



**Melton David Cude**

1955-2020

By [Messenger Staff](#) | Published on December 02, 2020

Decatur ~ Judge Melton David Cude, 65, went to be with our Lord Sunday, Nov. 29, 2020.

Funeral Service is 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4 at First Baptist Church in Decatur with burial at Oaklawn Cemetery.

Dr. David Lowrie will officiate. Pallbearers will include David Cude, Noe Casares, Murray Cude, Kirk Gibson, Dennis Lee and Van Gardner. Honorary Pallbearers will include Martin, Mason and Tim Woodruff, members of the Decatur Rotary Club and the Deacons of the First Baptist Church of Decatur.

Melton was born June 22, 1955, to Milvern Leslie and Margaret Ann (Gettys) Cude in Decatur. He was united in marriage Oct. 9, 1982, to Billie Arlena Hesteande in Decatur. Melton graduated Texas A&M/Baylor Law School, and joined the law firm of Woodruff, Fostel, Wren and Simpson, working there for about 6 1/2 years. He went on to be the County Court of Law Place 1 Judge for many years. Melton was in the National Guard for eight years and was a member of the First Baptist Church in

Decatur. He was a Scout leader while his son David was in the Boy Scouts and a member of the Decatur Rotary Club.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Those left behind to cherish his memory are his wife, Arlena Cude of Decatur; his son, David Cude and wife, Kristen, of Denton; his daughter, Amy Casares and husband, Noe, of Decatur; his grandchildren, Evanglynhnn and Nehemiah Casares of Decatur and Jireh Grace Cude of Denton; his brother, Murray Cude of Decatur; one niece and several cousins; his father-in-law, J.L. Hesteande of Decatur; and a host of friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family request donations be made to the First Baptist of Decatur children's building fund or the deacons fund.

*Hawkins Funeral Home Decatur*

940-627-5959 [hawkinsfuneralhomes.com](http://hawkinsfuneralhomes.com)