

Dennis, Bedford Wayne



1940-2021

By [Messenger Staff](#) | Published on February 03, 2021

Bedford Wayne Dennis

Bedford Wayne Dennis went to join his heavenly Father Jan. 25, 2021, at the age of 80. After a battle with cancer, he passed away at home surrounded by his loved ones.

Wayne was born Feb. 10, 1940, in Lubbock, to Paul Eualta and Elda Rado (Powell) Dennis. He attended Roosevelt School from first grade through high school. Wayne started building his reputation as a hard worker early, picking cotton, assisting his dad with carpentry jobs and cleaning chicken coops at a neighbor's farm. After high school, he worked for a time as produce manager in a grocery store before enlisting in the Air Force in September 1961. Before going overseas, he married Jeanne Coy. His daughter, Vicky, and twin sons, Don and Paul, were born during his enlistment. Wayne served in the Philippines, Cut Bank, Mont., San Antonio and Oklahoma City. After his honorable discharge, the Dennis family moved to Weatherford, then to Mineral Wells, where his daughter, Melanie, was born. A year later, after a move to Irving, his final son, Dan, entered the world.

Wayne drove a car carrier for Auto Convoy for 10 years before becoming an installation lineman, then a switching technician for GTE. He married Patricia Hayes in 1992, then retired from GTE in 1997. They bought and ran the "Alvord Gazette" from 1999-2004. He and Pat later operated a shooting range on their property near Alvord, and he resumed his truck-driving career, going on the road with Pat for Schneider Trucking. He hauled a little diesel fuel for Sanford Oil before finishing out his long work history ferrying people to and from doctor appointments and medical treatments for TAPS.

When he wasn't on the job, Wayne worked with wood and leather, flew small planes, read Tom Clancy and Clive Cussler and collected guns avidly. He was seldom still for long.

He is preceded in death by his parents; his sister and brother-in-law, Nell and Gerry; and his nephew, Royce.

He is survived by his wife, Patricia (whom he called the love of his life); his five children, Vicky Meekins (husband Geoff), Don Dennis (partner Clark), Paul Dennis, Melanie Dennis, and Dan Dennis (wife Tiffany); two stepchildren, Michelle and Richard; 12 grandchildren, Amanda, Alyssa, Kari, Max, Miles, Phillip, Ryan, Megan, Lauren, Joshua, Jason and Samantha; seven great-grandchildren; two brothers, Wendell (Leota) and Ken; and many nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to the Ronald McDonald House Children's Charity in memory of Bedford Wayne Dennis.