



Morris Billy Cranford, Jr.

August 10, 1930 - December 27, 2018

Morris Billy Cranford, Jr., passed peacefully from this world Dec. 27, 2018.

Morris (or “Bill” as his family called him) was born in Lubbock, Texas, Aug. 10, 1930 to Morris Billy Cranford, Sr., and Inez (McClellan) Cranford.

He graduated from Lubbock High School in 1947, where he participated in many extracurricular activities. Among them, he ran track, played trombone in the band and orchestra, and was vice president of the junior class 1945-1946.

Morris was a sheet metal worker all of his adult life, working for Wayne Martin Sheet Metal, Rountree Mechanical Contractors, and Anthony Mechanical Contractors. He retired in 1995.

He was a member of the Sheet Metal Workers Union, and continued to pay dues to the union for 70 years. This month he qualified for a 70-year member pin, for which he was extremely proud. “How many people do you know who get a 70-year pin?” he’d say. His work was his sense of purpose, “an honest day’s work for an honest day’s pay!”

On June 28, 1949, Morris married Juanita Reynolds, with whom he made a wonderful life of car club activities, square dances, and raising their three children. They were faithful members of St. Luke’s United Methodist Church.

She preceded him in death Sept. 24, 1997.

Vintage and classic cars were Morris' only interest outside of work and family, at one time having up to 35 cars, including Lincolns, Studebakers, Fords (including Edsels), Chryslers, Packards, and Kaisers. He was active in the Nifty Fifties Car Club and in the national Edsel and Studebaker clubs. He enjoyed the company of other car enthusiasts.

In 2001, Morris convinced Dorothy (Harbaugh) Smith, whom he had known for decades, to marry him, and they wed on July 14. This created another extended family of bonus children and grandchildren. He and Dorothy continued to be active in the car club and in their Sunday school class at St. Luke's. Morris regularly met with groups of friends for coffee and breakfast; he and Dorothy enjoyed a consistent schedule of eating out with friends and family.

Morris was preceded in death by his parents and Juanita. He is survived by his wife Dorothy; his brother Don Cranford of Lubbock, and sister Charlotte Waters of Conroe, Texas; children David Cranford, his wife Leslie, and Cindy Cranford, of Lubbock; and Connie (Joel) King of Lewiston, Montana; granddaughters Allison (Bryan) Phillips of Lubbock and Abby (Greg) Edmiston of Colorado Springs, Colo., and great-grandchildren Evan and Bryson Phillips and Maryn and Avery Edmiston. He also is survived by the families of Mike and Kathy Smith, and Brenda Smith of Lubbock; and bonus grandchildren and great-grandchildren Jill (Smith) and Brian Hooper, Jaxon and Zack, of Lubbock; and Kim (Smith) and Taylor Bynum, and Lawson, of McKinney.

Visitation will be 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 30 at Sanders Funeral Home, 1420 Main St. The celebration of life will be at 10:30 a.m. Dec. 31 at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 3708 45th St., Lubbock.

Cemetery Details

City of Lubbock Cemetery

2011 E 31st Street
Lubbock, TX 79404

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 30. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Sanders Funeral Home
1420 Main Street
Lubbock, TX 79401
(806) 763-6433
director@sandersfuneralhome.com
<https://www.sandersfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

DEC 31. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

Tribute Wall

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“ I knew Morris for a short period from the Lifestyle Center. He always had a smile and a story to share. He couldn't visit long on Thursdays because he and Dorothy were meeting family members at Taco Villa for lunch, and he was always quick to report that he always picked up the cost of lunch. He made me smile everytime I saw him!

Becky - January 02, 2019 at 04:12 PM