

Cleveland, Gerald | 1935-2013

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Gerald Cleveland

Gerald Cleveland, 78, of Paradise died Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2013, in Bridgeport.

Funeral is 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 23, at Hawkins Funeral Home in Bridgeport with Danny Russell, Sam Starr and Robert Taylor officiating. Burial will follow at Cottondale Cemetery.

Pallbearers are Jim Garrett, Paul Knight, Jay Foster, Todd Meadows, Davis Martin, Mark Neeley, Seth Foster, Coy Cleveland and Melvin Meadows. Honorary pallbearers are Raymond Meadows, Marvin Crawford and Ed Culverhouse.

Gerald was born March 13, 1935, in Cottondale to Omar and Zula (Crawford) Cleveland. Gerald graduated from Paradise High School in 1953, and he received a bachelor's degree from Abilene Christian College and a master's degree from Sam Houston State University. He married Carolyn Kay Hollaway March 29, 1959, in Baytown.

Gerald served as the second mayor of Paradise, principal at Santa Fe ISD and was a minister at the Cottondale Church of Christ.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and his brother, Grover Cleveland.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Carolyn Cleveland of Paradise; daughters Patti Tax and husband, Joe, of Paradise and Lori Kay Rhodes and husband, David, of Grand Prairie; son Jerry Don Cleveland and wife, Lidia, of Santa Fe; grandchildren James, Eric, Jacob, Miranda, Ashley, Victoria, Jonathan and Katie; sister Georgia Ruth Morris and husband, Roy Hulen, of Paradise; sister-in-law Edith Cleveland of Paradise; and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.