



John "Billy" Bode

July 30, 1929 - March 12, 2021

John William "Billy" Bode, 91, of El Campo, passed away on March 12, 2021. He was born on July 30, 1929 in Rural Mill Creek in Washington County, Texas, the youngest of six children to the late Oscar Bode Sr. and Edna (Dietz) Bode.

What can be said about a legendary cattleman ... he started buying and trading cattle along side his Dad at a young age. Mastering the auctioneer chant while working at local auction rings. After graduating in 1947, from Brenham High School, he got his first auctioneering job at Hockley Livestock. Soon after he began at Sealy and LaGrange.

In 1949, he met Toni Regenbrecht, his wife to be, while riding bulls at the Burton Rodeo where he furnished the bucking stock. They married in Brenham May 11, 1950.

Billy and his brother Oscar Jr. bought El Campo Livestock Commission in 1955. The Bode Brothers enlarged this facility to hold 4,000 head and added an air- conditioned sales arena to seat 300 people. In 1960, Oscar Jr. bought Brenham Livestock leaving El Campo Livestock Commission for Billy and Toni to own and operate for 46 years. It was sold in 2001, shortly after Toni's death.

He ran crossbred cattle with Charolais bulls and started the Walking 6 Cattle

Co. Through the years he had many great partners. In 1984, Billy was awarded the Outstanding Cattle Producer for the county. While serving as President of the Texas Livestock Auction Association, Billy and Ace Reid presented President Lyndon B. Johnson with a handmade saddle in the White House. At the Houston Livestock Show, the American International Charolais Association named him the American Breeder of the Year. In addition to raising cattle, the Bodes raised race horses. They raced in Texas, New Mexico, Florida, Louisiana and California. They earned the title of Owner of the Year at Delta Downs, LA and Sam Houston Race Park multiple times.

For over 65 years, Billy encouraged and supported the youth with their 4-H and FFA projects. He volunteered his auctioneering service to fryer shows, county fairs, church picnics and civic fundraisers throughout the Gulf Coast. In 1989, Wharton County Youth Fair dedicated the fair to him. The Rotary Club and El Campo FFA made him an honorary member.

He enjoyed hunting and fishing with family and friends. Later in life he became quite the poker player. Throughout all the livestock auctions, farm equipment sales, cattle working, casino trips and poker games he will always be remembered as Mr. Bode, Billy, Pop, Daddy and Paw Paw, but not as John.

Billy was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Toni Bode and his older siblings and their spouses.

Survivors include his daughters, Mitzi Schmidt and husband Rick of El Campo and Cherie Weishuhn and husband Chad of Ganado; sons, Michael Bode of El Campo and Kelly Bode and wife Brenda of El Campo; grandchildren, Justin Clark, Toni Cash, Tamara Schmidt, Tate Schmidt, Shannon Unsicker and Katie Bode; great-grandchildren Zachary Clark, Camden Cash, Kennedy Cash, Cannon Schmidt and with one more on the way.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday, March 17, 2021 from 2-6 p.m. at Triska Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held on Thursday, March 18 at 10 a.m. at Christ Lutheran Church with the Rev. Wayne Clement officiating. Burial will be private.

Mask will be required.

Pallbearers will be Tate Schmidt, Justin Clark, Ewald Friedrichs Jr., John Ashcraft, Mondo Perez, Terry Smith, and Lane Foltyn.

Honorary pallbearers will be Gerald Foltyn, Dr. Charles Graham, Alan Fitzgerald, Pepper Friedrichs and his poker buddies.

Memorial donations in memory of John W. "Billy" Bode may be made to the Wharton County Youth Fair or Christ Lutheran Church.

Condolences for the family may be left online at www.triskafuneralhome.com

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

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 17. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Triska Funeral Home
612 Merchant Street
El Campo, TX 77437-3440
(979) 543-3681
triskafh@sbcglobal.net

Funeral Service

MAR 18. 10:00 AM (CT)

Christ Lutheran Church
1401 Ave I
El Campo, TX 77437

Tribute Wall

SS

“ Sandra Stary lit a candle in memory of John "Billy" Bode



Sandra Stary - March 19, 2021 at 06:16 PM

RS

“ Robert Schulenberg purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of John "Billy" Bode.



Robert Schulenberg - March 17, 2021 at 08:57 PM

SP

“ Uncle Billy we will miss you. Lots of great memories growing up. Thanks for sharing your life with us. We love you. Prayers for your family 🙏

sharon pennell - March 17, 2021 at 07:26 PM

MS

“ Martin Strarup sent a virtual gift in memory of John "Billy" Bode



Martin Strarup - March 17, 2021 at 02:14 PM

MF

“ Mrs. Butch (Linda) Bode and family purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of John "Billy" Bode.



Mrs. Butch (Linda) Bode and family - March 17, 2021 at 11:04 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of John "Billy" Bode.



March 17, 2021 at 08:10 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of John "Billy" Bode.



March 17, 2021 at 01:54 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket* was purchased for the family of John "Billy" Bode.



March 16, 2021 at 08:39 PM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of John "Billy" Bode.*



March 16, 2021 at 06:40 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of John "Billy" Bode.*



March 16, 2021 at 05:40 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of John "Billy" Bode.*



March 16, 2021 at 03:45 PM



“ *We are so sorry to see that Billy passed away but I know he and Toni and having a grand old time already! They were special people. Billy will be missed by all who knew him. So many memories from years and years ago. Love and Prayers! Kenneth and Cindy (Schulte) Kubicek*

Cynthia Kubicek - March 16, 2021 at 03:41 PM

CT

“ I have many fond memories of Mr. Bode and his exuberance at the Wharton County Youth Fair Sale of Excellence. He made me feel special every time. Even spent time with him at his auction barn. He did such a great job poking fun at my dad! Such a wonderful man!

Carol Turner - March 16, 2021 at 10:41 AM

VH

“ Vickie Holub lit a candle in memory of John "Billy" Bode



Vickie Holub - March 16, 2021 at 08:38 AM

AM

“ Andrea McCann lit a candle in memory of John "Billy" Bode



Andrea McCann - March 15, 2021 at 09:09 PM

NR

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time.
Gerald & Neta Ripple



Neta Ripple - March 15, 2021 at 05:19 PM

JP

“ Mike , Cherie , Kelly , Mitzi

My thoughts and Prayers are with ya'll.

Mr. Billy Bode will be missed by many people that had the pleasure to know him and work for him. I had the pleasure to work for Mr. Bode and Gearld Foltyn since Jr.High school with my brother Mondo and my sister Minnie for many years at the sale barn and working cattle.

May God bless you and comfort you .

Joe Perez

Joe Perez - March 15, 2021 at 04:28 PM

DB

“ *Thoughts and prayers to you all on the loss of your dad. Have fond memories of your dad, as well as your grandmother Edna Bode, and Mickey, Joyce, Harold, and Bernadine. Really enjoyed visiting with you all at Joy's beach house in Galveston when she hosted the family reunion a couple of years ago. Heard a lot of wonderful stories, and loved the one where people called the auction barn, and thought they were calling the pizza place.*



Daniel Bode - March 15, 2021 at 04:26 PM

LF

“ *Love, Amy Fitzgerald purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of John "Billy" Bode.*



Love, Amy Fitzgerald - March 15, 2021 at 04:14 PM

CR

“ Carol Rachunek lit a candle in memory of John "Billy" Bode



Carol Rachunek - March 15, 2021 at 02:58 PM

PD

“ Patricia Dybala lit a candle in memory of John "Billy" Bode



Patricia Dybala - March 15, 2021 at 02:47 PM

SC

“ Scott, Kendra & Kambree Charbula lit a candle in memory of John "Billy" Bode



Scott, Kendra & Kambree Charbula - March 15, 2021 at 02:25 PM