



## Mr. William Robert Duke

April 1, 1938 - December 4, 2021

William Robert Duke, 83, passed away on December 4, 2021, at Briarcliff Skilled Nursing Center in Carthage, Texas after many years of dealing with dementia. There will be a service at Hawthorn Funeral Home on Wednesday December 8, 2021 at 2:00 PM. Dr. Charles Dodson will officiate. He will be buried at the Clayton Cemetery in Clayton, Texas under the direction of Hawthorn Funeral Home. Visitation will be Tuesday December 7, 2021 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.

William was born at home in Clayton, Texas, on April 1, 1938 to John Bernard and Myrtle Carter Duke. He attended school in Clayton and Carthage and graduated with the Carthage High School Class of 1956. He served in the U.S. Navy from June of 1957 until June of 1961. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from North Texas State University in 1967. On May 31, 1963 he married Carolyn Holland, and they celebrated 58 years of marriage. In May of 2003 he retired from his position as assistant county auditor for Panola County in Carthage, Texas.

William was a believer in Jesus Christ. He was a long-time member of Central Baptist Church where he was very active until he was no longer able to be. He served as a deacon, choir member, Sunday School Superintendent and in many other capacities. He was also active in his community and any activities his sons were involved in and that included serving as an assistant Boy Scout leader which meant regular meetings, camping, hiking and canoeing trips. William was a member of the Carthage Masonic Lodge and the Lions Club.

He enjoyed participating in the annual Lion's Club Show.

William especially loved his family. An Avid reader, he also enjoyed reading to the grandchildren and great grandchildren. For years he loved entertaining small children by talking like Donald Duck. He also enjoyed playing card games and domino games, watching his favorite sports teams, and most anything that involved friends and family. William always had a smile for everyone and a hug for many.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his in-laws, Raybun and Mary Ann Holland, his grandson, David Michael Duke, and his brothers-in-law John Saunders and Thomas Garrett.

William is survived by his wife, Carolyn of Clayton, Texas, his sons, John (Lydia) Duke of Brandon, Mississippi, and Robert (Pam) Duke of Jacksonville, Texas. He is also survived by grandchildren John Christopher (Marguerite) Duke, Hannah Duke, and Hunter Duke and great grandchildren John William Duke II, Anna Duke, Miriam Duke, and Holland Duke. Also surviving William are his brother, J.R. (Debra) Duke and sister-in-law, Rebecca Garrett and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Serving as pallbearers are Jason Duke, Jonathan Duke, Don Clinton, Nicky Parker, Johnny Parker, and Danny Reed. Memorials may be made to the Clayton Cemetery (Kay Mauritzen) 2372 FM 1970, Carthage, Texas, 75633..

An online guestbook may be signed at [www.hawthornfuneralhome.com](http://www.hawthornfuneralhome.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Clayton Cemetery

158 CR 1521  
Clayton, TX

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 7. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (cst)

Hawthorn Funeral Home Chapel  
307 W Wellington St.  
Carthage, Tx

## Funeral Service

DEC 8. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (cst)

Hawthorn Funeral Home Chapel  
307 W Wellington St.  
Carthage, Tx

# Tribute Wall



“ Hawthorn Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. William Robert Duke



Hawthorn Funeral Home - December 06, 2021 at 05:41 PM

DB

*Prayers for your family. I enjoyed working with Mr. Duke when I lived in Carthage. He was a kind nice man*

deborah britt - December 08, 2021 at 09:00 AM

JM

*I am praying for you and your family!*

Johnnie Melton - December 08, 2021 at 12:59 PM

BJ

*Such a fine gentleman in every way!*

Bruce James - December 11, 2021 at 10:48 AM

DG

“ We are so sorry for the loss of your dad. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.

*David Ben and Vickie Garrett*

David Garrett - December 24, 2021 at 05:33 PM

DD

“ Our thoughts and prayers for you and the family. Love, JE and Debra Duke

Debra Duke - December 19, 2021 at 01:43 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Funeral Service Video



Hawthorn Funeral Home - December 10, 2021 at 02:49 PM

KG

“ Kathy Gollmitzer lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Robert Duke



Kathy Gollmitzer - December 09, 2021 at 04:39 PM

KH

“ Kim Henigan lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Robert Duke



Kim Henigan - December 08, 2021 at 07:41 PM

DC

“ Prayers for all of the family during this time. My God give you comfort with many sweet memories.

Donna Cariker - December 08, 2021 at 04:20 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Mr. William Robert Duke.



December 08, 2021 at 11:47 AM

JH

“ So sorry for your loss, My prayers for Carolyn, John, Robert and families frim Okla. Joe

Jo Hough - December 08, 2021 at 09:31 AM

CS

“ Carolyn, We are sending prayers for all of your family. Remembering Bill with John and Robert with our boys, Wesley, David, and Dan at church, scouts and school. Bill was a great guy. He will be remembered for his kindness and helpful ways. Good memories of our Carthage friends-The Dukes. You will be in our thoughts and prayers in the days ahead. Bernie and Carole Smith



Carole Atkins Smith - December 07, 2021 at 09:00 AM

EP

“ He was an awesome man to take care of. He was sweet and loving has a kind heart. I hate to see that he has passed but I know he's in a better place. He's with in-laws and families that went to have ahead of him. I love him and Miss Duke. I hope and pray that she feels comfort in his passing. We will all miss him



Elisa post - December 07, 2021 at 05:21 AM



“ 52 files added to the album Life Tributes



Hawthorn Funeral Home - December 06, 2021 at 05:31 PM



“ Kind man, very friendly and had the privilege to work under him for a time at Drew Woods Construction Company. Always gracious and soft spoken. He represented Jesus' character in work place as well as Church.

*Dawn and Ronnie Jacobs*

Dawn Jacobs - December 06, 2021 at 04:55 PM

PC

“Carolyn and Family,  
I loved William Robert’s sweet smile and sweet spirit. He and Carolyn have inspired so many by their examples of faithfulness. I believe for sure JESUS is saying, “Well done thou good and faithful servant.”

*I am happy for him that is journey is complete, but sad for loved ones who will miss his sweet smile. Please know I am praying for his family.*

*Pat Cordray*

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**Patricia Cordray** - December 06, 2021 at 04:31 PM



“Heavenly Grace Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. William Robert Duke.



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December 06, 2021 at 04:08 PM

SG

“Carolyn, John, & Robert  
Sincere condolences on the passing of William Robert. He was a fine Christian man. Always had a warm smile and friendly greeting every time we crossed paths. Hold tight to all your memories. God bless each of you.

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**Steve Garrett** - December 06, 2021 at 03:44 PM

AH

“ *Annette I. Harris lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Robert Duke*



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**Annette I. Harris** - December 06, 2021 at 03:41 PM

RR

“ *Reginald And Sharon Roberson-Jones lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Robert Duke*



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**Reginald and Sharon Roberson-Jones** - December 06, 2021 at 03:35 PM

JC

“ *So sorry to hear of the passing of Wm Robert. He was a good friend and devout Christian. He served the community in many different ways always with joy and thanksgiving in his heart. Sherry and I are praying for the family during these difficult days!*  
*John and Sherry Crisp*

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**John Crisp** - December 06, 2021 at 03:17 PM

HH

“ *HeartsWay Hospice lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Robert Duke*



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**HeartsWay Hospice** - December 06, 2021 at 02:53 PM