



Elwood Foster

July 22, 1930 - May 15, 2021

WOODSBORO, TEXAS - Elwood Foster, 90, died in his sleep on May 15, 2021. This occurred after a good day and dinner, then excusing himself to his room for a nap at Mission Ridge Nursing Home in Refugio, Texas. He had been in the nursing home for about 2 1/2 yrs. He lived the previous 26 years on his property at the edge of Mission River in Woodsboro, Texas. He loved watching the river and wildlife, fishing, and gardening. He caught some of the biggest catfish on the river. Before this, after his wife's death in 1989, Elwood lived in Port Aransas, Texas with or near his daughter for several years where he enjoyed fishing with his grandson. However, most of his adult life was lived out in Haltom City/Fort Worth with his loving wife who went to be with our Lord 30 years ago.

Elwood was born at home in Arbor, Texas to Mamie Day Burkes Foster and John (Jack) Ambus Foster on July 22, 1930. According to Mamie, she was Cherokee Indian. Oral history passed down through Mamie's ancestors recount her heritage going back to the Trail of Tears arriving in East Texas by covered wagon from Tennessee.

Elwood was the 4th of 5 sons. Their family was sharecroppers raising cotton, peanuts, and vegetables during the depression and beyond. Elwood was taken out of school in the 4th grade to work in his dad's blacksmith shop (another facet of the farm). This was to set the stage for his life vocation, welding.

Elwood Foster and Ernestine Womack walked to the Nazarene Church in Crockett to be married on July 13, 1946 when he was 15 and she was 16. They remained married for 46 years until her death. At the time of their marriage, he was riding bulls in the rodeo, worked logging, and shortly afterward joined the National Guard from which he received a medical discharge in 1951. In 1953, Ernestine and Elwood and 2 children moved from East Texas to Fort Worth's north side. Elwood took a job at Gorbett Brother's Tank Co. sweeping floors and taking classes on the GI bill in math at night. He watched the welder's and one day told them that he had been a blacksmith and thought he could do that job. He became a welder in Fort Worth for 40 years building transport tanks.

After moving from floor sweeper to welder, he and Ernestine bought a house in Haltom City in 1954 residing there around 40 years. He raised his family, was involved in church and community there but mostly he worked hard. He moved on to other tank companies. Being a very hard worker, he eventually worked his way up to shop foreman, then shop supervisor, then owner of his own tank company. He eventually owned Foster Tank Manufacturing Co. near Haltom City with his son, Rickie Foster.

Elwood was a hard worker and always provided for his family. He was a good neighbor and a good friend ever ready to give if he could and be of service to those in need. He was not without his demons. However, he worked hard to fight them and, in the end, accomplished overcoming most of them.

Elwood was preceded in death by his wife, Martha Ernestine Womack Foster; son, Rickie Elwood Foster; mother, Mamie Day Burkes Foster; father, John Ambus Foster Jr.; and 3 brothers, Clinton, Earl, and Edward Foster.

Survivors: Daughter, Marilyn Sue (Day) Foster Wheeler and her husband, James Louis Wheeler, Sr., of Port Aransas, Texas; his youngest brother, J. A. Foster residing in Crockett, Texas; grandchildren, Capt. James Louis Wheeler, Jr. (Amanda Marquez), Amanda Foster Moler (Chris), Heather Garber, Marcus Eugene Foster and Mickey Elwood Foster (Rena); great-grandchildren, Ashton Foster, Madison, Emalyse and Zachary Foster; numerous nieces and nephews; very close friend for many years Shirley Zermeno of Woodsboro, Texas.

After the old trailer Elwood had lived in for 18 years or so was torn down and a new house was built, Shirley moved in and shared this place for the last 6 years prior to him moving to the nursing home at age 88. Shirley remains as caretaker of his property today at his and his daughter's request. Elwood valued Shirley and her family's friendship considering them a great blessing in his life. The Wheeler and Foster families will forever be grateful for this friendship between the two families.

We cannot end this without saying that Elwood loved his family at Mission Ridge Nursing Home in Refugio. He always said to his daughter, "The people here and my nurses not only take very good care of me, they love me." This gave us much peace of mind especially during this past year of Covid Nightmare. Thank You Mission Ridge.

Services will be at 2 p.m. on June 2, 2021, cryptside at Greenwood Mausoleum, White Settlement Rd. at University, Fort Worth, Texas. Viewing: 12:45 p.m. until 1:45 p.m. and

again at the end of the service. Celebration of life afterwards at Angelo's Restaurant at 3:30.

There will be a celebration of life memorial in Woodsboro, Texas on his property by the Mission River to be announced at a later date.

Memorials: In Lieu of flowers, the family asks that you consider making a memorial donation to Friends of Aransas and Matagorda Island NWR c/o FAMI, P.O. 74, Austwell, Texas 77950 or Trinity by the Sea Episcopal Church, Port Aransas, Texas. Outdoor Worship Garden Building Fund (P. O. Box 346, Port Aransas, Texas 78373)

Cemetery

Greenwood Mausoleum

3100 White Settlement
Road

Fort Worth, TX, 76107

Events

JUN **Visitation** 12:45PM - 01:45PM

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Greenwood Mausoleum

3100 White Settlement Road, Fort Worth, TX, US,
76107

JUN **Cryptside** 02:00PM

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Greenwood Mausoleum

3100 White Settlement Road, Fort Worth, TX, US,
76107

Comments



“ We would like to extend our condolences to the family. Continue to rely on God and know that he hears your prayers, because he cares for you. Truly sorry for your loss.

Evans family - June 03 at 05:35 AM