

Banks, Larry Donald | 1938-2018

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Larry Donald Banks

Larry Donald Banks, 80, of Paradise, died Monday, Dec. 17, 2018, in Bedford.

Funeral was Dec. 21 at Hawkins Funeral Home in Decatur with Gerre Joiner officiating. Burial followed at Antelope Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Nathan Banks, Bryn Banks, Paul Pasichnyk, Rodney McCollum, Sam Parker and Mike Ramsey.

Larry was born Oct. 18, 1938, in Dallas to Weldon and Callie “Jim” (Dicken) Banks. Larry graduated from West Texas State University in 1961 with a Bachelor of Science in geology. He married Billie Rhea Fry Dec. 17, 1964, in Dallas.

Larry served in the U.S. Navy in Attack Squadron VA-76 “Spirits” during the maiden voyage and Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962 on the USS Enterprise (CVN-65). He was senior archeologist of the United States Army Corps of Engineers from 1970 to 1993.

Larry was an adjunct professor at the University of Texas – Arlington and Southern Methodist University. He was recipient of the second John F. Seiberling Award. Larry was past president of The Register of Professional Archeologists, and he was a research associate of the Smithsonian Institution.

Larry was a member of the First Baptist Church.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Darrell Banks.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years; son Nathan Banks of Royal, Ark.; daughters Rachel Banks and Stephanie McCollum and husband, Rodney, all of Paradise; three grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and sisters Brenda Eubanks of Clifton and Mary Banks of London, England.