



R Z "Rusty" Abell III

April 26, 1953 - May 27, 2015

LUBBOCK - Rusty Abell, 62, of Lubbock passed away on Wednesday, May 27, 2015 after a brief illness. A celebration of life will be held in Lubbock at the Texas Tech Club on Saturday, June 6, 2015 from 1p.m. to 3p.m.

Rusty was born April 26, 1953 at Abell Clinic Hospital in Idalou, TX, to the late R.Z. and Evangeline Abell. He graduated from Lubbock High School in 1971 and attended Texas Tech University.

Rusty was one of the few experts in athletic surfacing technology. He started his career in 1974, building state of the art competition track and tennis facilities throughout the state of Texas. In 1988, when George Bush Sr. (41) was elected as our President, Rusty and his business partner were brought in to design a player friendly tennis court surface at Camp David for the President and his high ranking tennis guests. He worked for four Presidents. In the 1980's and through the 90's, Rusty was certified in both track construction as well as tennis courts while being on the board of directors of the U S Tennis Court and Track Builders Association, now the ASBA. In 1995, he was brought in by the Dallas Cowboys Football Club to upgrade their facility with state of the art turf system in Texas Stadium, their home at the time. In 2011, the National Football League (NFL) contacted Rusty to perform all field testing and training of field technicians as an independent testing protocol. Rusty served on the board of the Synthetic Turf Council and the Texas Tech University Club.

Rusty was very involved in his daughter's activities as they grew up. He was a

softball coach, dance team dad and the Monterey High School cotton candy booth chairman for 8 years.

Rusty is survived by his wife, Sue; daughter, Lauren Elms and husband Jonathan of Albuquerque; daughter, Whitney Dunn and husband Kylor of Lubbock; and grandson, Sterling Elms; brother-in-law, Dan Bourland and wife Debbie of Richardson; and three nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents and brother, Bill Gribble III.

Please celebrate the life of Rusty by visiting www.sandersfuneralhome.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUN 6. 1:00 PM (CT)

Texas Tech Club
5050 University Ave
Lubbock, TX 79413

Tribute Wall

TW

“ I'm so sorry for your family's loss. I hope you find comfort in God's promise of a resurrection & in the many wonderful memories you made & shared together. You have my condolences.

Tara Webber - June 08, 2015 at 07:20 AM



“ Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of R Z "Rusty" Abell III.



June 05, 2015 at 10:35 AM

CA

“ So deeply saddened by this loss. What an amazing father and grandfather. He will be missed. Sending all my love and condolences.

Cassidy - June 05, 2015 at 07:50 AM

LY

“ Rusty was a wonderful member of our family . He made me laugh and always had a great joke or story. I'm sad we will not be sharing more or oysters. Sue, Whitney and Kylor , Jonathan and Lauren are in my prayers.

lynn - June 05, 2015 at 07:43 AM

RP

“ *What a loss.....My prayers go out to Sue and Family. Rusty , Rod and I go way back to the lake days, where we made some great memories. Rusty was a very fun person to be around and he was always your friend. This is truly a very sad time for anyone that knew him....I will miss him, and always cherish those precious memories.*

Rick Potts - June 03, 2015 at 10:39 PM

DD

“ *I was so sad to learn of the passing of Rusty. We grew up together on 23rd Street. I lived across the street from the Abells and Rusty was my best friend when we were kids. I have many fond memories of the times we spent together, playing baseball, football and basketball in each other's yards, going fishing at Buffalo Lake with his dad. We also spent many nights together in each other's homes. Even though we lost touch in later years, he was always one of my closest friends. How surprising it was to learn his daughter Lauren is married to another longtime friend, Jonathan Elms, whom I have known since he was a child. My deepest sympathies to Rusty's family, but you can all take some solice in the fact that Rusty was a great person and accomplished much in his life.*

David Daniel

David Daniel - June 03, 2015 at 09:34 AM

PB

“ *The Bruce Butler family would like to extend our deepest sympathies to Whitney, Lauren, and Sue. We did many volleyball tournaments when the girls were in junior high school, and have such fun memories! I hope you feel the love and support of those around you and seek peace, strength, and comfort from God. Your memories will forever keep Rusty in your heart, and his spirit will always be with you!*

Pam Butler - June 03, 2015 at 09:16 AM

JB

“ *I had the pleasure of working with Rusty through business and as he served as a board member of Synthetic Turf Council. He was very passionate especially about his convictions and the idea of using his work to help children. This was evident whether just sharing a meal with him or when we worked together on a donation project for a women and children abuse shelter. He was a good man and will be truly missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family. May you rest in peace my friend, John Baize*

John Baize - June 03, 2015 at 05:55 AM



“ *Rusty was a true friend in every sense of the word. It was always a pleasure to sit and chat with him about life, family and of course work. Rusty was that guy who would call just to say "hello". Just a genuine "Red Raider" who will be missed. Prayers and Blessings to the Abell Family.*

Jerry Harper

Jerry Harper - June 02, 2015 at 05:32 PM

RW

“ It is at times like this that I kick myself for not staying in touch with the people I grew up with. Rusty and I spent 12 years of our lives together, not much when you compare it to the 50 we spent apart, but critical years as we developed into adults, husbands and fathers. From baseball diamonds, to golf courses to college to building tennis courts we did a lot together and there are some great memories I will always hold dear. Sue our thoughts and prayers are with you and your girls.

Rick Wallace

Rick Wallace - June 01, 2015 at 10:29 AM

FB

“ Rusty was our devoted next door neighbor for 25 years and Ron & I named him "The Neighborhood Watch Dog". He was always outside sitting in his chair on the porch, talking on the phone & keeping watch over the Lynnhaven Ave block. Rusty a very kind & caring person will certainly be missed. To Sue, Lauren & Whitney our love & prayers will continue to be expressed for your comfort in the days ahead. Remember Rusty is now your Guardian Angel 24-7.
Sincerely , Frana & Ron

Frana & Ron Bartley - June 01, 2015 at 05:36 AM

GR

“ Prayers go up for Rusty's family and friends. May God wrap His loving arms around you and comfort you at this time. Rusty was a true friend to so many. He was a fun person . I remember him at Lubbock High. He will be missed a lot by many. Always remember that you will have the memories. May God Bless.

Gloria Wingo Rubino - May 29, 2015 at 09:03 PM