



# Bill Craft

JUL 5, 1925 - JUN 13, 2021



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## **Bill Craft**

JUL 5, 1925 - JUN 13, 2021

**W**illiam Eugene “Bill” Craft was born in Hopkins County, TX on July 5th, 1925, the only child of Dewey and George Craft. Bill was raised on his parents’ farm in northern Hall County, TX. From an early age Bill knew he wanted to be in the cattle business; at five he was spending summers on horseback while day herding cattle along the Red River for a neighboring rancher. Bill graduated from Lakeview High School in 1943 and attended Texas Christian University where he studied business and art. He left TCU in 1946 to enter the ranching business, and aside from a brief stint as a deputy sheriff in Tahoka, TX, he continued farming and ranching for the rest of his life. Bill married Patricia Molesworth of Clarendon in 1949. The newlyweds operated ranches on the South Plains and Colorado in the 1950s, before moving to Oakes Creek Ranch near Clarendon where they raised their four children. After turning over Oakes Creek to his son Jack, Bill retired to his parents’ farm which he converted into a grazing operation. In retirement, he enjoyed breeding quarter horses and designing and building underground houses. Bill always cherished the many friends he made over the years. He was usually the life of the party, and would entertain a crowd with his colorful stories. He will be laid to rest in the family cemetery at Oakes Creek, alongside his wife and son.

Bill was a member of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, the American Quarter Horse Association, and the Panhandle Livestock Association. He was also a member of the Clarendon Outdoor Entertainment Association, where he served as President in the late 1960s and enjoyed judging the top ranch horse competition at the annual Clarendon rodeo. A true cattleman from his first day to his last, in 2000 he received the Foy Proctor Cowman’s Award from the Haley Memorial Library in Midland, TX, and in 2014 he received the Trailblazer Award from the Texas Ranch Roundup in Wichita Falls, TX. Bill was a lifelong member of St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church in Clarendon, where he served as a warden.



## Obituary

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He is survived by his children, Cathy Craft Keene (Jack) of San Antonio; Christine Craft Matthews (Kade) of Clarendon; Jack Craft (Lindy) of Clarendon; seven grandchildren, Katie Keene Jones (Garry) of Dubai, UAE, Polly Keene (Marc Pheulpin) of San Antonio, Margaret Matthews Frederick (Jonathan) of Canadian, Watt Matthews (Elizabeth) of San Antonio, Meredith Matthews Nicholson (Spencer) of Lefors, Charlotte Craft of Clarendon, Elizabeth Craft of Clarendon, and nine greatgrandchildren.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents, his first wife Patricia Molesworth Craft, his son, William Patrick Craft, and his wife Mary Ann Sawyer-Craft.


A funeral service will be held Saturday, June 26th at 2:30 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church in Clarendon, Texas with burial following at Oakes Creek Ranch. Memorial gifts may be made to St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church (310 S. Parks Street, Clarendon, TX 79226), the Haley Memorial Library and History Center (1805 W. Indiana Avenue, Midland, TX 79701), or the charity of your choice.

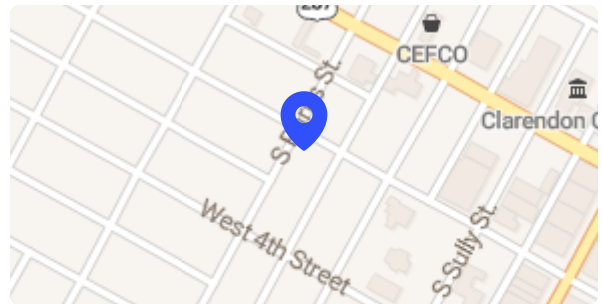


## Funeral Service

 **Saturday**, June 26, 2021

 2:30 PM CT

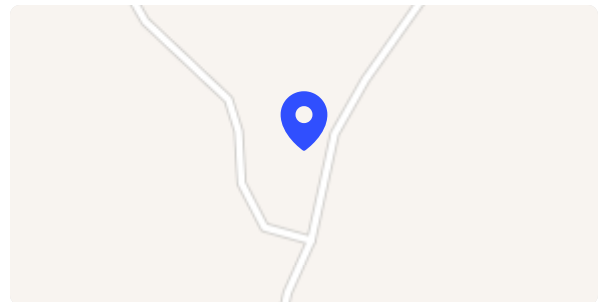
 **St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church**  
301 South Parks Street, Clarendon TX 79226



## Graveside Service

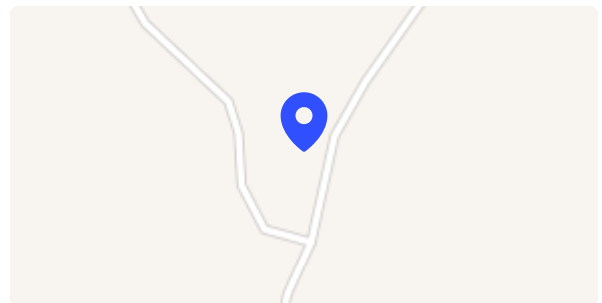
 **Saturday**, June 26, 2021

 **Oakes Creek Ranch**  
3500 Private Road 18, Clarendon TX 79226



## Cemetery Details

 **Oakes Creek Ranch**  
3500 Private Road 18, Clarendon TX 79226





## Tribute Wall

**Bill Craft**

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**Anonymous** sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Craft family.

June 24 at 4:54 AM



**Friends At First Financial, Abilene & Hereford** sent a Sentiments of Serenity Spray to the Craft family.

June 23 at 1:11 PM



**Jim & Cecilia Lemons** posted:

Bill Craft was respected by his friends and neighbors. He was a good man and he and Patty were wonderful parents. We enjoyed visiting with him. Jim & Cecilia Lemons

June 23 at 9:41 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Craft family.

June 23 at 6:34 AM



**Anonymous** sent an Emerald Garden Basket to the Craft family.

June 21 at 10:27 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Sentiments of Serenity Spray to the Craft family.

June 21 at 5:22 AM





## Tribute Wall

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HB

**Heather Gallo Brunson** posted:

What a treasure you had in your parents. Bill had a smile and presence that could make you feel both his strength and at ease. That is a gift and a blessing. Prayers for you all in this season.

June 21 at 4:58 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Country Basket Blooms to the Craft family.



June 19 at 10:59 AM

WR

**Walter Riggs** posted:

Bill had the greatest laugh, the quickest smile, the most unique and authentic Texas cadence and wisest advice. What a treasure. Prayers to the family.

June 18 at 2:15 PM

SF

**Shirley Vincent Fields** posted:

Chris, Jack, and family, Our love and prayers to you as you celebrate your dad's long life and wonderful love of this land. May God grant you peace and special memories. Your families have been so special to ours. Love you. Keith and Shirley Vincent Fields

June 18 at 11:54 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Beautiful Heart Bouquet to the Craft family.



June 18 at 11:37 AM

GH

**Gail Hill** posted:

A true trail blazer that was happy every time we saw him. RIP Bill, you deserve it.....even if it is not in your nature! Condolences to the family. Johnny and Gail Hill

June 18 at 8:35 AM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Bill by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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