



# Coker, John William, III

1937-2019

By [Messenger Staff](#) | Published on June 26, 2019

John William Coker III, 81, of Sanger, passed away Friday, June 21, 2019, in Denton surrounded by his family.

Funeral services are 1 p.m. Wednesday, June 26 at the First Baptist Church in Sanger. Dr. E.L. McNeal and Pastor Grant Bowles will officiate.

Serving as pallbearers will be John's grandsons and brother-in-law.

Honorary pallbearers will be nephews and great-nephews.

Services are under the direction of Coker Funeral Home. Online condolences may be made to [cokerfuneralhome.com](http://cokerfuneralhome.com).

The son of John William Jr. and Josephine Jo (Weaver) Coker, he was born July 10, 1937, in Drumright, Okla.

He attended Odessa High School, Odessa College and graduated from Gupton-Jones School of Mortuary Science in 1957. On March 2, 1957, he married Winnie Delores Kinkade in Grand Prairie. They recently celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary. They soon moved to Floydada where John worked for Harmon Funeral Home. In 1959, he and Delores moved to Sanger to work for Schmitz, Floyd, Hamlet Funeral Home. They have been members of the First Baptist Church for almost 60 years.

In 1961, John purchased the funeral home and changed the name to Coker Funeral Home. He selflessly served the people of Denton, Cooke, Wise and Jack counties for the next 60 years. The funeral business and serving people were John's true passion and he was instrumental in leading several young men into the funeral profession.

John served as a liaison to the Corp of Engineers assisting with locating and moving the graves in cemeteries that would be covered in water by Lake Ray Roberts. John served as past president of the North Texas Funeral Directors Association and was a recipient of the North Texas Funeral Director of the Year Award. On the state level, he served on the Board of Directors of Texas Funeral Directors Association and the Texas Funeral Services, Inc.

John loved Sanger and the people who lived here. He always wanted Sanger to prosper and grow. He did not take his civic duties lightly. He served as past president of the Sanger Chamber of Commerce, was the past Tail-Twister of the Sanger Lions Club, City of Sanger Councilman, Denton County Justice of the Peace for Precinct 5, Mayor of the City of Sanger and served 60 years on the Sanger Cemetery Association Board of Trustees. John, along with several other men in Sanger, worked, formed and coached the first Sanger Little League Program. He served on the Lake Ray Roberts Planning and Zoning and the Red River Valley Commission.

He was a 32nd Degree Mason and member of the Bolivar Masonic Lodge No. 418 and received his 50-year pin. He served as Past-Patron and was a 50-year pin recipient in the Order of the Eastern Star No. 1027. He was also a 50-year pin recipient of the Moslah Shrine Temple. He was past president of the Moslah Car-Vettes, past president of the Denton County Shriners and a charter member of the Denton Elks Lodge.

As much as John enjoyed all of this, nothing compared to his family. He proudly wore the title of husband and dad but the title he wore most proudly was "Gran'dad".

He was preceded in death by his parents; mother-in-law Pauline Kinkade Bell; father-in-law Ardie Grey Kinkade; and their beloved dog Harry.

Those left to cherish his memory are his wife Delores of Sanger; two sons, John W Coker IV and wife, Loretta, of Decatur and Michael Grey Coker of Jacksboro; one daughter, DeAnn Coker Burrus and husband, Sam, of Sanger; sister-in-law and brother-in-law Shonda and Jim Washer of Sanger; six grandchildren John William Coker V and wife, Megan, of Decatur, Ashly L'Rae DoByns and husband, Michael, of Decatur, Windi Burrus Ward and husband, Bo, of Argyle, Bradley Grey Coker and wife, Jessica, of Jacksboro, Katie Michelle Thompson and husband, Tyson, of Jacksboro, Joshua Thomas Burrus and wife, Holly, of Purcell, Okla; 12 great-grandchildren, Dillon, Chloe, Collin, Georgia, Stone, Brooklyn, Bo Monroe, Colbie Ryann, Sammie Jo, Penn Thomas, Grey and Gage; and a host of nieces, nephews and great-nieces and great-nephews.

Memorials may be made to Shriners Hospitals for Children, Attn: Office of Development 2900 N. Rocky Point Drive, Tampa, FL 33607 / Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, 2222 Welborn St, Dallas, TX 75219, or the charity of your choice.