



## Donald "Duck" Nohavitza

October 23, 1938 - May 21, 2020

Donald "Duck" Nohavitza was born on October 23, 1938 in the Jones Creek Community, and was one of seven children. Webster's Dictionary has no definition worthy or unique enough to even begin to describe him. Donald was certainly unequaled in his tenacity in finding solutions to the many challenges facing him or any organization he was a part of. He made things happen, never complaining and enjoying every minute of life!

He attended school in Crescent graduating in 1957. While in high school he was an active member of the Future Farmers of America, and was famous for being the Crescent Blue Jays' barefoot kicker. He would often tell the story of how it was mandatory for male students to take a semester of Home Economics where he learned to cook and sew on buttons. If you ever had the opportunity to taste Donald's "World Famous Chicken & Dumplings", you will agree that he learned his lessons well. Upon his graduation, he enlisted into the U.S. Army on May 13, 1958 and became a soldier in the 101st Army Airborne Division. Surprisingly, the government survived his enlistment.

Donald's greatest achievement, as he told it, was convincing Rosemary Faas to marry him, and she did in November of 1961. Donald and Rosemary had four children; a daughter, Cindy, a Special Education teacher, married to Randy; a son, Jeff, owner of Brothers Vacuum and Trucking, married to Susan; a son, Clay, owner of Fitzpatrick Tubing and Cowboy Sales; and infant

son Chad, deceased. Donald's pride was his grandchildren, Garrett Mills, Matt Mills and wife Candice, Denya Ardis and husband Harris, Chance, Natalie, Stella and Creed Nohavitz, as well as his great-grandchildren, Jessi and Hudson Mills, and Baby Ardis...coming soon.

Donald established Brothers Well Service in 1965 along with his brother, Jarrel and his sister, Dorothy. Together with their spouses, they owned & operated this lucrative oil business until it sold in 2006. He remained in the oil industry until his death and was well respected among his peers.

Donald was a member of the St. John's Catholic Church and Parish Council, past president & founding father of Wharton County Youth Fair, past president of Texas Youth Rodeo Association, past director of Rockin W Youth Rodeo Club, and the Youth Rodeo Association. He was also a member of the Community Roping Club, Knights of Columbus Council 2490, a Lifetime member of the 100 Club, a member of Elks Lodge #1749, and an El Campo Ricebird Booster.

Donald was preceded in death by his parents, John and Katherine Wendel Nohavitz; infant son, Chad Nohavitz; brothers, Deacon Jarrel Nohavitz and John Nohavitz Jr. and sisters, Ruth Schafer and Rita Kresta.

Visitation will be from 4:30-7 p.m. Tuesday, May 26 at St. John's Catholic Church in New Taiton. A Rosary will be recited at 7 p.m. Funeral Mass begins 2 p.m. Wednesday, May 27 at St. John's Catholic Church with the Rev. Gabriel Oduro Tawiah officiating. Private burial will follow at St. John's Cemetery.

Pallbearers will be Chance Nohavitz, Matt Mills, Garrett Mills, Creed Nohavitz, Jose Farfan, Doug Sellers, Kyle Nohavitz, Greg Kresta and Darrin Faas.

Memorial donations may be made to Wharton County Youth Fair Scholarship Fund in memory of Donald "Duck" Nohavitzka or St. John's Catholic Church.

Triska Funeral Home, El Campo, 979-543-3681

# Cemetery Details

## St. John Catholic Cemetery

1843 CR 469  
El Campo, TX 77437

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 26. 4:30 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

St. John's Catholic Church  
1843 Co Rd 469  
El Campo, TX 77437  
(979) 543-6985

## Rosary

MAY 26. 7:00 PM (CT)

St. John's Catholic Church  
1843 Co Rd 469  
El Campo, TX 77437  
(979) 543-6985

## Funeral Mass

---

MAY 27. 2:00 PM (CT)

St. John's Catholic Church  
1843 Co Rd 469  
El Campo, TX 77437  
(979) 543-6985

# Tribute Wall

TW

“ Dear Rosemary and family. The Cleburne Wendel family would like to extend our condolences for your loss of Donald. Cleburne and Tommy always enjoyed and respected Donald for his character and work ethic and dedication to family. Tommy's first day working in the oil field was for Donald and his last day he worked for Jarrel. As a family, we are sure that Donald is once again joined with his heavenly family.



*LaVerne Wendel  
Tommy Wendel  
Debbie Wendel Britt*

---

**Tommy Wendel** - May 29, 2020 at 07:56 AM

GS

“ Rosemary and family, I'm so sorry for your loss. You are in my prayers.

---

**Glenda Stavinoha** - May 28, 2020 at 10:44 AM

DD

“ Rosemary,  
*I am so sorry to hear about Donald. I remember when Jane and I used to babysit Cindy and Jeff for you and Donald. Donald would take us home in the jeep from your house to Granny Petschka's house down the red dirt road, back then, and through the ditch in front of her house. Crazy memories. It has been a long time since seeing any of you guys. Regardless, thinking of you in sincere thought and prayer. Donald, Rest In Peace.*

*Debbie Petschka Drews*

---

**Debbie Petschka Drews** - May 27, 2020 at 04:55 PM

JM

“ Duck was president of TYRA during the time my daughter, Leslie McKee, was a member. What a great man with a great sense of humor. I am sure many people will miss him. Everyone loved and respected him.

*Janice McKee*

---

**Janice McKee** - May 27, 2020 at 01:17 PM



“ *Delightful Dieffenbachia was purchased for the family of Donald "Duck" Nohavitza.*



---

May 27, 2020 at 01:12 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Donald "Duck" Nohavitz.*



---

May 27, 2020 at 08:59 AM



“ *I met Duck and Rosemary when rodeoing with my children I really enjoyed sitting and talking in the late mornings he was such a kind and gentle man*

*Grace(Gregory)Lauger*

---

**grace Lauger** - May 27, 2020 at 08:33 AM



“ *Rosemary and family, Y'alls family has always been a part of our family, since I can remember, as a small child. Donald ( Duck) was one of a kind!!! He was loved by all for his infectious humor and kindness to all. He was always there, if anyone needed him. I'm sure he and Dad are discussing it all now!! I would love to hear their conversations. Prayers being sent for you family for the most peace and comfort. He won't ever be forgotten, by our family and many many others.*

---

**Dawn Stofle** - May 26, 2020 at 08:59 PM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Donald "Duck" Nohavitzka.*



---

May 26, 2020 at 07:30 PM



“ *The Dwight Callis Family purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Donald "Duck" Nohavitzka.*



---

**The Dwight Callis Family** - May 26, 2020 at 04:57 PM



“ *Rosemary and family, I'm so sorry to hear about the passing of Donald. His great personality will be greatly missed by all who knew him but he didn't have to know anyone to spark a conversation. That's for sure! I pray that the good Lord will give you the peace and comfort you need at this sad time in your lives.*



---

**Gloria Krpec** - May 26, 2020 at 03:56 PM

BS

*Duck was one of a kind for sure! Such a great friend ! When Todd and Brandi competed in the TYRA , YRA , HIGH SCHOOL rodeo Assoc we all became like one big family At that time there were go rounds and finals which was over 3-4 days . We usually all stayed at the same motel so kids swan during day , we ate meals together, set in the stands together , kept track of all the kids times, worked as secretary or time keepers and the guys helped in the arena with it all . Those are the best memories and the Nohavitza family was part of those memories ! Duck kept us entertained and worked like everyone else. . All of us will miss his craziness and crazy stories !! Duck and Rosemary had a motor home back in the 80's and Duck drove the three Stepan cowboys and their wives to the San Angelo steer tripping ! Now that was a trip with Duck telling his stories and Rosemary saying" Donald watch the road " 😂😂 we pulled into San Angelo arena in the wee hours of Saturday morning . We didn't leave El Campo until after Friday night's ball game because Cindy was in the hinecoming queen pageant 📍 all I can say is I'm glad we were all fairly young ! But coming hime the alternator went out in the motor home we couldn't find one in San Antonio so Of course Duck drove it without lights all the way home !! I know I did not sleep coming home. That was Ducks attitude nothing was impossible he always had a plan B ! R I P Duck 🙏🙏🙏*

**Beverly Stepan** - May 27, 2020 at 01:26 AM

BS

*I got some typos it won't let me correct*

**Beverly Stepan** - May 27, 2020 at 01:29 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Donald "Duck" Nohavitza.



May 26, 2020 at 01:24 PM

LB

“ Rosemary and family, I am so very sad to hear of Donald's passing. Growing up he was so much fun to always hang out with when we would visit my Grandma Petschka or come down for the reunions. I ask God to wrap His arms around you and your family and to give you peace and comfort in a very difficult time.

Lida Brodigan - May 26, 2020 at 12:54 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Donald "Duck" Nohavitza.



May 26, 2020 at 12:48 PM



“ Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Donald "Duck" Nohavitza.



May 26, 2020 at 12:18 PM

AS

“ Allen & Judy Sefcik lit a candle in memory of Donald "Duck" Nohavitza



Allen & Judy Sefcik - May 26, 2020 at 11:24 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Donald "Duck" Nohavitza.*



May 26, 2020 at 10:43 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Donald "Duck" Nohavitza.*



May 26, 2020 at 09:35 AM



“ *Rick Fabian Brigade Energy purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Donald "Duck" Nohavitza.*



**Rick Fabian Brigade Energy** - May 25, 2020 at 06:22 PM



“ *Ken and Kathy Massingill purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Donald "Duck" Nohavitza.*



**Ken and Kathy Massingill** - May 25, 2020 at 04:03 PM

CW

“ *Cindy Witcher lit a candle in memory of Donald "Duck" Nohavitza*



Cindy Witcher - May 25, 2020 at 02:09 PM



“ *Delightful Dieffenbachia was purchased for the family of Donald "Duck" Nohavitza.*



May 25, 2020 at 12:55 PM

LC

“ *Rosemary, you and your family have our deepest and most heartfelt sympathy at this time. May God grant you the peace that only He can give, and may perpetual light shine upon "Duck". God bless you.*

Lorraine and Sandra Cranek - May 25, 2020 at 09:59 AM

RF

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with Duck's family at this time. Duck's dedication to the WCYF will always be remembered and appreciated by us!*



Rainbow and Family - May 25, 2020 at 12:14 AM

SA

“ Susan and Ken Armand purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Donald "Duck" Nohavitzka.



---

**Susan and Ken Armand** - May 24, 2020 at 05:09 PM

EC

“ Elaine Cook lit a candle in memory of Donald "Duck" Nohavitzka



---

**Elaine Cook** - May 24, 2020 at 12:50 PM

DM

“ David, Laurie, Will, Megan & Annie McGinnis purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Donald "Duck" Nohavitzka.



---

**David, Laurie, Will, Megan & Annie McGinnis** - May 24, 2020 at 10:00 AM

MB

“ I have known Mr. Nohavitza for a long while having met him through my parents since my Dad and him both worked in the oil field industry. I became friends with his family and later went to work for Jeff and Susan when they purchased Brothers Vacuum & Trucking. Mr. Nohavitza occasionally stopped by the office and would come in to the “man cave”, our dispatch office; of course I had to go out there to chit-chat with him. He always told the funniest stories and jokes. Such a kind, giving, fun loving man who always asked about my family. A man full of knowledge; I think his favorite statement to us was “I don’t know about you BUT if it was me....” one thing for sure he loved his family; when speaking of them his eyes beamed with pride especially when talking about his grandkids. Mrs. Nohavitza, Jeff & Susan, Cindy & Randy, Clay and the rest of the family our prayers continue for all of you. May God wrap you all in His arms to give you strength, comfort and peace✝ P. S. Mr. Nohavitza we will keep that candy drawer full for you and when we hear that horn honk outside our door we will get a piece of candy out for you knowing that was you stopping by for a visit ❤️rest in peace sweet man....you will be greatly missed!!!

---

Melaney Bullard - May 24, 2020 at 09:56 AM

PV

“ Pam Vesely lit a candle in memory of Donald "Duck" Nohavitza



---

Pam Vesely - May 23, 2020 at 10:34 PM

TB

“ *Heaven will certainly be more lively with the arrival of Donald. He was a happy outgoing character who was one of a kind. He never met a stranger or he knew you within minutes of being with you. The world will be a sadder place without him. Anyone who knew him was a friend for life. His beautiful family will have many stories to share . Be sure there are many. He lived his life well and was loved by many.*

---

**Toodie Brady** - May 23, 2020 at 05:33 PM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Donald "Duck" Nohavitza.*



---

May 23, 2020 at 05:13 PM

 Shirley Johnson

“ I remember when Donald and his siblings started Brothers' Well Service. The reason that they were so successful was that they gave back to the communities that they served.



*But I also remember him in another way. I remember him and his family rodeoing at the same time we did. We all had some good times.*

*My condolences go out to his family, but remember the Garth Brook's song "The Dance". He created alot of memories while he was here on earth. That is what is important.*

*Knowing Donald, he's up there with God trying to improve heaven for the future.*

*Shirley Balusek Johnson*

---

**Shirley Johnson** - May 23, 2020 at 03:54 PM

RF

“ I knew Donald for about 30 years, I worked for him and with him. I have always had nothing but respect for him. He was straight forward with everyone and always treated me with respect. I will miss his calls each week about the oilfield or just to B'S. Donald was a great friend and mentor to a lot of us. He will be missed



---

**Rick Fabian** - May 23, 2020 at 11:36 AM



“ Rosemary, I'm so sorry to hear of cousin Donald's passing. He was quite a personality and an outgoing and colorful guy. There just aren't adequate words to you that convey how sorry I am. I'm sending you a big hug with my heartfelt condolences and will keep you in my prayers during this sad time. Taiton will definitely not seem the same without him. Much love to you.

-----  
**Lisa Daughtry** - May 23, 2020 at 11:33 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Donald "Duck" Nohavitza.



-----  
May 23, 2020 at 11:29 AM



“ Jeff, In so sorry to hear about your dad passing. My heart goes out to you and to everyone who loved him. This is such a huge loss for your family and for the community of Taiton and St. John's that he was such an integral part of for so long. Please know you have my deepest condolences and I will keep you and your family in my prayers.

-----  
**Lisa Daughtry** - May 23, 2020 at 11:21 AM



“ Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Donald "Duck" Nohavitza.



-----  
May 23, 2020 at 09:47 AM

RJ

“ Jeff and Susan, was sorry to see the Jeff's dad had passed. I spent many hours drinking coffee with him before I went to school to teach. I hope you all can remember the good times you had while creating a lifetime of memories.

*Best wishes and God Speed to the family.*

*Ron Johannes*

---

**Ron Johannes** - May 23, 2020 at 09:22 AM

DC

“ Good and Wonderful Man, a delight to know. Rest in Peace Donald, we will miss you and your greetings.

---

**Donald & Cindy** - May 22, 2020 at 06:38 PM

WD

“ I was blessed to have been given the opportunity to meet and work with Mr Donald years ago. Often in conversation over the years I have mentioned him and always brings a smile to my face and usually a big laugh. Mr Donald May you Rest In Peace my friend. See you again one day. 🙏

---

**Wade Dickerson** - May 22, 2020 at 05:35 PM

CC

“ Rosemary,  
My thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. May God bless you with comfort, peace and strength in the days ahead.



---

**Cathie Cerny** - May 22, 2020 at 05:25 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Donald "Duck" Nohavitza.*



---

May 22, 2020 at 04:44 PM



“ *Debora Burkhalter lit a candle in memory of Donald "Duck" Nohavitza*



---

**Debora Burkhalter** - May 22, 2020 at 04:28 PM



*So Sorry for you loss. Donald will be truly missed. Heaven has gained another Angel.*

---

**Debora Burkhalter** - May 22, 2020 at 04:30 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Donald "Duck" Nohavitza.*



---

May 22, 2020 at 04:13 PM

BH

“ *What a great guy, made the best chicken and dumplings ever !!!! RIP Amigo*



**Bobby Hunt** - May 22, 2020 at 03:34 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Donald "Duck" Nohavitza.*



May 22, 2020 at 03:18 PM

JW

“ *Jerry And Janice Winter lit a candle in memory of Donald "Duck" Nohavitza*



**Jerry and Janice Winter** - May 22, 2020 at 03:14 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Donald "Duck" Nohavitza.*



May 22, 2020 at 03:12 PM

PD

“ *Patricia Dybala lit a candle in memory of Donald "Duck" Nohavitza*



---

**Patricia Dybala** - May 22, 2020 at 03:06 PM

KR

*Donald Nohavitza was a REAL MAN! He was my friend and I knew him for more than 30 years. We spoke at least 3 times a week for the past 3 yrs. and I valued our relationship so much. I always thanked him for his comments, his service to this country and his devotion to his family and his life long contributions to the oil and gas industry. I am deeply saddened, too, at his passing and may he forever Rest In Peace. Much love, Donald Nohavitza!*  
*Ken Rothstein*

---

**Ken Rothstein** - May 23, 2020 at 09:48 AM