



Donald, Robert Calvin, Jr

1940-2019

By [Messenger Staff](#) | Published on June 15, 2019

Robert Calvin Donald Jr., 79, passed away on June 11, 2019. Funeral is 2 p.m. Monday, June 17, at the First Presbyterian Church in Bowie with Pastor Joe Gambill officiating.

Burial will follow at Elmwood Cemetery in Bowie.

Family will receive friends from 6 to 8 p.m. on Sunday, June 16, at the White Family Funeral Home of Bowie. Arrangements are entrusted to the White Family Funeral Home of Bowie.

Robert was born Jan. 13, 1940, in Sunset. He was the only child of Robert Calvin Donald Sr. and Estelle Catlin Donald. He attended the Sunset school until the 8th grade at which point all students moved to

Bowie High School, where he graduated in 1958.

He grew up taking care of cows and horses on the Donald ranch. He met his wife of 56 years, Mary Nell Kirby Donald, at Bowie School. They were married on Jan. 28, 1961, in Bowie. He attended Texas A&M University from 1958 until 1962, graduating with a degree in electrical engineering. They had their first child, James Larry Donald, on Oct. 11, 1962, in Houston.

Robert's first job in Houston was working for Halliburton. That company was purchased by Texas Instruments a couple of years later, and in 1967, he was transferred to TI in Dallas. His second son, Robert William Donald, was born April 21, 1968. He worked on equipment that would detect oil at the bottom of the ocean and traveled to several countries to test out the equipment, including Honduras, Singapore and Africa where he would be on large freighters for weeks at a time testing the equipment. His hobbies consisted of sailing and ham radios.

The family lived in Richardson until 1978, and upon his father's passing, he decided to manage the Donald Ranch and moved back to Sunset. During that time, he held jobs at Poco Graphite in Decatur, as well as Moore Supply Co. in Denton, but his next big career change was getting his teaching certificate and teaching at the school in Forestburg, specializing in math and computer science for grades 6 through 12. He retired from teaching in the early 2000s and focused on his cattle raising activities until his passing.

He and his wife had attended the First Presbyterian Church of Bowie since 1978, and his wife passed in February of 2017.

He is survived by his eldest son, Larry and wife, Lori, in Decatur; son Bill in Bangkok, Thailand; grandchildren Karl and wife, Sarah, of Decatur, Cassie and husband, Shaun and great-grandchild Evan of Sasche, Kelsea and husband Lance and great-grandchildren Ashlyn and Autumn of Decatur and James of Decatur. He has cousins James, Laura, Karen and William Catlin that survive him.