



James Van H. Risinger

August 6, 1927 - October 14, 2011

James Van Hugh Risinger, son of Bronson and Agnes Risinger, was born August 6, 1927, in Rusk, Texas and went to be with our Lord October 14, 2011. He is preceded in death by his parents, his wife, and infant son. James graduated from Laneville High School in 1944, and enlisted in the Navy in October, 1945, where he served 4 years, primarily in the Philippines during WW II. After serving in the Navy, James graduated from Stephen F. Austin State University where he received his bachelor's and master's degrees. While attending college, James married Anna Jo Murray. They celebrated 60 years of marriage December 19, 2010. In 1952, James began his career in education as a teacher in Sabine. He then taught in Leverett's Chapel, where he was recently inducted into the Leverett's Chapel Hall of Fame. In 1959, James and Anna Jo moved to Deer Park, Texas. James continued his career in education. First, he taught as an elementary teacher, next as an elementary principal, and then for the remainder of his career as Assistant Superintendent for Personnel. Throughout his career, James was affiliated with the Gulf Coast Association of School Personnel Administrators, American Association of School Personnel Administrators and the Texas Association of School Administrators, where he was inducted as an honorary life member in 1992. While in Deer Park, James was an active member of Deer Park United Methodist Church, where he taught Sunday school and served on various boards. Also, he was a member of the Deer Park Rotary Club for 35 years, where he served as a past president. After retiring, James enjoyed spending

time with his grandsons and attending their activities. James' life exemplified a life of service to his family and his community by always putting others first. In his Christian walk, James lived out the verse from Matthew 25:40, " In as much as you did it to the least of these my brethren, you did it unto me." He is survived by daughters, Luann Mire and her husband, Patrick Mire of San Antonio; Beth Wilder and her husband Clay Wilder of Henderson; four grandsons: Alan Mire, Andrew Mire, John Wilder, and Ben Wilder; and brother Charles Risinger and his wife Norma Risinger. The four grandsons and son-in-laws will serve as pallbearers. In lieu of flowers, the family would like to request that donations be made to First United Methodist Church at 204 N. Marshall, Henderson, TX 75652 and/or Deer Park, United Methodist Church at 1300 East 13th St., Deer Park, TX 77536. The burial will be held at Walker Chapel Cemetery at 11a.m. Monday, October 17, 2011, followed by a memorial service at 1 p.m. with Rev. David Luckert officiating at Crawford-A. Crim Funeral Chapel in Henderson. Condolences may be made online at www.crawfordacrim.com.

Tribute Wall

DV

“ As a former student of his in the 7th grade at Leverett's Chapel, I regret that I was unable to attend Mr. Risinger's Memorial Service. He was a wonderful teacher and coach. Please accept my deepest condolences to the Risinger family.

Dwain Villyard - October 24, 2011 at 12:00 AM

NM

“ Mr. James was such a shining light in the Deer Park Rotary Club. Prayers of strength to the family.

Norma Moses - October 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ Both Mr. and Mrs. Risinger taught at Leverett's Chapel when I was in elementary school. I had Anna Jo in the 6th grade and James in the 7th. Then of all things, when my family moved to Deer Park in 1973, James hired me to work at Deer Park Elementary. They were very kind and wonderful people and their daughters can be very proud of them. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Jeanette Swan Lawrence - October 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PA

“ Mr. Risinger was a dear friend and wonderful mentor to me. I attended church with them at DPUMC. When I started working in Personnel in Pasadena, he "took me under his wing" and guided me. He always had time to lend a supportive ear. May God bless your family in this time of sorrow.

Pam - October 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ *Risinger Family: I was saddened friday when I received the call informing me of mr. Risingers death. Our 50th class reunion was sat. evening and mr. Risinger had called and said that he planned to be there. All were saddened to learn of his passing. We came through their class in the 55-56 school year and were priviledged to have these two great teachers. Mr. Risinger was also my seventh grade football coach. I regret that I was unable to attend the memorial service. My sympathies to the family. Johnny Gathright*

Johnny Gathright - October 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AS

“ *Beth - Clay, John & Ben, I was so deeply saddened to learn today of the passing of your dad and grandfather. You all hold such a special place in my heart, and my prayers are with you during this time of need. With deepest sympathy, Andrea & Dylan*

Andrea Jolley Seale - October 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ *Dear Beth, Clay, John, and Ben, We are all thinking of you today and sending our love. I regret that we couldn't be with you to give each of you a hug and let you know we care. Loving you always, Aunt Tootsie and family*

Clara and Jlm Families - October 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ *May the peace of God be with your family in these days of mourning. I appreciate having the opportunity to learn, grow and work under his leadership.*

Mike Woodard - October 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ *My love and care are so much with you.*

Joyce Wolters- Thomas - October 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SE

“ *Beth and Clay; Roland and I know that you will have loving memories that will comfort you during these difficult times. Beth, you are lucky to have had this time with your parents in their later years. I didn't realize the vacancy I would feel when my Dad passed away in 1997. I know you were very close to your parents and I am thinking about you now as you get ready for the service. Love Sharon and Roland Escue*

Sharon and Roland Escue - October 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LE

“ *God bless you all with wonderful memories of James & Anna Jo. We will never forget all they have done for Julie. I will always remember the swimming trips with Anna Jo. We had such good times together in Sunday School and Anna Jo's Friends in Fellowship on Thursdays. They will both be missed in Deer Park.*

Lee & Gloria Ervin - October 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

AN

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this time of grief. May you find strength and comfort in knowing that his faith in Christ guided his personal, and professional life.*

Art & Wilma Nauman - October 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM