



Rodney Charles Blackburn

August 5, 1954 - September 6, 2025

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Rodney Charles Blackburn, who left us on September 6, 2025, at the age of 71. Born on August 5, 1954, in San Saba, Texas to Charles and Velda (Williams) Blackburn, Rod was a beloved son, husband, father, and grandfather. He spent his life cherishing family ties, creating memories that will echo in the hearts of those he loved.

Rod grew up in Ballinger, Tx moving to Lubbock, Tx in the eight grade attending Wilson Jr. High and Coronado High School. He went on to graduate from Texas Tech University in 1978 with a Bachelor's Degree in Finance. Rod spent his entire professional life as an auditor for the State of Texas. First, with the TABC and then with the Comptroller's Office. Rod's attention to detail and commitment to his work were admired by colleagues and friends alike.

Family and faith were the cornerstones of Rod's life. He was a devoted husband to his wife, Tonya Blackburn, a loving son to his mother, Velda Blackburn, a father to Shawn Martin and a proud father-in-law to Kayleigh Martin. Rod took immense joy in being a grandfather to his grandchildren, Phoenix Ramos, O'Conner Johnson, and Lakeleigh Johnson. He shared a deep bond with them, often imparting life lessons and unforgettable experiences.

An avid sports fan, Rod held a special place in his heart for Texas Tech, supporting the Red Raiders with unwavering enthusiasm. His love for the great outdoors led him to enjoy many fishing trips and hiking adventures, where he found solace in nature and the company of loved ones. Additionally, he devoted part of his life to teaching seventh and eighth-grade boys at First Baptist Church Lubbock, impacting numerous young lives with his patience, wisdom, and humor.

Rod's legacy will continue to inspire those who knew him, as he embodied kindness, integrity, and a zest for life. Family and friends will gather for a time of visitation, Sunday, September 14th, from 3-5pm at Sanders Funeral Home. A celebration of life service will be held Monday, September 15th at 10:30am at Oakwood Fellowship Church in Lubbock. A memorial service, followed by his burial, will be held Tuesday, September 16th at 10:30am at Stacy's Funeral Home in Goldthwaite, Tx. We invite those who loved Rod to don your Red & Black and join us in honoring his memory, sharing stories, and reflecting on the profound impact he had on our lives.

Rod was preceded in death by his father, Charles, brother, Randall, mother-in-law, Irene Jernigan, and father-in-law, Billy Jernigan.

In this time of sorrow, we hold tight to the love and memories he leaves behind, forever cherishing the moments we spent with a truly remarkable man.

Cemetery Details

Goldthwaithe Memorial Cemetery

Goldthwaite, TX 76844

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **14**. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Sanders Memorial Chapel
1420 Main Street
Lubbock, TX 79401

Funeral Service

SEP **15**. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Oakwood Methodist Chruch
2215 58th st
Lubbock, TX 79412

Tribute Wall



“ Sanders Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Rodney Charles Blackburn



Sanders Funeral Home - September 12, 2025 at 10:47 AM

TS

“ 1 file added to the album Rod Blackburn



Tracey Schneider - September 19, 2025 at 07:43 AM

TS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Tracey Schneider - September 18, 2025 at 09:19 PM

TS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Tracey Schneider - September 14, 2025 at 08:50 PM

TS

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Tracey Schneider - September 14, 2025 at 01:32 PM

TS

“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



Tracey Schneider - September 14, 2025 at 12:39 PM

HL

“ Harry Blackburn's Family, Cynthia & Lisa planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rodney Charles Blackburn.

Harry Blackburn's Family, Cynthia & Lisa - September 13, 2025 at 11:30 AM

SF

“ Steve and Amy Fox purchased the Fiery Lily and Rose for the family of Rodney Charles Blackburn.



Steve and Amy Fox - September 12, 2025 at 01:34 PM



“ 41 files added to the album Life Tributes



Sanders Funeral Home - September 12, 2025 at 10:42 AM

HE

“ 1 file added to the album Rod Blackburn



Heather - September 11, 2025 at 09:24 PM

RF

“ Riggs Family purchased the Love's Journey for the family of Rodney Charles Blackburn.



Riggs Family - September 11, 2025 at 07:30 PM

RF

“ Riggs Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rodney Charles Blackburn.

Riggs Family - September 11, 2025 at 07:30 PM

HF

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Heather Firth - September 11, 2025 at 01:08 PM

HE

Rod's sense of humor was the best bar none. He would send pictures that he either drew himself (a gifted and talented artist) or pictures of the latest sign at Zephyr Baptist Church. He seemed to effortlessly bring people together, always reaching out, touching our lives, and we are marked. During this visit, we observed his enjoyment of Dr. Pepper, vanilla ice cream, and M&M's, all in fun. Rod's true love, first and foremost, was for Jesus Christ. We are so grateful for the time we had.

Heather - September 11, 2025 at 01:28 PM

RJ

“*Rod, a beloved nephew, who was a joy to all who knew him has gone home to Jesus. We are brokenhearted, but know, what a reunion in Heaven! He always visited graves of relatives, that many could not, and left, not only flowers, but treasured items for that person. For my Mother and Dad, his grandparents, he left flowers and that “stick of juicy fruit gum” my Dad always carried in his pocket. Godspeed, Rod. We know you will add a light in Heaven. May God heal the hearts of the brokenhearted with wonderful memories.*

Richard and Juan Jones (Aunt and Uncle)

Richard and Juan Jones - September 11, 2025 at 11:44 AM

TS

“*Tracey Schneider lit a candle in memory of Rodney Charles Blackburn*



Tracey Schneider - September 11, 2025 at 11:27 AM

WF

“ Wayne Wheeler & family purchased the Joyful Memory for the family of Rodney Charles Blackburn.



Wayne Wheeler & family - September 10, 2025 at 09:50 PM

TS

“ Velda, Tonya, Shawn, Kayleigh, & kids,

There are not words adequate enough to express our deepest sorrow for your profound loss.

My memories of Rodney begin when I was very little and I stayed for 2 wks at Aunt Velda & Uncle Charles house in Lubbock while my parents were planning our future move from IL to TX. I remember his kindness at suddenly having an inquisitive little cousin in the house. He let me play fetch with Gaylord, didn't mind my peeking behind the bush & interrupt your army men game, shared vanilla ice cream & chocolate syrup every night, & so much laughter in the house. Time at Granny Rene's house always included football games. He was always a Raiders fan, from beginning to end. If Rod had been asked where he wanted his last moments to be, I can't imagine him saying anything other than being with his family & friends at a Raiders game.

I can imagine the joyful reunion with your dad, & brother with so much laughter. God speed on your journey Rod. Until we meet again.

May God wrap his arms around the entire Blackburn & Martin families & grant you peace.

Tracey Schneider - September 10, 2025 at 06:56 PM

SB

“ I remember Rod from working with him at Furr’s supermarket as a stocker at Furr’s number 5 I think. I also went to high school with Rod and played an occasional scrub tackle football on Sunday afternoons. He was an incredible athlete, strong, fast and always hard to tackle. Above all Rod was an easy going Christian gentleman that showed in his work, family, play and work life! Rest in peace, Rod. You will be missed. He is now rejoicing with Jesus.
Steve and Debbie Brock

Steve Brock - September 10, 2025 at 06:50 PM

RP

Rod was my next door neighbor. After my husband died Rod just took over my yard work...treating it as an extension of his own yard. He was the best neighbor anyone could ask for. The news of his passing hit like a physical blow. I realized I had grown to love that wonderful man like family. At 80, with spinal problems, I couldn’t take proper care of my yard so that kind Christian man just did it without being asked. When I thanked him for his generous help, his reply was, “That’s the way we were taught.” He and his whole family have been in my prayers for many years during my quiet time with God. Rod, Tonya, Velda...my love goes out to you all. I’ll miss Rod...not the work, but he gave me peace of mind in learning to live alone. He, indeed, was a very precious man and will be sorely missed by all who knew him. Tonya, I love you and if you need me just let me know.

Rita Pierce - September 11, 2025 at 12:53 PM