



## Donald J Caudle

February 19, 1934 - July 19, 2017

Donald John Caudle, passed away in his home, on July 19, 2017, at the age of 83, after a lengthy illness. He was born to Donald Claude Caudle and Annetta Moore Caudle, on February 19, 1934, at Carlton, Texas.

The family lived for a short time in a half dug out home in Lubbock. Eventually moving to the country, after the family purchased a dairy farm, near New Home, where John and his three brothers spent most of their growing up years. He often told stories of riding his horse to school, and getting into mischief with his brothers. He had a love of animals from an early age and was always willing and able to handle tough jobs without complaint. Many days of his childhood were spent hunting and scouting around on the T-Bar Ranch near his home. This was a time of great exploration and adventure as well as a source of future stories which he would share with his children and grandchildren. He loved the outdoors so much that as a teen, when he was out on a date, which wasn't very often, he couldn't wait to get that girl home so he could go rabbit hunting. He graduated from New Home High School in 1951.

After graduation, John went to work at a blacksmith shop in New Home, Texas, then began working at Reese Air Force Base running a jack hammer destroying old ammo bunkers. For some reason he gave that job up and moved to Lake Whitney when his family opened King Creek Fishing Lodge. I think his love of the outdoors flourished during this time and he began thinking of becoming a game warden.

Joining the, U. S. Army, in 1956, John was stationed at Fort Bliss until, 1958, when he transferred to the U. S. Army Reserves. He was honorably discharged from the service, June 30, 1962.

John went to work as a game warden for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. and was sent to the Game Warden Academy at Texas A & M in College Station, February through June 1960. He proudly served as a game warden for the state of Texas and retired from the Department in September 1995, retiring as Bexar County Commander of Region Five, after 36 years of dedicated service.

John loved all aspects of his job. He had a weekly radio report during the peak fishing and boating seasons as part of his public service duties. Teaching the public about boating safety and regulations, while stationed at Laredo.

The adventures and stories he shared at family gatherings were endless.

Always captivating the youngsters and well as the adults. Many of his stories he typed up and printed out, but many more were yet to be written.

John was a wonderful carpenter, furniture builder and woodworker. He loved fishing, photography, as well as studying the flora and fauna of the great state of Texas. He loved hunting and displaying his massive collection of arrowheads and he could tell you when and where he found just about every one. He loved teaching firearm safety to anyone interested in learning. He loved traveling, camping, and is know from the south plains of Texas to the Rio Grande for the many pranks he has pulled.

After his retirement from the Parks and Wildlife Department, John went to work for Executive Outfitters, as a dove hunting guide, scout, and cook, another job he loved. He did this for nineteen years. In 1997, John and his wife, Lana, moved back to the Lubbock area coming full circle.

He is survived by his wife, Lana Godwin Caudle, of Lubbock, Texas. A loving father to his children, a son, Donald John Caudle, Jr. ( D.J.), of Pearsall, Texas, and daughter, Cheryl McCartney, of Jonesville, Louisiana, Two brothers, Mack Caudle, of San Angelo, Texas, and Brodie Caudle, of Junction, Texas, both brothers followed his lead joining the Texas Parks and Wildlife

Department.

John was preceded in death by his daughter, April Blake of Brackettville, and brother, Pat Caudle, of Port Isabelle, Texas.

Loving Grandpa to five grandchildren, Tamyra McCartney Burleson, Brandon McCartney, Chris Blake, Wyatt Blake and Mason Caudle.

He was also a loving step dad to three children, Jim Davis of College Station, Darla Kirton of Shallowater, Texas, and Christy Childress of Smyer, Texas and grandpa to ten step-grandchildren, Julie Jourden, Dana Schafer, Ashley Cox, Melanie Kirton, Joshua Kirton, Caleb Kirton, Jerrod Childress, Jessica Childress, Levi Sinclair, and Kaci Harmon, along with seven step great grandchildren.

John was an real life hero and mentor to his family. His fun loving character and easy going disposition made him a true friend for life, and he had many. As a boss he was stern, but fair. He set a good example with his love and dedication to the job, and the risks that went with it. He gained the respect and admiration of all, including the outlaws he captured and brought to justice. Donald John Caudle, was an honorable man, and the wonderful memories he left us, will be treasured in our heart and minds forever.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

AUG **12**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Sanders Memorial Chapel  
1420 Main Street  
Lubbock, TX 79401

# Tribute Wall



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Donald J Caudle.



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August 08, 2017 at 12:56 AM



“ *Sam and Jackie Ilse* purchased the *Gerberas and Palms Spray* for the family of Donald J Caudle.



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**Sam and Jackie Ilse** - August 07, 2017 at 12:43 PM



“ *D.J., Cheryl, and families* purchased the *Ocean Breeze Spray* for the family of Donald J Caudle.



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**D.J., Cheryl, and families** - August 06, 2017 at 03:16 PM

“ Donald John Caude, came in to my brother and my life in July of 1964, we were about 6 and 8 years old. From that day forward, our lives changed. We had such an array of pets, my favorite were the baby skunks, fawns, wild bunnies, and bob cats, to name a few. We also had two siamese cats, Sammy and Chequita, rescued by dad. With Dad's guidance we soon were masters, or we thought, in the art of archery, horseback, target practice, and my favorite fishing. Just before Easter my mom went into labor and was in the hospital for several days. Dad was in charge of getting us kids dressed and off to school. Back in those days girls were not allowed to wear pants to school, It was the day of our Easter parade and egg hunt. Dad dressed me to the hilt complete with bonnet and gloves. I was the leader of the parade that year. I think it was because he didn't know how to fix my long curly hair, but dad was able to come up with a solution. At the egg hunt dad had called the school to let us kids know that our baby sister, April was born. It was a great day. Dad legally adopted my brother and I, sealing our bond and our love forever. We never felt anything less than his own children. Dad taught us to swim in the muddy tanks or watering holes we often camped out. He took us on arrowhead hunts and shared his love of animals and birds. He was a family man as well as a game warden, but I think mostly he was a big kid at heart. I remember the enormous tree house he built for us when we lived at a rent house in Cotulla, Texas, and the dog house he built for the little stray dog that he brought home for me. The lessons he taught us are still with us today. I learned fractions and how to read a tape measure while helping dad remodel the big old house in Cotulla that would become home to us for so many wonderful years. In those days it wasn't uncommon for us to take turns going to work with dad a practice that is strictly forbidden these days. We each have stories of our adventures with Dad the game warden. As we grew and our lives changed, The miles apart were many, and time passed quickly, but true love doesn't know these boundaries. Love and respect becomes even more prominent. Donald John Caudle, was a fair, honest man, a fun and energetic

*father who was nothing short of a hero in my eyes. His memories are treasures that will be passed down to children and grandchildren for generations to come. Dad we love you always and forever.  
Your children.*

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**Cheryl McCartney** - August 06, 2017 at 02:25 PM

SB

“ *Steve and Karen Backor purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Donald J Caudle.*



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**Steve and Karen Backor** - August 06, 2017 at 11:24 AM

KB

“ I've known Capt. John Caudle most of my career that spanned some 41 years. There are many great stories to be said that I shared with him. I will dwell on one that shows what John Caudle was made of in terms of his leadership and speaking his mind. I was at in-service training in Austin with him one week. In attendance were some 80 to 100 State Game Wardens. The Department was looking for a new Director of Law Enforcement. Thus the Executive Director brought in a candidate from another state to address us on his qualifications and his desire to be our new chief. A TPWD Commissioner was in attendance as well. A situation that did not go well in terms of the thoughts of the wardens attending and what the agency director was trying to do in his hiring process. After this New Jersey State Natural Resource Chief finished his speech Capt. John Caudle stood up before the whole audience. He commenced to speak his mind about the whole charade and the process of bringing some school mate of the executive director to become our new chief. A candidate that supervised 35 wardens in the whole state of New Jersey. John spoke his mind where none of us would dare to tread. After his speech there was such silence that one could hear a pin drop for a short while. Slowly the executive director got up and called for a recess. That very day told me more about John Caudle than any other. Wardens in the class and supervisors had to stand in line to shake John's hand. The guy from New Jersey went back to New Jersey.

Capt. Ken L. Baker  
1971 - 2012

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Ken Baker - August 03, 2017 at 12:12 PM

CM

*Thank you on behalf of the family for sharing this story. Dad was a remarkable man and wonderful father. We have wonderful stories of his many adventures but stories like this, I have not heard, although it doesn't surprise me in the least. He was always an honorable, straight shooter in more ways than one. Sincerely, Cheryl Caudle McCartney*

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**Cheryl McCartney** - August 06, 2017 at 10:50 AM

CB

*You are most welcome as I wished many times to somehow see him in his golden years. It wasn't to be because of distance and other factors however I did greatly admire him as did many others.*

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**Capt. Ken L. Baker** - August 14, 2017 at 01:43 PM

KB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Ken Baker** - August 03, 2017 at 11:16 AM

RC

“ While every Game Warden has his own "war stories," my favorite tale of the dedication and determination of Texas Game Wardens is about John Caudle. The time down in Webb County when John laid up a fresh-killed big buck - for 8 days! - till the perpetrators cam back to collect the big rack - only to be be grabbed by the cuff of the neck by Big John. Story goes that at least one of them got to feel the cold muzzle of a 357 Magnum stuck in his ear during the scuffle. I worked under John down on the border, and he was the kind of boss that made a young Game Warden want to go out and catch bad guys.  
He's a legend ..... and he won't be forgotten.

Constable Rod Chalmers  
Texas Game Warden 1979-2009

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**Rod Chalmers** - August 02, 2017 at 07:35 PM

CM

I appreciate your sharing this story. I think it really gives light to how seriously Dad took his job. Well, it really wasn't a job to him, it was his life and his one true love. Thank you, for honoring my Dad, with a great memory. Cheryl Caudle McCartney

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**Cheryl McCartney** - August 06, 2017 at 11:22 AM