Larry Ray Williams

OZONA - A devoted husband, loving father and grandfather, and good neighbor, Larry Ray Williams of Ozona died Friday, August 27, 2021, after a brief illness.

Larry was born in San Angelo, Texas, in 1947 to Troy and Estelle Reid Williams. He grew up on a ranch near Ozona and attended schools in Crockett County and the San Marcus Military Academy. Active in sports and 4-H, Larry excelled in his various pursuits to include range judging, plant identification, livestock judging, as well as lamb and calf projects.

After high school graduation, Larry attended Texas A&M, worked in the Big Bend National Park as a horseback tour guide and building electrical lines, and received his draft notice. He served in the United States Army in Germany during the Vietnam War. Upon returning, Larry attended Sul Ross University. He met Elaine Graves of Littlefield, Texas, and the two were married. Living in Alpine, Texas, Larry was employed as a Federal Livestock Inspector and worked in the screwworm eradication program.

The two eventually moved back to Ozona where Larry helped his family throughout the remainder of his life by managing the family's ranching interests. He was involved in many civic and church activities without seeking any recognition. He was a 4-H leader, coaching various judging teams to success at the local, state, and national levels. He valued the opportunity to transport participants to and from contests while introducing them to historical sights and points of interest along the way.

Throughout his life, Larry helped others. He set high standards for himself and those around him. He also recognized the limitations and extenuating circumstances that hindered others and did what he could to assist them. He was a bail bondsman for a time, viewing his role as an effort to help those who needed help getting back on an acceptable track. In recent years he became a bee removal expert and honey collector. Widely known throughout West Texas, Larry never met a stranger.

Larry was predeceased by his parents, a brother, Bill T. Williams, and a sister, Kathryn Williams Mayfield. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Elaine, their two sons John and wife, Patty, of San Antonio, Thomas and wife, Autumn, of Del Rio, and three grandchildren, Connor, Keenie, and Ryker. He is also survived by one sister, Jacquelyn Williams Shacklette, of San Angelo.

Visitation will be Thursday, September 2, 2021, at Kerbow Funeral Home in Ozona, Texas. A graveside service will be held at 1000 a.m. on Friday, September 3, 2021, at Cedar Hill Cemetery. At the time of his death, he was an active board member of the Paisano Baptist Encampment. Therefore, in lieu of flowers, the family requests that any memorials be made to Paisano Baptist Encampment, P.O. Box 973, Alpine, Texas 79831, or First Baptist Church of Ozona, 901 Ave. D., Ozona, Texas 76943.
Larry Williams, April 3, 2004, by Carl Kunath.