

## Mr. James Ray Grafton

May 30, 1935 - May 14, 2017

Funeral services for Mr. James Ray Grafton, 81, of Carthage, Texas will be 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 17, 2017 at Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church with Dr. Larry Fondren and Rev. Jared Brown officiating. Burial will follow in Mt. Bethel Cemetery under the direction of Hawthorn Funeral Home. Visitation will be 6-8:00 p.m. Tuesday night at Hawthorn's. Mr. Grafton passed away May 14, 2017 in Carthage, Texas.

Mr. James Ray Grafton was born May 30, 1935 in Panola County, Texas. He was the youngest of three children born to Fate and Lillian Collins Grafton. James Ray was raised and schooled in Buncombe Community and later attended Carthage schools graduating from Carthage High School with the class of 1953. He married Amanda Sue Nutt on May 4, 1960 and they celebrated 54 years together before she preceded him in death in 2014. Mr. Grafton worked for the City of Carthage before he began his career with the Texas Department of Transportation. He retired from there after almost 30 years of service as a maintainer operator. He was an active member of Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church in Panola County where he served as deacon, Sunday school teacher, church clerk, and member of the Men's Brotherhood. Mr. Grafton also served as the Mt. Bethel Cemetery Association treasurer. Those who knew James Ray knew him as a kind and humble soul who loved his family, farming and working cattle. He is preceded in death by his parents; wife, Sue; son, Michael; and sister, Maurine Nail and her husband Leon.

Mr. Grafton is survived by his loving daughters, Susan Grafton Ross of Carthage and Sharon Grafton Kyle and husband Jeff of Gary, sister, Jo Alice Birnie and husband Charlie of Tulsa, OK; grandchildren, Courtney Daugherty and husband Skylar of Carrollton, Kristina Yates and husband Johnny of Carthage, Kaley Alexander and husband Kyle of Downsville, LA, Lindsey Bolton and husband David of Gary, Brady Kyle of Gary, Dillon Grafton and wife Sarah of San Diego, CA, Amy Grafton of Shreveport, LA, Dalton Grafton of Shreveport, LA, great grandchildren, Kora Brooke Alexander of Downsville, LA, Kypton Scott Alexander of Downsville, LA and Tucker Ray Bolton of Gary, numerous nieces, nephews and a host of friends.

Pallbearers will Dillon Grafton, Brady Kyle, Dalton Grafton, Skylar Daugherty, David Bolton, Kyle Alexander, and Robert Williams.

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If desired, memorials may be made in Mr. Grafton's name to Mt. Bethel Cemetery or Hopewell Baptist Church.

# Cemetery Details

## Mt. Bethel Cemetery

3841 FM 999 W  
Gary, TX 75643

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 16. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Hawthorn Funeral Home  
307 West Wellington Street  
P.O. Box 188  
Carthage, TX 75633  
(903) 693-3816  
info@hawthornfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.hawthornfuneralhome.com>

## Service

MAY 17. 3:00 PM (CT)

Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church  
1422 CR 119  
Carthage, TX 75633

# Tribute Wall



“ Hawthorn Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. James Ray Grafton



Hawthorn Funeral Home - May 17, 2017 at 12:00 PM

BB

“ Betty Newman Britt lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Ray Grafton



Betty Newman Britt - May 14, 2020 at 10:36 PM

CR

“ My sincere condolences to the family of my friend and fellow classmate of Carthage High Class of '53. I always enjoyed being in James Ray's company. We shall miss him.

charles reeves - May 17, 2017 at 07:59 PM

JB

“ James Ray was a good friend and classmate in the CHS Class of 1953. We had a lot of fun at the reunions and he will be missed.. My thoughts and prayers are with his family. Jane Crump Bogue

Jane Crump Bogue - May 17, 2017 at 04:52 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Life Tributes



Hawthorn Funeral Home - May 17, 2017 at 11:04 AM



“ Judy Cranford Andrews lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Ray Grafton

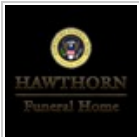


judy cranford andrews - May 16, 2017 at 08:16 PM

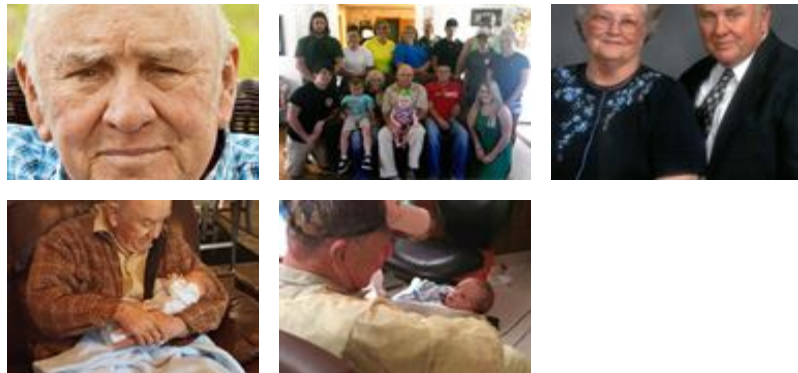


Such a great man will be missed by all

judy cranford andrews - May 16, 2017 at 08:18 PM



“ 48 files added to the album Life Tributes



Hawthorn Funeral Home - May 16, 2017 at 04:49 PM

JM

“ We met the Graftons when our granddaughters, their Amy and our Brittany, were playing softball. They were always the nicest people and so friendly to everyone. We got used to seeing their smiling faces at the sporting events at Gary, and after Mrs. Sue passed Mr. Grafton continued to come. He always made the rounds speaking to everyone, and since we were related to the Odom bunch we were apart of that special greeting.



Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and to all who loved this precious couple, and even now upon the loss of Mr. Grafton. They are to be missed for our lifetime.  
God Bless Us All!!!!

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**Johnnie H. Melton** - May 16, 2017 at 04:28 PM

RC

“ Mr Grafton was one of the most enjoyable man you would ever want to be around. The love of God ,his family and his friends were his priorities. He was so kind and compassionate always ready to lend a hand.He will never suffer again in heaven. Condolences to the family,he will certainly be missed. Prayers and love for Mr Grafton and family is everlasting.Randall,Kassi,Kalli,and Connor Cuff will remember Mr .Grafton for being one of the best men in Panola County!!

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**Randall Cuff** - May 16, 2017 at 12:09 PM

LD

“ *Lavon Porter Denson lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Ray Grafton*



Lavon Porter Denson - May 16, 2017 at 12:01 PM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Mr. James Ray Grafton.*



May 16, 2017 at 09:33 AM

GG

“ *Such a kind man that will be greatly missed. I know Mrs. Sue and Michael are celebrating in Heaven now!!*



Glenda Chambers Grimes - May 16, 2017 at 09:10 AM

TF

“ *The Horace Nail Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mr. James Ray Grafton.*



The Horace Nail Family - May 16, 2017 at 12:52 AM

KK

“ Ken, Tracy & Jonathan Langford, Nathan & Kelli purchased the Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant for the family of Mr. James Ray Grafton.



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**Ken, Tracy & Jonathan Langford, Nathan & Kelli** - May 15, 2017 at 10:12 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. James Ray Grafton.



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May 15, 2017 at 09:27 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. James Ray Grafton.



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May 15, 2017 at 08:38 PM

CA

“ Carla R. Anderson purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Mr. James Ray Grafton.



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**Carla R. Anderson** - May 15, 2017 at 07:01 PM

PD

“ *Lindsey, David and Family,  
We have you in our thoughts and prayers  
today and in the days to come.  
Cherish his sweet memories. Know that he  
loved you very much.  
With our love,  
Jerry and Pat (Edens) Dorman  
Proverbs 17:17*



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**Pat E Dorman** - May 15, 2017 at 06:42 PM

BB

“ *Every time I saw Mr. Grafton, he was the kindest, friendliest man to  
me. His family was his whole world and he missed Sue so much!  
Now he is in Heaven and I know Sue and Michael met him with  
open arms. When someone is as special as him, it's hard to let go.  
Praying for you all. ❤️*

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**Becky Blair** - May 15, 2017 at 06:05 PM

BB

“ *Becky Blair lit a candle in memory of Mr.  
James Ray Grafton*



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**Becky Blair** - May 15, 2017 at 05:56 PM

BB

“ *Becky Blair lit a candle in memory of Mr. James Ray Grafton*



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**Becky Blair** - May 15, 2017 at 05:55 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. James Ray Grafton.*



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May 15, 2017 at 04:56 PM