



Mr. John C. 'Johnny' Sproles

February 28, 1935 - April 27, 2014

Funeral services for Mr. Johnny Sproles, 79, of Henderson, will be held at 4 p.m. Thursday, May 1, 2014, at Crawford-A. Crim Funeral Home Chapel with Pastors Pat Shannon, Pat Stephens and Rev. Rohn Boone officiating. Military graveside services will follow at Rusk County Memorial Gardens under the direction of Crawford-A. Crim Funeral Home of Henderson. Visitation will be from 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, April 30, 2014, at the funeral home.

Mr. Sproles passed away Sunday, April 27, 2014, at Hospice of East Texas in Tyler.

Johnny was born Feb. 28, 1935, to the late John and Bessie Mae Sproles. Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by a twin sister, Jackie Sproles and a granddaughter, Jodi Sproles.

Johnny, at the age of 9, joined the Cub Scouts and progressed through the ranks into Boy Scouts, at age 12, then into Explorer Scouts at age 16, earning scouts highest rank of "Eagle." He tried to live the "scout laws" throughout his life. "Trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent."

In December of 1953, on the San Jacinto river, Johnny was with Mentor, Mr. C.L. Hopson and they witnessed a boating accident, in which two men were thrown into the icy river. Johnny jumped into the river and saved both men from drowning. For this rescue, he was awarded "Scouting's highest life saving award – "The Medal of Honor." The story was printed in detail in the

“Boys Life” scouting magazine in February 1957. Johnny was featured on KLTV Channel 7 in February 2010 in recognition of the 100th anniversary of “The Boy Scouts,” narrated by Joan Hallmark on “Proud of East Texas” and the story was published, front page, in the local newspaper. He served a total of 21 years in the scouting program, becoming a Scout Master. At the age of 18, he attended the National Boy Scout Jamboree in California winning a talent show first place, playing his guitar and singing before 100,000 people. Johnny graduated from Carlisle High School in 1953. He participated in all sports and was annual photographer and was voted “Most Courteous” in 1953.

He attended Kilgore College 1953-54 and Tyler Junior College 1954-55. Johnny joined the army and spent two active years in the army and spent four years in active reserve.

He was an expert marksman and competed in the “National Matches” at Camp Perry, Ohio. Johnny was assigned to the 18th Airborne Corps Artillery, stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C. He toured with the “82nd” Airborne, the 101st Airborne, the 77th Special Forces on special duty and temporary duty on “Special Operation.”

Serving his country was an “Honor” and a privilege.

Johnny served eight years in the Henderson, Rusk County Rescue Unit. In 1964, he was employed at Texas Eastman Chemical Co. Johnny retired in 1997 with 33 years and worked another 7-1/2 years there through contract, as an electrical inspector in the Engineering and Construction Department. He was a member of the Henderson Police Department Citizens Police Academy Alumni and Citizens on Patrol for 13 years, serving as president two terms.

Johnny was inducted into the Carlisle Alumni Hall of Fame in 2012.

He was a very active, faithful member of West Main Baptist Church for 32 years, serving as trustee, treasurer, teacher, playing the piano, singing specials and enjoyed all the Christian Fellowship.

In 1985, Johnny married Lois Pace Hutto, “the love of his life.” He remarked

that she was always a source of encouragement. They were married for 29 wonderful years.

Survivors include: wife, Lois Pace Sproles; children, Dennis Hutto and wife Tina; Elaine Hutto Mote and fiancé Gary Kammer; Andy Sproles and wife Ginger; Bruce Sproles and fiancé Marcia Shelton; Teri Corley and husband Dr. David Corley; 11 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers will be Cody Geneva, Brodie Sproles, Jason Mote, Mark Hutto, Blake Pirtle, and Jason Railsback Cox.

Honorary pallbearers will be Lavern Gibson, Dewayne Pirtle, Don Poovey, Gene Kimbrell, David Velvin, Billy Soape, Wayne Taylor, deacons and trustees of West Main Baptist Church and Henderson Police Department Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Henderson Citizens Police Academy, 600 Sand Ave., Henderson, TX 75652, Gideons International, P.O. Box 140800, Nashville, TN 37214, West Main Baptist Church, 1403 West Main St., Henderson, TX 75652, or Hospice of East Texas, 4111 University Blvd., Tyler, TX 75701.

Condolences may be made online at www.crawfordacrim.com

Cemetery Details

Rusk County Memorial Gardens

Hwy 259 N.
Henderson, TX 75652

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 30. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Crawford-A. Crim Funeral Home
1414 S. Main St
Henderson, TX 75654

Service

MAY 1. 4:00 PM (CT)

Crawford-A. Crim Funeral Home
1414 S. Main St
Henderson, TX 75654

Tribute Wall



“ Crawford A.Crim Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. John C. 'Johnny' Sproles



Crawford- A.Crim Funeral Home - April 30, 2014 at 03:52 PM

LW

“ So sorry to hear about Johnny...Bessie Mae and Luther's mom, Violet Wicker, were first cousins.....Johnny was always so sweet to bring his mom and Jackie to the family reunion in Mims.....we always had a lot of laughs and fun! Y'all are in our thoughts and prayers.....love, Luther and Swann wicker

Luther and Swann Wicker - May 10, 2014 at 05:55 PM

R(

“ Johnny will be missed by so many. He loved his Lord, family and friends.Carlisle school reunions will never be the same. Prayers for Louis and the family.

Ruth (Waggoner)Reed - May 05, 2014 at 11:39 AM

JC

“ Sorry to hear about Bro. Johnny, my prayers our with all the family, Randy and Judy Cates

Judy Cates - May 01, 2014 at 08:39 PM

KB

“ To Dennis Hutto & families of Johnny:
Please know that you all are in our prayers as we'll miss Johnny from out in the "Eastman world". He was a sweet co-worker for many years and his memory will be never forgotten. Keep Jesus No.1 as only HE can give you "peace within". To God be the Glory forever,
with sincere sympathy,
Keith & Donna Blanton
White Oak, TX

Keith & Donna Blanton - May 01, 2014 at 10:17 AM

BP

“ I always enjoyed talking with Johnny. He was such a great, godly man and will be missed on earth. Angels in Heaven are singing welcoming him home!

Barry Propes - April 30, 2014 at 11:40 PM

LS

“ Linda & Jimmy Sipes lit a candle in memory of Mr. John C. 'Johnny' Sproles



Linda & Jimmy Sipes - April 30, 2014 at 08:48 PM

BH

“ Bob & Sue Henderson lit a candle in memory of Mr. John C. 'Johnny' Sproles



Bob & Sue Henderson - April 30, 2014 at 04:47 PM



“ I went to Carlisle Baptist Church as a teen and loved Bessie Mae and Jackie. They were some of the sweetest people I've ever known. I'd knew Johnny also but not as well. He was a fine man. My condolences to the family. I know he is dearly loved and will be missed.

Kristopher Hale - April 30, 2014 at 03:53 PM

MR

“ Mike & Cathy Robertson lit a candle in memory of Mr. John C. 'Johnny' Sproles



Mike & Cathy Robertson - April 30, 2014 at 02:32 PM

CB

“ I was lucky enough to be a cousin of Johnny. I can remember being a little boy and just thinking what a great person he was, so friendly and kind. As I grew up into a man, I realized what a great man he was. An honest, upstanding, Christian man. I have always had the utmost respect for him, and will continue to do so. I'm sure he's with Jackie & Aunt Bessie Mae & Uncle John right now in a beautiful reunion!

Chris Bradbury - April 30, 2014 at 01:48 PM

BI

“ I had the privilege of working with Johnny at Eastman plus attend church with him at Trinity Baptist many years ago. He was always friendly and seemed to always be in a good mood all the time. He will be missed and my thoughts are with the family at this time.

*Billy F. Martin
Longview*

Billy - April 30, 2014 at 11:32 AM

TG

“ One of the kindest, most generous men I ever had the pleasure of doing business with. This community will miss him. I am quite sure he and the Lord are discussing the state of affairs here. It was a pleasure to have known him. So sorry for your loss.

The fellas at Kenneth Cain Garage - April 30, 2014 at 08:25 AM

AM

“ Amy Miley lit a candle in memory of Mr. John C. 'Johnny' Sproles



Amy Miley - April 29, 2014 at 08:25 PM

SR

“ Suzanne Reed lit a candle in memory of Mr. John C. 'Johnny' Sproles



Suzanne Reed - April 29, 2014 at 05:21 PM

SR

“ It was so nice to visit and talk to Johnny recently and he made my day when he shared a special memory with me about my dad and I never even knew they knew each other many years ago! I know Johnny was a special man in many ways and will be greatly missed in the coming days. I can just imagine that Johnny and Jackie and other friends and family members are having a wonderful reunion right now. I'm honored to have known Johnny.

Suzanne Reed - April 29, 2014 at 05:21 PM

RC

“ Rhonda Chapman lit a candle in memory of Mr. John C. 'Johnny' Sproles



Rhonda Chapman - April 29, 2014 at 02:39 PM

GA

“ Once, out of the blue, Johnny called and gave me a lovely compliment on something I had no idea he knew. Always kind and thoughtful.
Gay Allen

Gay Allen - April 29, 2014 at 01:43 PM

JM

“ Our loss is Heaven's gain. Johnny was a true man of God. He is now singing with the angels or playing an instrument with them....he was such a talented man. Our thoughts and prayers are with Lois and family during this time. Larry & Janey Mills

Janey Mills - April 29, 2014 at 08:30 AM

MS

“ Johnny will be missed.



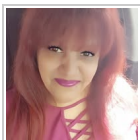
Mark M. Smith - April 29, 2014 at 12:39 AM

MS

“ Mark M. Smith



Mark M. Smith - April 29, 2014 at 12:36 AM



“ Johnny, it was such an honor and privilege to have known such a wonderful man of God.

You will be missed my dear friend.

My prayers are with your family and Mrs. Lois during this most difficult time.

Henderson Citizen Police Department Alumni Association

Christy Carrizoza - April 28, 2014 at 11:09 PM

CL

“ Johnny was a great man of God. It was a privilege to know him. Our prayers go out to Ms. Lois and the family.

Charlie Lear - April 28, 2014 at 09:30 PM

BG

“ Johnny you will be missed. Praying for Ms. Lois and family in the coming days.

HPD Citizen Police Department Alumni Association

Bonnie Geddie - April 28, 2014 at 04:53 PM

BG

“ Praying for Peace and Comfort for the family during this difficult time. Johnny you will be missed.



Bonnie Geddie - April 28, 2014 at 09:20 AM