

JAMES C. "JIM" BENTLEY, JR.



James C. "Jim" Bentley, Jr., age 83, of Electra passed away Thursday, Dec. 13, 2007, in the House of Hope in Wichita Falls.

Jim was born July 19, 1924, in Wichita Falls, Texas, to James Cecil Bentley, Sr. and Margie Opal Bridgewater Bentley. He attended school in Wichita Falls.

He joined the Merchant Marines at the age of 17 for one year and then he joined the United States Coast Guard. After two years of service, he joined the United States Army and received an honorable discharge in 1948.

In 1948, Jim was employed by Dowell until 1960. He then started working for Thomas & Milford Well Service, which he bought out and started Bentley Oil Well Service Company. When he incorporated, it became Bowsco. He also owned and operated several small businesses.

Jim was a member of the First Baptist Church since 1949. Mr. Bentley was one of the original board members of Poly Pipe. Jim served as City Commissioner from 1989 until 1994. In 1995, he was elected Mayor of Electra. In 1997, he served another term as City Commissioner until 1999. He was an active member of the Republican Party. Jim was a dare-devil stunt pilot and a cattleman. He enjoyed traveling and was notorious for helping others anonymously. He was a great practical joker.

Survivors include his beloved sweetheart, Diana Lochridge of Burkburnett; three daughters, Margie Bentley Scott of Electra, Susie Bentley Ball and husband, Donnie of Charleston, South Carolina, and Robin Bentley Melton and husband, Gene of Runaway Bay; seven grandchildren, Bo Bailey, Chris Coffel, Melissa Kraus, James Bentley, Jason Lindsey, Ashley Smalley, and Matt Melton; 10 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by one son, James Marshall Bentley.

Services were at 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 17, 2007, at the First Baptist Church of Electra with Paul Winegeart, Pastor of the First Baptist Church, officiating. Interment followed in the Electra Memorial Park under the direction of Aulds Funeral Home of Electra.

The family suggests memorials to the House of Hope, 5100 Stone Lake Drive, Wichita Falls, Texas, 76302.

*Aulds Funeral Home
Electra, Texas*

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