

Carlton, Tommy Curtis | 1959-2017

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Tommy Carlton

Tommy Curtis Carlton, 58, of Bridgeport died Friday, Feb. 10, 2017.

The family will hold a private service at a later date.

Tommy was a faithful husband for 37 years to his wife, Sharon, a father of three and Pappa of seven. He was skilled with his hands and was an expert welder, woodsman and custom knife maker.

Tommy loved animals and was a lifelong rancher. He was especially fond of his many dogs and made sure they were pampered every day. Tommy was a cowboy. He loved horses, buffalo and rodeos. He was an avid pocket knife collector and enjoyed watching old westerns. His favorite place this side of heaven was Estes Park, Colo.

As a resident of Bridgeport since his birth Feb. 1, 1959, Tommy had deep ties to the community. He graduated from Bridgeport High School in 1977. In his younger years, he was a bull rider and vice president of the Bridgeport Riding Club.

He was a private man but always quick to help out anyone in need. He loved his grandchildren fiercely and called daily to check on everyone. He was known for giving pocket knives as gifts and made sure his grandson received the Smoky Mountain Knife Works magazine each month.

Tommy was preceded in death by his grandparents, Clifford and Bertha Elliot and J.O. and Ruth Carlton; and grandson Carver Swift.

He is survived by his wife, Sharon; daughters Amanda and husband, Paul Johnson, of Rhome and Adrian and husband, Kyle Swift, of Decatur; son Cody Carlton of Bowie; grandchildren Alex and Brody Johnson, and Everett, Kyser, Witten and Garner Swift; parents Tom and Betty Carlton of Bridgeport; sisters Barbara Stewart and Lynda Bridwell and husband, Doug, of Bridgeport; and nieces, nephews, neighbors and friends.

Memorial donations may be made to the Wise County Animal Shelter or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.