



## Mr. James Kenneth AKA "Big Daddy" Hensley Sr.

December 27, 1947 - September 30, 2024

Graveside services for Mr. James Kenneth Hensley Sr. AKA "Big Daddy," 76, of Austin, formerly of Henderson, will be held at 10:00 am on Friday, November 22, 2024, at Strong Cemetery in Henderson. A reception will follow at the home of Mike and Mary Lou Smith at 1615 McMurray Road, Henderson, Texas.

He was born December 27, 1947, in Beeville, Texas to Lewis Lee Hensley, Jr and Lonita Elizabeth Gentry Hensley Cochran. When he was 3 years old, the family moved to Henderson, Texas where he graduated from Henderson High School in 1966. On June 6, 1970, he married the love of his life, Susan Willard Hensley and on that day, they embarked on an adventure for the next 54 years. They moved to Austin where they made their home and raised their family however, his heart was always in Henderson, Texas. Kenny worked for 29 years for the Texas State Library and Archives. When he retired from the state, he went to work in the private sector working in the same profession for several years until he finally retired for good.

Kenny enjoyed spending time with his wife, Susan and two sons whether it be coaching them at Balcones Little League where he held multiple positions on the Board and made lifelong friends but most of all memories. Kenny enjoyed the outdoors whether it was Hunting, Fishing or just sitting around with friends and neighbors telling stories. His big thrill was he enjoyed having season

tickets for many years to the University of Texas Longhorn football games. He attended numerous bowl games and National Championship games that the Longhorns have ever played in. Kenny was involved in Jamie and Wes' extra-curricular activities at school, Aqua Fest for several years and he was involved in the First United Methodist Church.

Kenny was one who never met a stranger, he was a giving person not only of his time, but he would always lend an ear to listen to you, and he was also blessed with the gift of gab. He was a simple man who had a strong faith, but he knew he had his short comings, he tried to do better every day to always be a better man and the best example for his sons. Kenny enjoyed the holidays by dressing up as Santa Clause for countless children to spread Christmas joy. He enjoyed good food, playing 42 but especially he enjoyed fellowship. Kenny was a good husband, father, father-in-law, and especially "Big Daddy" to his four grandchildren.

Big Daddy is survived by his wife, of 54 years Susan Willard Hensley, Son, James Kenneth Hensley, Jr. (Jamie) and wife, Trinity of New Braunfels, Tx; Son, Wesley Willard Hensley and wife, Kelly of Round Rock, Tx; Four wonderful Grandchildren, who loved their Big Daddy dearly; Tripp Hensley, Brandt Hensley, Hannah Hensley and Hudson Hensley. He is also survived by his older brother, Lewis Lee Hensley, III and wife, Karin of Georgetown, Tx, Sister-in-law, Beth Miller and husband, Thomas of Dallas, Texas. Also, surviving Big Daddy are numerous nieces and nephews, several cousins and many loving lifelong friends and neighbors.

Kenny is preceded in death by his Father, Lewis Lee Hensley, Jr. Mother, Lonita Elizabeth Hensley Cochran, stepfather, Bo Cochran, Sister-in-law, Frances Hensley, Mother-in-law, Geneva Jo Willard and Father-in-law, Billy Willard.

Also predeceasing, Kenny was his lovable companion, Gracie.

The family ask that donations be made to the First United Methodist Church of Austin, the Austin Humane Society or the charity of one's choice.

As we go on with our lives, Big Daddy would not want anyone to shed a tear but live each day to the fullest. It would be Big Daddy's request that everyone wear your favorite team attire, although he would prefer you wear burnt orange.

Honorary Pallbearers will be Tripp Hensley, Brandt Hensley, Hudson Hensley, Bill Dyess, Curt Shaw, Noble Doss, George Lavas and Daryll Bennett.

The Family would like to extend a special thank you to Big Daddy's Men's Reunion Group. Also to be recognized are "Big John", Isiah, Mary and his wound care Nurse, Meagan from the Center at Parmer for their compassion and care of Dad. The family would also like to thank Heidi from Seton NW.

A Celebration of Life was held at Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home, 5416 Parkcrest Drive, Austin, Texas on October 25, 2024, at 10:30am with a reception following at the Funeral Home.

Words of comfort may be shared with the family at [www.crawfordacrim.com](http://www.crawfordacrim.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Strong Cemetery

Cr 333  
Henderson, TX 75652

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

NOV 22. 10:00 AM (CT)

Strong Cemetery  
Cr 333  
Henderson, TX 75652

# Tribute Wall

LA

“ *Linda and Pat Adams lit a candle in memory of James Hensley*



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**Linda and Pat Adams** - November 18, 2024 at 12:21 PM

CC

“ *Our hearts grieve for the family. May the Lord surround you with His grace and peace. Charlotte and Ken Cochran*

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**CHARLOTTE COCHRAN** - November 18, 2024 at 11:57 AM

BW

“ *I vividly remember the first time I met "Big K". He came out to visit my father and I at my grandmother Mary's farm where we frequently spent time throughout my childhood. My father and I were outside mulling around when we looked up and saw a truck coming down the drive. Now I was still a little guy at the time so when a GIANT of a man emerged from the truck, I moved much, much closer to my dad! Kenny was dressed in a black and red checkered flannel shirt, jeans and boots. Along with his signature beard, I literally thought he was Paul Bunyan in the flesh! I think he sensed I was a little scared but he quickly put me at ease with some kind words and funny jokes as only this gentle giant of a man could do. The Hensleys and the Willards had some great times over the years and we will miss you greatly Kenny. We are praying for you Susan, Jaime, and Wes.*

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**Barry Willard** - November 17, 2024 at 12:59 PM

KH

“ *Mollie & Ken Hale*



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**Ken Hale** - November 16, 2024 at 10:18 AM

HM

“ *Hal Martin lit a candle in memory of James Hensley*



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**Hal Martin** - November 15, 2024 at 09:05 PM

CW

“ *Kenny will be missed by all of us who knew him. We look forward to seeing you soon. Love you, Susan, Cyndy*

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**Cyndy Willard** - November 15, 2024 at 06:57 PM



“ *Susan, I am so sorry to hear this. Much love and prayers to you and your precious family*

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**Christy Staneart** - November 15, 2024 at 05:42 PM

JC

“ Kenny was a classmate and good friend of my older brother Donnie (Dax). They played football together for the Henderson Lions. From stories I've heard, Kenny was the mature stabilizing component of their friendship. Before Donnie would launch off into some crazy scheme, Kenny would try to talk little "sense" to Donnie b4 he tried 2 do something a little rash or risky, even though Donnie might continue with because "his mind was made up!". Kenny was like another older brother in our family. He worked summers in the family cattle business. Many stories of mowing pasture and working large breed cattle with Dalton Jones, Bill "Cotton" Forbus, Billy Bob Trimble, Jerry Yarborough with Kenny were told many times by Betty Jones, Dalton's wife & the company "book keeper " who would be out there recording cow/calf brand & ear tag # matches while on horse back. From fighting wasps, Bull Neddle and hornets encountered while mowing pasture, having to assist in fertility testing bulls at the back side of a squeeze chute, fixing fence, driving cattle on horseback, or flying in a small Cessna aircraft with 4 us aboard and Daddy landing the plane on a TX FM Hwy because there was not a nearby landing strip and ground transportation available at the ranch we were "working cattle" for a customer near Bonham, TX circa 1963. Daddy was a Liason pilot flying small high wing L5 aircraft in WW2, so landing on sparse traffic rural highways was second nature to him. When Donnie and Susan Willard were an item in Jr. high, I wondered if I would ever have a " good lookin' brunette girl friend" as pretty as Susan. A few years later Kenny and Susan married in 1966 @ the 1st Methodist Church in Henderson. It didn't occur to me until decades later that I did marry a good lookin' brunette, Jeanne Irwin, after all & for 49 years, who just happened to be Susan Willard' Hensley's FIRST COUSIN! SUSAN'S Mom & Jeanne's Dad were brother and sister in the Crim's Chapel Irwin family. Rest easy "brother" Kenny. You will be long remembered and appreciated.

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Jim Cowart - November 15, 2024 at 11:13 AM

CH

“ *charles B heath lit a candle in memory of James Hensley*



**charles B heath** - November 15, 2024 at 10:48 AM

CN

“ *Clay Newcomb & Frances Newcomb lit a candle in memory of James Hensley*



**Clay Newcomb & Frances Newcomb** - November 15, 2024 at 03:14 AM

DE

“ *Dianne Swink Everitt lit a candle in memory of James Hensley*



**Dianne Swink Everitt** - November 14, 2024 at 07:43 PM

CS

“ *Carl & Diana Smith lit a candle in memory of James Hensley*



**Carl & Diana Smith** - November 14, 2024 at 03:04 PM