# Bro. Kenneth W. Nichols

February 7, 1930 - July 1, 2018

Kenneth Wayne Nichols, 88, formerly of Henderson, TX, joined his wife, other family members and friends when he arrived his Eternal Home with Jesus on Sunday morning, July 1, 2018. A Celebration of Brother Kenneth's life and ministry will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 7, 2018, in the chapel at Crawford-A. Crim Funeral Home with evangelist Billy Foote officiating. Interment will follow at Lakewood Memorial Park under the direction of Crawford-A. Crim Funeral Home. The family will receive friends at 10:00 a.m. until service time on Saturday, July 7, 2018 at the funeral home chapel.

He was born February 7, 1930 to Louis and Rena Nichols in Grand Saline, TX, he was born again and baptized 11 years later. A devoted follower of Jesus Christ, Kenneth was called by God in 1963 to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and subsequently ordained to do so by Calvary Baptist Church, Tyler, TX in 1964. Bro. Kenneth served as pastor of 8 Baptist churches in the East Texas area from 1964 through 2006: Hebron Baptist Church, Tyler; Crim's Chapel Baptist Church, Henderson; Clawson Baptist Church, Lufkin; First Baptist Church, Tatum; First Baptist Church, Timpson; Pine Hill Baptist Church, Henderson; Eastside Baptist Church, Henderson; and First Baptist Church, Turnertown.

Upon graduating Grand Saline High School where he played basketball and football, Kenneth joined the U.S. Army in 1948 before serving in the Army Reserves for 7 more years. He married his high school sweetheart Dorothy Vandergriff in 1949 and two years later welcomed their firstborn son Randy

who was followed by Debbie, Marylinda and Gary within seven years.
Bro. Nichols embodied a servant's heart and was a very loving, gentle and compassionate shepherd of his people, who enjoyed frequently visiting the hurting in their homes, hospitals and long-term care facilities. He never wavered in his love and devotion to his Lord and Savior, his flock, or his beloved wife. He was well-known and greatly respected for his consistently godly example of how a man should love, honor and serve his Lord and his wife.
Kenneth is preceded in death by Dorothy, his devoted wife and ministry partner for 67 ½ years, and his parents. He is survived by his 4 children, 6 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.
Words of comfort may be shared with the family at www.crawfordacrim.com.

# Cemetery Details

### Lakewood Memorial Park

Hwy 64 and 323
Henderson, TX 75652

# Previous Events

### Visitation

JUL **7**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

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

### Service

JUL **7**. 11:00 AM (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 Bro. Kenneth W. Nichols*

**Crawford- A.Crim Funeral Home** - July 06, 2018 at 12:09 PM

TG

*Tammy Williamson Guy lit a candle in memory of Bro. Kenneth W. Nichols*

**Tammy Williamson Guy** - July 11, 2018 at 12:07 PM

*69 files added to the album LifeTributes*

**Crawford- A.Crim Funeral Home** - July 06, 2018 at 11:05 AM

*So many great memories with this beautiful Godly couple. Bro Nichols was a gentle Godly example of love and acceptance. He was loved by everyone that had the privilege of knowing him. He will be missed on earth but welcomed so warmly by his saviour. God bless his family during this time of loss.*

**David Henry** - July 04, 2018 at 08:43 PM

DH

*Thank you David for taking the time to post your thoughts. It is very much appreciated by our family. You held a special place in their heart. ~Debbie Nichols Holden~*

**Debbie Holden** - July 08, 2018 at 12:09 AM

BB

*I met Kenneth and Dorthy a few months before they were married. I was working along side of Dorthy's father at Castillo and Sons Furniture in Mineola, Texas. That were very close friends of me and my family for many years. Kenneth helped me get a job with McMurrey Refinery in Tyler that I worked for 40 years. I visited two of the Churches that he plastered and enjoyed his service very much. I would say that Brother Kenneth was truly a man of God. One of the remarks that he made to me during a visit with him at the mall in Tyler while he was pasted of the 1st Baptist Church in Tatum has stayed with me all of these years. After I told him that I made a point to take my pastor out to lunch often was "Billy, keep that up, Pasters need friendship also." Kenneth will be missed. I pray that God will continue to blessKenneth's family and all the Churches he plastered.*

*Billy F. Blackstock of Tyler, Texas.*

**Billy F. Blackstock** - July 04, 2018 at 03:00 PM

DH

*8 files added to the album Mother and Daddy*

**Debbie Holden** - July 04, 2018 at 09:32 AM

JM

*The earth is a far better place for having this kind, gentle, loving man of God be a part of it. I can't even begin to tell you the many times he and Dorothy have held me in their loving arms praying for me. Brother Kenneth had the unique gift of taking each of his church family's lives and incorporating them into his walk with God. I can still see the love emanating from his and Dorothy's eyes as they look at each other...theirs was a true Christian love story. I have this image seared in my mind of how they held hands as they walked back and forth to their home at Turnertown Baptist Church. I know that Jesus & his beloved Dorothy were standing with open arms as he entered those magnificent gates of heaven. I will forever hold them in my heart until we meet again.*

**Joyce McDougald** - July 03, 2018 at 09:09 PM

DH

*Joyce, such sweet memories you have. Thank you so much for your sweet words. Mother and Daddy both cared very much for all of their congregation in each church they pastored. Thank you for writing this. This means a lot to our family.*

*~Debbie (Nichols) Holden*

**Debbie Holden** - July 04, 2018 at 09:25 AM

DG

*We have some great memories of Bro. Kenneth from First Baptist Church of Tatum, several years after we moved, he preached a funeral service for one of my husbands cousins and we were so happy to see him and I introduced him as our "old old pastor", (meaning we had several after him) and everyone laughed, even Bro. Kenneth and I was so embarrassed . We saw him several years later and he mentioned that again as one of his funniest introductions. Our prayers for the family. Diana and Vestle Gentry*

**Diana Gentry** - July 03, 2018 at 03:22 PM

DH

*That's such a cute story and I know he was humored by your introduction! Thank you for your kind words and remembrances.*

*~Debbie (Nichols) Holden*

**Debbie Holden** - July 03, 2018 at 08:22 PM

VH

*He was my neighbor for so many years...he and his wife were two of the most awesome people I have ever met...he was such a good neighbor, he even loved my dog and got food for her for a treat when she came to visit...I an sad he is gone for all he loved, but I know he is rejoicing now!*

**Valerie Hyde** - July 03, 2018 at 12:26 AM

DH

*Thank you so much Ms. Hyde. He loved dogs and I took mine up to the Nursing Home frequently to see him. I'm glad he treated your dog well! Thank you again.*

*~Debbie (Nichols) Holden*

**Debbie Holden** - July 03, 2018 at 02:04 PM

Vonda Galles

*Bro. Kenneth and Miss Dorothy always held a special place in my heart. I have so many fond memories of them and First Baptist Church in Tatum. I was very good friends with MaryLinda and Gary. I spent many nights and weekends at their home. To the Nichols family, I am so sorry for your loss. Sending love and prayers to each of you. Vonda Galles*

**Vonda Galles** - July 02, 2018 at 09:19 PM

DH

*Thank you Vonda. I do know Marylinda and Gary have talked fondly about you for many years. I don't know if you live close enough to come to the service, but I know they would love to see you. Thank you for for your sweet words.*

*~Debbie (Nichols) Holden*

**Debbie Holden** - July 03, 2018 at 01:58 PM

FD

*Bro. Kenneth and Dorothy were a special couple. We were in the same Sunday school department at FBC Henderson, and they were always willing to help in any way. One thing we enjoyed and remember he did was write a short poem about our Sunday school lesson for our weekly news letter. They were a blessing in many ways. We still think of them often. May God bless and comfort you. Fay and Farrell Dorsey*

**Farrell and Fay Dorssey** - July 02, 2018 at 02:09 PM

DH

*Thank you so much for remembering our parents so fondly. It's been several years since they were there and it means a lot knowing they were so loved. ~ Debbie (Nichols) Holden*

**Debbie Nichols Holden** - July 02, 2018 at 03:25 PM

DH

*6 files added to the album Favorite pictures*

**Debbie Nichols Holden** - July 02, 2018 at 01:57 PM

DH

*2 files added to the album Favorite pictures*

**Debbie Nichols Holden** - July 02, 2018 at 01:54 PM

DH

*SLIPPING AWAY*

*Life can be cruel to those that we love,*
*We have many questions, yet no answers from above.*

*As time goes by each and every day*
*I watch you sadly, as you start slipping away.*

*Some days are good, some days are bad*
*Some days are fun, but some days are sad*

*As hard as you try to find the words to say*
*They just don't come easy as you slip further away*

*The days seem endless, and hopeless I feel*
*This doesn't seem right, and I don't want it to be real*

*Your body is broken, yet I want you to stay,*
*I know that won't happen, as you keep slipping away*

*The days are getting fewer for you, I know*
*I love you so much, but when Jesus is ready, I know you must go*

*As Day turns to night, and night turns to day,*
*Jesus finally called, and you quietly slipped away.*

*I will love you forever, tho I'm sad you are gone,*
*It won't be too long until we'll all be home.*

*- Debbie Nichols Holden -*
*2018*

*I love you so much Daddy and I miss you, but I know you are where you have longed to be, in Heaven with Jesus and Mother. Your*

*battle is over. You'll always be my very favorite Daddy* ❤️

**Debbie Nichols Holden** - July 02, 2018 at 01:49 PM