



Joe Floyd "Smokey" Davis

August 25, 1933 - March 25, 2019

Joe "Smokey" Davis, 85, passed away peacefully at his home in Fulshear, TX, March 25, 2019 in the presence of his loving family. He was born August 25, 1933 in Crosby, TX.

He is preceded in death by his wife of 62 years, Betty Davis, his parents Joe and Alice Davis, his grandson John Edward Nemeth, and his great grand daughter Smokey Marie Davis. He is survived by his five children, Steve Davis and wife Wendy, Donnie Davis and wife Carole, Ronnie Davis and wife Mary Ann, Kat Davis, and Karen Efron and husband David; 9 grandchildren; Jason Davis and wife April, Jake Davis and wife Rachelle, Lesliann Nemeth, Brettney Bradley and husband Key, Hunter Davis, Alica "AJ" Sexton and husband Chris, Ian Efron and wife Brittany, Caley Davis and husband Casey, and John Cade Davis and wife Amanda; and 19 great-grandchildren; Grace Davis, Grant Davis, Gabby Davis, Taylor Davis, Trace Davis, Emma Davis, Titus Davis, Juliet Davis, Tatum Davis, Brooks Bradley, Blair Bradley, Blythe Bradley, Bellamy Bradley, Brighton Bradley, Wyatt Sexton, Anistyn Sexton, Dominic Efron, Preslee Leppert and Davis Stewart.

To all of you who have blessed us with food, flowers, visitations and prayer, we give you the utmost thanks from our family.

In His Love, We Bless You!

The Entire Davis Family

To the Simonton Community Church family for all you have done; food, music, and hard work of preparing for this special service, we thank you and we love you!

In honor of Smokey,

Memorial donations may be made to:

Simonton Christian Academy

P.O. Box 490

Simonton, Texas 77476

Ph. 281-346-2303

At 85 years old, Joe “Smokey” Davis earned the title of “Texas Cowboy Legend.” He was born during the Great Depression on August 25, 1933, in Crosby, Texas to Joe and Alice Davis. Smokey started breakaway roping at 9 years old. When he was 11, he won the men’s breakaway roping with a time of 2.2. Because he won money, he was considered a professional which kept him from playing school sports.

Smokey showed Registered cattle in the big Livestock shows in Houston, Dallas and San Antonio from 1945 until he graduated High School in 1951. When he graduated from high school, Smokey went to the University of Houston, competing on the rodeo team, serving as president, and competing in five events (calf roping, steer roping, steer wrestling, bareback riding, and bull riding). In 1953, Smokey married Betty and they began their family of five children – Steve, Ronnie, Donnie, Kathy and Karen. For 12 years he worked side-by-side with his father as a pick-up man at the Texas Prison Rodeo. He also took a job as a machinist beginning in 1955 and continued that job until 1972 to supplement his income from weekend rodeos along with his feed and cattle operations. Beginning in 1963 he worked as a pickup man for stock

contractors including Sloan Williams and Frank Harris. In 1972, he and partner, Luke Van Dries, bought out Sloan Williams and started Round-Up Rodeo Productions. He was a member of IPRA, SRA and TRA. He was named producer of the year numerous times in both SRA and TRA. Rafter D Rodeo Company (which means bringing the entire family under one roof) was formed in 1978 producing over 50 rodeos a year throughout Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana. Rafter D staged rodeos for dignitaries including Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands and the Emperor of China. There are many awards and honors he and the bucking stock earned which cover a wall in his Fulshear, Texas home. He shared these honors with his wife Betty, whom he lost in 2016 after 62 years of marriage. There have been many articles written about him and the family including most recently the 2018 Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Magazine as well as the 2019 IPRA Rodeo News which both referenced him as a "Cowboy Legend."

In 1985, Smokey began his movie career by providing livestock and locations for the movie Dalton: Code of Vengeance. This began a long list of movies that he provided livestock for from 1985-2018, including Lonesome Dove and most recently, The Son filmed in Dripping Springs, TX. He has also appeared in a commercial for BC powder filmed during the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. Also, his life-long friend Dr. Jim "Red" Duke came to the ranch on several occasions to film, on horseback, his University of Texas Medical Health Science Center medical reports which aired on local television. Additionally, he appeared on Morton Downey, Jr. as an advocate for the Sport of Rodeo.

Smokey served on the IPRA board as the stock contractor for the Southern Region for 22 years. He resigned that position in 2001. Smokey was also a lifetime committee member of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. In

2007, Smokey and Betty were named Fort Bend County Fair Honorees for their many years of service producing the rodeo and serving in the community. In 2011, Smokey was inducted into the Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame, whose primary mission is to preserve rodeo history and honor rodeo achievement. In 2018, Smokey was inducted into the South-Central Texas Rodeo Ring of Honor.

Smokey passed away peacefully at his home in Fulshear, TX on March 25, 2019

Smokey received many awards and honors during his lifetime, but he always said, "The best part of my life has been family and friends. The people are what have made this whole ride worth doing."

Visitation will be held from 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. on Friday, March 29, 2019 in the Chapel of Davis-Greenlawn Funeral Home in Rosenberg.

A memorial service will be held at 1:00 p.m., Saturday, March 30, 2019 at the Simonton Community Church in Simonton.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR **29**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Davis Greenlawn Funeral Chapels and Cemeteries
3900 B.F. Terry Blvd.
Rosenberg, TX 77471
(281) 341-8800

Service

MAR **30**. 1:00 PM (CT)

Simonton Community Church
9703 FM 1489
9703 Simonton Road
Simonton, TX 77441

Tribute Wall

RB

“*Smokey Davis was a gentleman's cowboy. I probably enjoyed him and his rodeos as much as anyone's. One time I was judging Snyder and always felt that if a cowboy didn't get an honest effort he should have a re-ride! One particular night I had already given like 3 re-rides in the Bronc riding and needed to give another. I walked up to Smokey and told him I apologize but felt the last guy didn't have a fair chance, Smokey says , Russ you do what you think is right and i will always back you up. Not many producers would have said that. In 1975 I had HAT RACK at Snyder. Smokey rode up to me before I got on and said , son you ride this one you can throw your hat all you want. I just commented Yes Sir. Well I rode Hat Rack that night for like 87 points and was calmly walking back to chutes. Smokey rode up and said Russ, I said throw that hat, you deserve it. So I did! He was a dear friend, a nice guy with a stern character I will always miss Smokey DAVIS and the professional man he was. RIP my friend, throw your hat Smokey, you deserve it! Russ Baize*

Russ Baize - August 03, 2020 at 11:00 PM

KW

“ I have known Smokey for many years; he was my friend. I miss drinking coffee with Smokey and listening to his many stories. He taught me much about working with cows and horses. I treasure a funny memory of a shared experience with Smokey. One day we had to put one of his horses down in our field. I had dug a hole with my excavator. I asked Smokey if we should put down this horse in front of the other horses who were grazing nearby. Smokey just looked at me for a moment with his head cocked slightly trying to put the appropriate response together. He finally said, "Keith, I spoke to the other horses earlier this morning and they all told me it was okay with them." We looked at each other for a few seconds and had us a really good laugh together. That was a lifetime memory for me. I miss you my friend.

Keith Williams - August 29, 2019 at 02:20 AM

LL

“ Dear Davis Family,
Just now learned of your dad's passing. Your family was always so inviting and close knit. Who could ever forget the years y'all had rodeoing together. I know you will all cherish those memories forever. Not many can say they were raised by an icon of Texas rodeo. You have a lot to be proud of Sending our thoughts and prayers to all of you.
Lisa Love

Lisa Love - April 02, 2019 at 07:20 PM

LC

“ To the family my condolences and prayers. Mr. Smokey will be greatly missed by all. RIP my Cowboy Friend.

Larry Cole

Larry Cole - March 30, 2019 at 07:34 AM

AG

“ *Though I never met you, you inspired me to start writing a sequel to my novel, Lakota Dreams. Thank you, and God bless you. I wish we'd had that lunch together, maybe one day we will. A.P. Greenwood*

Andrew Greenwood - March 29, 2019 at 03:29 PM

Jazper Ortega

“ *Smoke "Gramps" I know you are now right where you want to be with your lovely bride Mrs Betty dancing across the streets of gold....By now you all are producing the big rodeo in paradise...*

*Prayers and love to all my Davis Family you guys are truly the best!
#cowboyridesaway*



Jazper Ortega - March 28, 2019 at 11:03 PM

SH

“ *My Dear Davis Family,*

Words can't adequately express what I am feeling about the loss of "Smoke".

I can only imagine your feelings of loss of his huge physical presence in this world and pray for the peace that passes all understanding to bless each one of you forever. There are few men that you meet in life that you know immediately is a real man in every sense of the word. Kind when it was time but no-nonsense tough when it was called for. The kind of man we should aspire to be. Sum it up to say he was one of the best men I have ever met. That's saying something for me. I don't throw that around lightly. I have only one regret, that I wasn't around him more.

Happy trails Smokey till we meet again,.

Big Steve Hurst

Steve Hurst - March 28, 2019 at 08:26 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Joe Floyd "Smokey" Davis.*



March 28, 2019 at 07:10 PM

TF

“ Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Joe Floyd "Smokey" Davis.



Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame - March 28, 2019 at 02:29 PM

CD

“ Carol Leigh Davis purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Joe Floyd "Smokey" Davis.



Carol Leigh Davis - March 28, 2019 at 12:15 PM

GC

“ Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Joe Floyd "Smokey" Davis.



Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council - March 28, 2019 at 10:41 AM



“ Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Joe Floyd "Smokey" Davis.



March 27, 2019 at 09:32 PM

KC

“ *Mr. Davis was a kind hearted man who I had the pleasure of getting to visit with several times a year or so at my office. He would come by and sit and talk to me for about an hour or so about his great adventures, his children and his beloved wife. He told about his rodeos and traveling on the road with his horses for a movie they would be in. It was always a pleasure to see him and I will remember him fondly. My heartfelt condolences for the Davis family.*

Kristin Cady

Kristin Cady - March 27, 2019 at 04:47 PM

BG

“ *Sorry for your loss! He spoke at my dads funeral. About his memory of my dad. Boots Kim & Casey Graham*

boots graham - March 27, 2019 at 04:06 PM

CM

“ *Sorry for y'all's loss. My thoughts and prayers are with y'all. Smokey was a great man and he'll be deeply missed by many. R.I.P.
Cowboy*

Cissy Merryman - March 27, 2019 at 02:58 PM

DF

“ *Donna Walkup, Jay Dee Aylor & Family purchased the Vivid Recollections for the family of Joe Floyd "Smokey" Davis.*



Donna Walkup, Jay Dee Aylor & Family - March 27, 2019 at 02:50 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Joe Floyd "Smokey" Davis.



March 27, 2019 at 01:27 PM



“ Dear Davis Family,

My thoughts and prayers are with you as you mourn the loss of such a great man. Your journey on earth will not be the same without him but may all the wonderful moments you shared embrace you during this time and the times you miss him the most. All my love. May God bless you with an abundance of peace!

Dana Duke

Dana Duke - March 27, 2019 at 01:09 PM



“ STARS Horse Program purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Joe Floyd "Smokey" Davis.



STARS Horse Program - March 27, 2019 at 11:40 AM

JM

“ *Smokey will be missed so much! I got the privilege to meet this man about 17 years ago when I started working the GS STARS horse program. His quick wit and his stories always brought smiles to all of our faces. Rest In Peace*

June Morgan - March 27, 2019 at 11:27 AM



Robert Hill

“ *"SMOKEY'S HERE!" signalled the end of many a Horse Camp. The long graze and lead to load the horses and their clear respect for him ... fond memories!*

Robert Hill - March 28, 2019 at 04:12 AM

MN

“ *Smokey will be missed here on earth, however he will live on in our hearts and memories forever. What a Great Man and Teacher. God Bless*

*Love,
Marcia Nickl & Glenda Ricks*

Marcia nickl - March 27, 2019 at 09:35 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Joe Floyd "Smokey" Davis.*



March 26, 2019 at 07:19 PM

FM

“ The late great Smokey Davis, cousin. I have been blessed to have known this man personally since 1993 when Frank and I married. At many family gatherings we enjoyed listening to him reminisce of his life, including childhood memories of not knowing his real name "Joe", his beautiful wife Betty, 5 children, 9 grandchildren, and last count 14 great grandchildren, life as a rodeo stock producer Rafter D, also providing horses for the rich and famous to ride in one of the HLSR trail rides, his buddy Red Duke when making a TV commercial, being inducted into the Texas Rodeo Hall of Fame, his time spent with the movie industry while providing horses for the mini series movies Lonesome Dove and The Son, his annual assistance providing horses for the Girl Scouts of America and his love of chocolate pie! One of our last conversations we're regarding his life stories and he said "You know, 98% of my stories are the truth and 93% are unbelievable". That's the honest truth, this man has done it all and lived through it all when most couldn't. I'm sure I've only skimmed the surface but it was just a normal day in the life of Smokey Davis. But he could not have been as successful without the relentless love and support of his family, many friends and his love of God. Time to rest cowboy while the rest of us take the reins.

Frank & Cindy Manahan

Frank & Cindy Manahan - March 26, 2019 at 04:43 PM