



Billy W. Vanzant

May 16, 1929 - November 29, 2013

VANZANT

Billy W. Vanzant was born on May 16, 1929 at Providence Hospital in Waco TX. His parents were Willie Wilson Vanzant and Mary Emma Burt Vanzant. He grew up in Bellmead, TX and graduated from La Vega High School in 1946. He entered Baylor University and received his BA in Mathematics in 1949, graduating at 19 years of age! He taught Jr. High math in Calvert, TX for one year and then entered the US Air Force in August of 1950. He married Mary Helen Barton on November 18, 1950 and they were stationed at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, TX, where he set up the math curriculum and taught math for three years. At the end of the Korean War he was honorably discharged from the Air Force and entered The University of Texas, receiving his BS in Mechanical Engineering in 1956. He was a member of Tau Beta Pi Honors Engineering Society. After graduation, he was employed by Shell Oil Company in Houston, TX as a Research Engineer. After about 6 years he left Shell Oil and began work with Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio, TX. During his thirty-year career from 1963 through 1993 as a Mechanical Engineer in the Department of Ocean Engineering and Structural Designs, he was involved in many special projects including developing an underwater Diving Bell. He held multiple patents including co-inventor for a Method and Apparatus for closing underwater wells, and inventor of the Pneumatic Sit/Stand device. He is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Mary Barton

Vanzant; daughters, Valli Johnson & husband, Burgin and Sabrah Hoffman & husband, Steven; grandchildren, Jacob, Luke & Savannah Hoffman; step grandchildren, Mike & Laura Johnson and Tracie Johnson Costello.

Memorial Services will be held on Saturday, December 21, 2013 at 1:00pm at the Mission Burial Park North Mausoleum Chapel, with Rev. Bill Shockley officiating. Interment will follow at Mission Burial Park North. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the University of Texas at Austin Cockrell School of Engineering. You may sign the on-line guestbook at www.missionparks.com under the obituary section.

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