100 N FM 1788
Midland, TX 79707
bekah@thehealingstartshere.com

Tribute Wall

DE

“ *Danny, Nina, Daynie, & Garridon Edwards purchased the Simply Happy Kalanchoe Plant for the family of Robert Lee Southerland.* ”



Danny, Nina, Daynie, & Garridon Edwards - July 16, 2018 at 12:18 PM

LF

“ *Love, Burch, Carlson, Lee, Link, & Murphy families purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Robert Lee Southerland.* ”



Love, Burch, Carlson, Lee, Link, & Murphy families - July 15, 2018 at 10:00 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Robert Lee Southerland.* ”



July 15, 2018 at 05:48 PM

RC

“ Ron Cuevas purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Robert Lee Southerland.



Ron Cuevas - July 15, 2018 at 03:52 PM

RC

“ *Feel no Guilt in Laughter*
Feel no guilt in laughter, he'd know how much you care.
Feel no sorrow in a smile that he's not here to share.
You cannot grieve forever; he would not want you to.
He'd hope that you could carry on the way you always do.
So, talk about the good times and the way you showed you cared,
The days you spent together, all the happiness you shared.
Let memories surround you, a word someone may say
Will suddenly recapture a time, an hour, a day,
That brings him back as clearly as though he were still here,
And fills you with the feeling that he is always near.
For if you keep those moments, you will never be apart
And he will live forever, locked safely within your heart.

Love you Uncle RL
Ronnie Cuevas and Jan

Ron Cuevas - July 15, 2018 at 02:39 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Robert Lee Southerland.*



July 15, 2018 at 12:55 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Robert Lee Southerland.*



July 15, 2018 at 12:30 PM



“ *Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Robert Lee Southerland.*



July 15, 2018 at 12:07 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Robert Lee Southerland.*



July 14, 2018 at 10:12 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Robert Lee Southerland.*



July 14, 2018 at 07:45 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Robert Lee Southerland.*



July 14, 2018 at 05:50 PM



“ *Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Robert Lee Southerland.*



July 14, 2018 at 05:35 PM



“ *"Rooster" Spolton purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Robert Lee Southerland.*



"Rooster" Spolton - July 14, 2018 at 05:12 PM