



## Merrill Adamcik

August 17, 1936 - October 22, 2013

Merrill Travis Adamcik was born in El Campo, Texas on August 17, 1936 to Lewis and Lillie Adamcik. Merrill went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, October 22, 2013 due to complications from heart disease.

Merrill is survived by his wife, Doris; his daughters Merelyn Johnson and husband Brian of Jewett, Texas; Elizabeth Davis and husband Gary of Lake Jackson, Texas; and Cynthia Cruz and husband Emiliano of Jones Creek, Texas; grandchildren Travis Davis, Emily Davis, Evan Cruz and Eli Johnson; sister Bernice Keinarth and sister-in-law Helen Adamcek, both of El Campo. Merrill was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Elton Adamcek.

Merrill attended El Campo High School where he was a member of the Ricebird band and Future Farmers of America. He attended Texas A&M where he was a member of the Corps of Cadets and played saxophone in the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band. Upon graduation in 1958 he attended and graduated from Army Flight School in 1960. As an Army Aviator, he was then assigned to the 14th Armored Cavalry in Germany. In 1963, he returned to Ft. Sill, Oklahoma for Advanced Artillery School, and upon graduating, was assigned to Ft. Benning, Georgia. There he began flying the Caribou or CV-2B (cargo aircraft), which he flew in Vietnam for one year. Later he spent his second year in Vietnam flying the Chinook helicopter. He also served in Korea. He and Doris, his companion of 49 years, married March 1964 in

Houston, Texas. In 1972, he attended and graduated from the Army's Command and General Staff College. Upon his retirement in 1978 as Lt. Colonel, he and his family moved back to El Campo, Texas where he farmed for 15 years. He also served as Wharton County Commissioner, Pct.3. He was a lifelong member of St. Paul United Methodist Church and also a member of the Texas A&M Association of Former Students, Army Otter-Caribou Association, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Elks Lodge #1749, Czech Heritage Society, Disabled American Veterans Chapter 72 and American Legion Post #251, where he served as Past Commander. He also served as Board Member of the El Campo Heritage Center.

Through the years, Merrill made time for family and friends and especially enjoyed gardening and traveling. Watching Texas Aggie football was a favorite pastime. He shared his passion for gardening by giving away his prized homegrown fruits and vegetables to family and friends. His tremendous love for his grandchildren was evident by their numerous pictures hung, taped and framed around his office desk.

Visitation will begin at 1 pm on Friday, October 25, 2013 at Triska Funeral Home. The family will receive visitors from 5 – 7 pm. Funeral service will be at 2 pm on Saturday, October 26, 2013 at First United Methodist Church with Pastor Beverly Schmidt officiating. Interment will follow with full military honors at Garden of Memories Cemetery under the auspices of the American Legion Post #251.

At the request of the family, memorial contributions may be made to St. Paul United Methodist Church, American Legion Post #251, Elks Lodge #1749 or a charity of choice.

# Tribute Wall

MC

“ *Dearest Doris,  
I am so sorry for your loss. Merrill was so sweet to me every time I was lucky enough to see him. I remember going to your wedding; it was so beautiful! I also remember coming to visit ya'll in El Campo with my mother, Lena. I always thought you were so fortunate to have him as your husband. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you.  
Love,  
Melanie*

---

**Melanie Buffum - New Port Richey, FL - Cousin** - November 02, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AT

“ *Dear Elizabeth, You have my deepest sympathy at this time. I know your Father had to be a wonderful man to have a daughter like you and Cynthia. May his soul be rejoicing in heaven at the feet of Christ. God bless you and your entire family. Take good care of your Mom. She'll need lots of support in the days ahead. I lost my Step father of 40 years October 17th and the full brunt of his loss is just now impacting my Mama. I love you sweet friend.*

---

**Alanda Hurley - Brazoria, TX** - October 29, 2013 at 12:00 AM

YF

“ *Dear Doris,  
Al and I are so saddened by the passing of Merrill. We send you and the girls our prayers and may He keep you safely in the palm of his hand. We will keep in touch and would love to have you visit us here in central Florida. God be with you.  
Yvonne & Al Laferte*

---

**Yvonne Laferte - Viera, FL - Friend** - October 28, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ *My condolences. Merrill was one of the finest people I've known.*

---

**Ross Valigura - Livingston, TX - friend** - October 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ *Dear Elizabeth,  
I am so sorry to hear about the loss of your dad.. I have wonderful childhood memories with your family. I know your hearts are heavy. Try to focus on the fact that you are only seaprated by your father by the time you have left on this earth. I know our dads will be waiting for us at the gates of heaven with open arms when it is our time to join them.  
Please know that you are in my prayers during this very difficult time.*

*P.S. I never knew your dad was a member of the Fighting Texas Aggie Band. - very cool!*

*Your friend,  
Beverly Smith Werner*

---

**Beverly Smith Werner - Spring, TX - Family friend** - October 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM

WM

“ Mr. Adamcik was a first cousin to my deceased father-in-law, Norman Lutringer and was one of the kindest and most genuine people I have ever met. We shared a common bond as retired army officers, and I looked forward to any family function if I knew he and Doris were going to be there. He had been through the hell of war several times, but you would never know it, as he NEVER bragged on himself, although anyone would have been proud to have had his experiences and observations during his life. I always enjoyed talking to him, and our last conversation at the funeral reception after my mother in law, Irene Lutringer's funeral, was as always, a good friend and family man, that cannot be replaced. He loved his family and his friends and was always there if anyone needed him. I will miss him because these days we all need to have people like him in our lives, and believe me, men like him are hard if not outright impossible, to replace. Rest In Peace my friend. If GOD needs a ride, don't take him up in a Chinook, they are junk! Hooah!  
Wayne Robinson

---

**Wayne Robinson - East Bernard, Texas, TX - cousin by marriage - October 26, 2013 at 12:00 AM**

BF

“ Merrill and I served in the army from practically the first day until I got out 10 years later. We were in flight school at the same time, basic artillery course, advanced course and Vietnam in the same company. I,m very,very sad to hear about his passing,Doris. I'm not really functioning right at this time. I know how you must feel. I just think about where he is, knowing he couldn't be in a better place I know and you know that we will see him again soon. I know one thing....I'll bet he's met up with Jesus and is talking his ear off!  
Once again all my condolences Doris to you and your family

Sadly  
Bill Gissendaner

---

**Bill Gissendaner - Suwanee, GA - old friend - October 26, 2013 at 12:00 AM**

TG

“ My grandfather was one of the greatest men i've ever known and i'm proud to be his name sake. He died with honor, love, and courage as a man who never gave up on life and living it to the fullest. There is nothing i could do to repay him for all he has done for me. He and i kept in touch via email and the last one i got from him wasn't a forward(and if you know my grandpa, you know your inbox probably said Merrill 5 or 6 times in a row.) He asked me what he could do for me, what was going on in my life, when i would recieve my Associates Degree certificate, and so on. He knew what it meant to be proud of his children, because even as his grandson, he showed more pride in us than i ever realized. Merrill Travis Adamcik was a leader for his country, and fighter for his freedom, a man of his word, and a lover of his family. You will be missed Grandpa, and as the tears of your family and friends fall, each one is a representation of the impact you've made on our lives. Rest in peace, Grandpa. I love you

---

**Travis Davis - Lake Jackson, TX - Grandson** - October 26, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CO

“ Merrill was a fine teacher and officer. will really miss him and chating. My sincere condonences to the family. our prayers are with each member in their loss.

---

**Charles Lee - Cleburne, TX - Friend, fellow officer** - October 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ We were so sorry to learn of Merrill's death. We will miss him dearly at the Aggie Band reunions. He was such a great person and friend. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Doris and your family.

---

**Jimmie and Jane McDaniel - Tyler, TX** - October 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ God speed on your final flight. The Lord welcomes one of his faithful warriors home.

---

**Tom Andrews - New Braunfels, TX - Military & Friend** - October 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JN

“ Uncle Merrill, you will be missed. Your love for Aviation , the Army and A&M will I never forget. As Marines say to each other Semper Fi, this is fitting for a great Army Veteran as you. So long and see you in heaven.

Joel

---

**Joel Huck - Highland Village, TX - Nephew** - October 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

GC

“ Merrill was a fine man and a great classmate. The members of the Aggie Band, class of 1958, will miss him. Doris and family. we are so sorry for your loss.

Gerry and Suzy Parker

---

**Gerry Parker - Houston, TX - Classmate** - October 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ Dear Doris and Family,  
My wife, Joanna, and I extend our deepest sympathy to you over the loss of a truly fine gentleman---and gentle man, Merrill, our dear friend. Merrill will live forever in our hearts and memories. Thank you, Doris for always being so supportive of Merrill in his countless charitable works---literally "For God and Country"! Sincerely, Chuck and Joanna Schwartzkopf.

---

**Chuck Schwartzkopf - El Campo, TX - Friend** - October 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ DORIS & FAMILY; I AM SO SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS, MAY GOD BLESS YOU'LL & WRAP HIS ARMS AROUND EACH OF YOU IN COMFORT....JUANICE HARRIS

---

**JUANICE HARRIS - VICYORIA, TX - acquaintance** - October 25, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ Merrill was a great man and will be greatly missed. I have many fond memories of him since I was a little girl. He knew how to treat a person with respect and stand up for what he believed in....He always had a smile and something kind to say. My prayers and thoughts are with you all. Heaven has gotten much brighter....it has an outstanding Angel.

---

**Simone Cerny Sanders - Wharton - cousins** - October 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ We have lost A Great American. Mr Adamcik was a dedacated man who lived by the Army Values; Duty Honor Country. Mr Adamcik alway went out of his way just to say hi. He was always smiling and never had a bad thing to say about anyone. I will surely miss him

*Lucio*

*Give me a company of West Pointer and I will win the battle. Give me paltoon of Aggies and I will win the war.*

*George S. Patton  
General*

---

**Lucio Valdez - FT Hood , TX - Friend** - October 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ *Merrill was truly a wonderful man. I always looked up to him. I was thankful for his service to our country. God has called home one of his angels. My prayers are with Doris and family. Love to all. Kay*

---

**Kay Krustchinsky-Marsh - Half Way, MO - friend** - October 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PF

“ *Farewell to a commander and friend who will be missed by many of us who served with you. Every Chinook that flies over brings back memories of Ft Sill, brothers in C Company and PLAYTEX. So glad you and Doris made it to our great state of Washington! We send our heartfelt sympathy to your family. We will keep you all in our prayers.*  
*Paul and Barbara Clement*

---

**Paul and Barbara Clement - Amboy, WA - friend** - October 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BA

“ *Dear Mrs. Adamcik, Merelyn, Elizabeth and Cynthia,*

*I'm so sorry to hear this news. Mrs. Adamcik, I always appreciated when you visited me at my church and asked about my ministry. Mr. Adamcik was always full of smiles. Growing up with you all, it felt like my second family. Thank you also for caring for my parents as well when their health failed.*

*I'm very sorry and I'll be holding you all in my prayers. God bless you with overwhelming peace and comfort. Love, Barbara & Karim*

---

**Barbara Kutac Aziz** - October 24, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JN

“ *So long PLAYTEX SIX*

---

**Joffre Filion, LTC USA Ret. - Palatka, FL - CO C, 145 CAB, 101st, Viet Nam** - October 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MN

“ *My Uncle Merrill was a true Aggie...."Soldier, Statesman, and Knightly Gentleman." Per Unitatum Vis.*

---

**Mark Westbrook - Spring, TX - Nephew** - October 23, 2013 at 12:00 AM