



Burle Pettit

July 26, 1934 - May 29, 2022

Emory "Burle" Pettit was born July 26, 1934 in Moran , TX to John Pettit and Hazel Pettit. On May 29, 1957, he was married to Clara Frances Hill and passed away exactly 65 years later on their wedding anniversary. Burle received his Bachelor's Degree from the University of North Texas. He served in the U.S. Army from 1955-1956. Burle Pettit, whose eloquent writing and effective leadership entertained Lubbock Avalanche-Journal readers and influenced its journalists for more than five decades, died early Sunday. He was 87.

Pettit joined the newspaper as a sports writer in 1960 and steadily climbed the newsroom's organizational ladder, holding positions of sports editor, managing editor and culminating in his being appointed executive editor Jan. 1, 1995. He retired from that position five years later. Following retirement, he was named the paper's editor emeritus with his name appearing on the A-J opinion page masthead. He also continued to write a highly popular column, occasionally turning the writing duties over to his pet dog, Schnopper. During his storied career, Burle was recognized with state and national journalism honors.

In 2019, a collection of Pettit's Avalanche-Journal columns was published in the book: "A Boyhood Dream Realized: Half a Century of Texas Culture, One Newspaper Column at a Time." That same year, he was recognized by the Lubbock chapter of the Association for Women in Communications with the Mary Ann Edwards Outstanding Professional Communicator award.

Burle is survived by sons Kevin of Canyon Lake, Kyle of Lubbock and daughter-in-law Norma, Scott of Fair Oaks Ranch and daughter-in-law Michelle Pettit; six grandchildren Gary, Kasey, Morgan (Hammond), Christopher, Kendall, and Hayden; six great-grandchildren (Moiija, Hanna Beth, Addi, Zoe, Harper, and Hudson).

Preceded in death by Clara Frances Pettit on June 8, 2017 and by his parents, John Pettit and Hazel Pettit, and siblings Jack, John L, Doris, Cleo, and Bobbie.

The family will receive friends from 6:30-8:30 PM, Thursday, June 2, 2022 at Sanders Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 10:00 AM Friday, June 3, 2022 at First Christian Church, presided by Dr. Michael Passmore; and a special graveside serve will be held at 2:30 PM, June 3, 2022 the Newman cemetery near the Sylvester community in southern Fisher County. In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to the Carillon Foundation or First Christian Church.

Cemetery Details

Newman Cemetery

Sylvester, TX

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 2. 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM.

Sanders Funeral Home

Funeral Service

JUN 3. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

First Christian Church
2323 Broadway Avenue
Lubbock, TX 79401

Tribute Wall



“ Sanders Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Burle Pettit



Sanders Funeral Home - June 01, 2022 at 04:38 PM

BH

“ I had been a rookie reporter at the A-J a year or so when Burle arrived in 1960 to work on the sports side across the newsroom. I remember him as being quiet, courteous and clearly dedicated to his work. but located as we did in different departments, we seldom associated. He sometimes did join in one of our small stakes poker games after midnight when we had put the next day's paper "to bed," prepared for the printing presses to spin it all out. Flash forward twenty-nine years and Burle was to play an instrumental role in my career. I left the A-J in 1962 and wound spending a quarter century in Washington as a correspondent for the Associated Press and later Reuters. Burle was in line to become editor when I decided I wanted to return to my native West Texas and the A-J. I have no doubt that he had to put the blessing on my return to Lubbock, and for that I will always be grateful. He became was a wise counselor to me over the years, particularly when age and hard-living began to have negative effects on my performance. I resigned in frustration. Burle made no effort to dissuade me from quitting. I realize now that it was the best decision for us both. Thank you, Burle. God rest your good soul.

-- Bob Horton

Bob Horton - June 04, 2022 at 11:20 PM



“ If you ever met him, you would have liked him immediately for his gentleman's demeanor and sense of humor. Then, if you're like me, about 40 years later when his credentials are spread out in the A-J, you would realize that he was also a very humble man - I'm just now realizing that he never talked about himself. I knew more about his family than him. Still, I considered it a special treat just to talk to him.

I retired from the A-J in 2015 after a cumulative 32 years and since then, I have contacted him on several occasions for facts and/or his memory of events - he was always so nice to help and always had the answer.

What a long wonderful career for a really nice guy. R.I.P. my friend.

Judy Johnson

Judy Johnson - June 04, 2022 at 04:54 PM



“ 1 file added to the album LifeTributes



Sanders Funeral Home - June 02, 2022 at 10:26 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Burle Pettit.*



June 02, 2022 at 12:42 AM



“ *I know that your hearts hold great sadness for the loss of such a lovable and honorable person. We hope that the blessings of the life and love that you shared will always be a part of each of you. I pray that God will comfort you and carry you to a place of peace. With our deepest sympathy to your families, we are making a donation to the Alzheimer's foundation in his memory. Jim and Susan Kimes..*

Jim and Susan Kimes - June 01, 2022 at 11:45 PM



“ *Burle, Thanks for giving me a chance in 1986. I appreciate all you did, John Rigg*

John Rigg - June 01, 2022 at 05:40 PM



“ 100 files added to the album LifeTributes



Sanders Funeral Home - June 01, 2022 at 04:36 PM

JB

“ Pettits were neighbors. Miss them...Rest in Peace. Joan Blackmon

Joan Blackmon - June 01, 2022 at 10:47 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Burle Pettit.



May 31, 2022 at 11:03 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Burle Pettit.



May 31, 2022 at 09:02 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Burle Pettit.*



May 31, 2022 at 08:59 PM



“ *Mel and Vera Tittle purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Burle Pettit.*



Mel and Vera Tittle - May 31, 2022 at 05:14 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Burle Pettit.*



May 31, 2022 at 03:37 PM



“ *Burle and Frances were our next door neighbors for several years on 78th Street. Frances was absolutely the sweetest lady, and Burle.... well, Burle was Burle. Never knew what that funny guy was going to say next! They were wonderful neighbors and friends.*

Tens McArthur - May 31, 2022 at 01:34 PM

BQ

“ *My condolences to the family of the finest gentleman I've ever known.*



Bert Quagliato - May 31, 2022 at 11:17 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Burle Pettit.*



May 31, 2022 at 10:28 AM

DS

“ *Rest In Peace. Our deepest condolences to the family.*
Don & Sherry Sorce



Don&Sherry Sorce - May 31, 2022 at 08:14 AM

AT

“ *I never had the pleasure of meeting Burle, but he made an impact on my husband's life. Casey always talked about what a great man Burle was. Sending love to your family!*

Alesha Tolbert - May 31, 2022 at 03:23 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Burle Pettit.*



May 31, 2022 at 03:17 AM



“ *We had the pleasure to meet Berle and Francis through our niece, Michelle Pettit and husband Scott Pettit. What a great couple. We are blessed to have met this gracious couple. HUGS AND PRAYERS TO THE FAMILY.*

LC & Mary Lacy - May 30, 2022 at 11:44 PM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Burle Pettit.*



May 30, 2022 at 10:41 PM