

Gus O. Arrington Jr. | 1935-2016

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Gus O. Arrington Jr.

Gus O. Arrington Jr., 80, of Boyd, died Saturday, July 2, 2016, in Decatur.

Funeral was July 5 at Christian-Hawkins Funeral Home in Boyd with the Rev. Billy Fitch, assisted by the Revs. Phillip Weitner and James Arrington, officiating. Burial followed at Boyd Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Mark McClung, Johnny Sanders, Audie Phillips, Harold Lisby, Elbert Milner and Brad Barber.

Gus was born Oct. 31, 1935, in Boyd to Gus and Flossie (Parsons) Arrington. He graduated from Boyd High School in 1954, then put himself through two years of college at North Texas State University. While he was out of school to earn enough money for additional education he was drafted into the U.S. Army. After he finished his service obligation, he began work at Bell Helicopter in an engineering liaison position. He was the driving force behind many projects, including the revolutionary process to create the lightweight rotor assembly on the V-22 Osprey Helicopter. He remained there until his retirement in 2001.

Gus was born in the heart of the Great Depression and his introduction to life, in a state of poverty, affected the way he forever viewed the world. After helping his father build a

new family home, he settled into his life's work of helping the rest of his family succeed in their lives.

Over the next 40 years, he saved most of his salary to build an education fund for his nephews and nieces. As each child graduated from high school, he would offer them enough assistance that they could get an education by working only part-time. In this manner, he put seven people through college. His only reward in this was seeing all of his nephews and nieces put into positions to succeed.

Gus was preceded in death by his parents; and his infant brother, Jack Nolan Arrington.

He is survived by his brothers, James Daniel Arrington and wife, Virginia, of Boyd and Eddie Raymond Arrington and wife, Carolyn, of Eureka Springs, Ark.; cousin Helen Parsons Fields and husband, Wayne, of Cottdale; and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.