



Earl Raymond Bly

May 27, 1923 - June 14, 2022

Our precious Lord led Earl Bly to his heavenly home June 14, 2022. Earl was born to Charley and Lavinia Bly in San Augustine, Texas, May 27, 1923. He was one of eight children, all preceding him in death. He is also preceded by his wife, of 66 years, Wanda Taylor Bly; Daughters, Vonnabeth Bly, Amy Lafitte and his son, Bryce Bly. He is survived by his son Jay Bly and grandson, Jayson; granddaughters, April and Holly; nieces, Jenny Johnson, and Virginia Hurley; nephew, Dennis McDaniel.

Raised in East Texas, the foundation of Earl's faith was built early. Prayer and worship were an important part of his home and upbringing. To attend a Sunday service, travel would either be by foot, horse, or wagon. After graduating from Hemphill High School in 1942, Earl enlisted into the military. He married Wanda Taylor in 1950. They had two sons, Bryce and Jay. He worked and retired from Civil Service at Kelly Field and was a member of Alamo Post #5 Disabled American Veterans. After retirement, he ranched and raised cattle. He enjoyed observing wildlife, exploring, and discovering Indian artifacts, masterfully restoring old clocks, and of course, his love of music. He enjoyed playing the fiddle, (violin to some) with friends. He also encouraged others, young and old, to play. He was awarded numerous ribbons and trophies through the years from his participation in many festivals, events, and contests. The joy he brought to so many by sharing his gift of music that the Lord had blessed him with, could be seen on the faces of those at nursing

homes, senior centers, churches, Grange events, and countless other places he traveled. He was a member of Oak Island United Methodist Church, Alamo Grange 1446, and the Lone Star and United Fiddlers Association. He leaves us with some wonderfully special memories. A special thank you to Lisa Howerton, Pastor Kim Etheridge, and his church family, for their special kindness and visits.

Services will be held on Wednesday, June 22, 2022, at Oak Island United Methodist Church (2970 De Vilbiss Lane, San Antonio, Texas 78264) Visitation will be from 10:30 – 11:00 AM with a Funeral Service to begin at 11:00 AM. Interment following service at Oak Island Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Oak Island United Methodist Church, or the charity of your choice.

Cemetery Details

Oak Island Cemetery

San Antonio, TX

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 22. 10:30 AM (CT)

Oak Island United Methodist Church
2970 DeVilbiss
San Antonio, TX

Funeral Service

JUN 22. 11:00 AM (CT)

Oak Island United Methodist Church
2970 DeVilbiss
San Antonio, TX

Tribute Wall

DD

“ Earl was an inspiring mentor to me, a not-so-talented fiddle player. I missed his presence in my life several years ago and listening to his rendition of Maple Sugar, his favorite contest tune. I still own and play the old fiddle I bought from him. Dave Demeny

Dave Demeny - December 18, 2022 at 07:24 PM

MP

“ I first met Earl when I was 12 1/2 yrs old at the Festival for the Elderly at La Villita. He asked me "are you going to play without a picker?" I was. He introduced me to the Lone Star Fiddlers Association right away. He played with the pickers and I played solo. We spent years galavanting around Texas at fairs and fiddle contests. Rest in peace Earl. You were a great friend.
- Missy Philippus-Grayless.

Melissa Philippus-Grayless - July 18, 2022 at 10:47 AM

EJ

“ https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1499820686694641&id=100000001712150

Here is a video of us playing Amazing Grace several years ago...

Esther Johnson - June 24, 2022 at 02:12 AM

EJ

“ I first met Mr. Bly or "Earl the Pearl," as my boss affectionately referred to him, while working as a vet tech at the clinic where he and Mrs. Bly took their pets. He and I got to talking about music, and he even ended up working on one of my violins for me. He repositioned the sound post, and then invited me out to the ranch for an afternoon. I remember taking an apple pie over, and marveling at how he and Mrs. Bly kept the everything in such good order at their age. Over the years, i returned several times and learned many an old fiddle tune from him. He would dust off violins that were hundreds of years old, and hand me one to play, rosinning up a bow and readying another for himself. Often, I would leave, wondering how the hours had flown by so quickly. It was the music that brought an old man and a vet tech to be friends, because in music, joy is found regardless of age. In recent years, when I called, I would have to remind him who I was, but soon the memories would come flowing back, and I would hear the smile in his voice on the phone when he would say, "Oh, Esther! Yes, I remember you. You work with Dr. Carter in Castroville." I will always treasure my memories of warm afternoon hours spent making music with this precious soul, who showed me that music in the soul and love for God are eternal. I will always be grateful for his kindness.

Esther Johnson - June 24, 2022 at 01:57 AM

RL

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Richard Lancaster - June 22, 2022 at 02:06 PM

RL

“ Hello Jay, This is Richard, Amy's oldest son. You may remember me from years and years ago when mom and I visited for a few days, I was just a little kid then, maybe 5 or 6. Grand Dad had caught a rattlesnake and while we were visiting he killed it and skinned it and gave me the skin and the rattle. When we got back home, the lady that checked bags opened the cigar box and just about jumped out of her skin when she saw the snake skin, it was so funny. I still have the snake skin to this day. Wish I could have gotten to know granddad better and you. If you would like to make contact, April has my number. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family, But I know granddad is in a better place.

Richard Lancaster - June 22, 2022 at 01:09 PM

RL

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Richard Lancaster - June 22, 2022 at 12:23 PM

BD

“ I lived going to sing Christmas carols every year at Mr Bly's home with the church. He always had the biggest smile on his face and was so thankful. He will always be remembered every time I sing if hear You are my sunshine.

Becky Deremer - June 22, 2022 at 12:09 AM

CH

“ *My Mother Marion McOsker really enjoyed playing her guitar when Earl and the girls band existed. Sorry for your loss*

Christi - June 21, 2022 at 03:59 PM