



William Howard Alton "Billy"

July 27, 1937 - January 26, 2025

William Howard Alton aka "Billy", 87, of El Campo, went home to be with Our Lord on January 26, 2025. He was born on July 27, 1937 in Annapolis, Maryland. He was a Master Plumber and served his community for many years. Billy had a love for life. His passion was family, friends, fishing, gardening and taking care of goats and birds.

He is survived by his daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his father, Howard Walter Alton; mother, Helen M. Cirillo; his loving wife, Ricarda Torres Alton; son, Howard Arthur Alton; daughter, Mary "Sandy" Gonzales and his sister, Patricia Whitley.

'The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.' – Psalm 23

Visitation will begin at 9 a.m. on Friday, January 31 at Triska Funeral Home.

The funeral service will begin at 10 a.m. with Deacon Adrian Canales officiating. Burial will follow at Oaklawn Memorial Park Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Oaklawn Memorial Park

4609 State Hwy 71
El Campo, TX 77437

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 31. 9:00 AM (CT)

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

Funeral Service

JAN 31. 10:00 AM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall

DA

“ Billy is my Big brother and I have always admired him and have been more than grateful to him. I have admired him for exceeding in life despite the many obstacles placed before him. He was fifteen when my father, a master carpenter, was no longer able to work due to illness, had him drop out school to go work on a rice farm to help support me, my brother Cecil, and my father. In those days he was given a small house and was required to live on location. Billy, at his young age, became a natural in all the arts of husbandry and did what he was asked to do, help support his family. Billy became strong as an ox while working on the rice farm. I'm sure this strength came from the arduous labor that he performed on a daily basis. Back then, most of the workers on the farms were Hispanic. Billy self-taught himself how to speak spanish. He was admired and revered by all those he worked with. Because of his exceptional strength, people who shook hands with him felt like they just put their hand in a pair of vice grips. Later on, I tried to emulate that hand shake, but the best I could obtain was a firm handshake which I have to this day. I'm 79 and when I shake hands with people, more often than not, they will comment on my firm grip, and when they do, my thoughts automatically go back to Billy, Back in those days the one thing that we were never short of was meat and fish. Billy always kept us well stocked. One night he took me with him to go rabbit hunting. At night time on those rural gravel roads, the rabbits, while trying to cross the road would stand stiff as a board in the middle of the road blinded by the cars head lights. Billy had a .22 caliber Henry Golden Boy that he used to rabbit hunt with. He never got out of the car to shoot them. He simply aimed his Henry Golden Boy out the window and fired. He never missed, hitting the rabbits in the head so as not to spoil the meat. Once again, this was a skill I tried to emulate. This time I succeeded. Years later, while in the Air Force I earned the Expert Marksmanship Badge when qualifying with the M16 rifle. Everytime I put that badge on my uniform, I would think of Billy. Cecil and I were six and three respectively at the time we came to El Campo from Maryland. When we got older we began working and were able to help out. Most importantly though, Cecil and I were able to finish school. Cecil graduated from UT with

honors and upon graduation joined the Navy. It was at that time when he helped Billy buy a ten acre farm with house and Billy was able to leave his work at the rice farm to begin farming. Because of all the experience he gained in his youth, he was a natural at farming and, as I said earlier, he had already mastered all aspects of husbandry. During this time he married his wife Mary and raised seven children. Of the many tragedies that he underwent was the horrific death of his only son Howard, who was killed in a terrible vehicle accident, and the premature deaths of his wife Mary and daughter Sandy, due to illness. Obviously, Billy was a self sustaining person and he passed that trait on to his children. Somewhere during this timeframe Billy acquired his Master's Plummer's License. I'm remembering this because, this was a man who left school at the age of fifteen. I will always be grateful to Billy for the sacrifices he made, that included me, and the standards that he set which allowed me to live and enjoy a successful and happy life. Billy is survived by his daughters Genevieve, Silvia, Sarah, Helen, and Evelyn and many grandchildren and some great grandchildren. All of whom have become successful.. Did Billy leave his mark on this world? I believe he did.

David Alton - February 02, 2025 at 08:23 PM

CA

Great stories, David.

Cecil Alton - February 02, 2025 at 08:32 PM

IA

Beautiful memorial!

Ieda Alton - February 03, 2025 at 07:13 PM

EA

Thank you so much for sharing. My father was someone we all looked up to.

Evelyn Alton - February 04, 2025 at 08:41 PM

HG

Uncle David, thank you so much for your recollection of Daddy's youth and achievements, even with the obstacles and challenges of his youth. They don't make 'em like that anymore. I am so proud to be his daughter.

Helen Alton Gomez - February 04, 2025 at 10:23 PM

SU

Thank you for sharing the family history and great memories Uncle David! I'll never forget the life lessons Grandpa Billy taught me!! He has always been an inspiration to me, especially in my homesteading venture! This year's garden will be dedicated to him; he gave me some okra seeds which I will plant & grow for the first time! I once told him I hated to sweat, and he told me that sweating was good for me! Turns out he was right and I don't mind working up a sweat these days! I'll sure miss our visits but will always remember the great advice he gave and the funny stories he shared!

Suzanna - February 05, 2025 at 09:05 AM

JA

Thank you for sharing this.

Jeff Alton - February 06, 2025 at 09:59 PM

SU

“ *Sending our deepest condolences, hugs and prayers for the family. My Grandpa Billy will be missed dearly; may he rest in peace.*



Suzy - January 31, 2025 at 01:11 AM

FT

“ Familia Rodrigues Torres purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of William Howard Alton "Billy".



Familia Rodrigues Torres - January 30, 2025 at 06:45 PM

JK

“ Julie A Kacal lit a candle in memory of William Howard Alton "Billy"



Julie A Kacal - January 30, 2025 at 03:30 PM

SA

Thank you kindly, Sarah Alton daughter

Sarah Alton - February 01, 2025 at 09:50 PM

HF

“ Helen & Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of William Howard Alton "Billy".



Helen & Family - January 30, 2025 at 03:01 AM

IA

“ In memory of my Dear Brother-in-Law, Billy Alton: Ernest Hemingway once said “The most beautiful people we encounter in life are often those who have walked through fire.” They’ve faced defeat, endured pain, struggled with hardship, and experienced loss in ways most of us can scarcely comprehend. Yet, it is through these trials that their true beauty emerges - not the kind that can be seen on the surface, but the kind that radiates from the deep within!
- Iêda Alton

Iêda Alton - January 29, 2025 at 01:08 PM

CA

Beautiful tribute! It fits Billy perfectly. Thank You!

Cecil Alton - January 29, 2025 at 01:46 PM

SA

Thank you for the beautiful tribute. You have a beautiful heart Aunt Ieda OXO

Sarah Alton - January 29, 2025 at 11:54 PM

HA

Thank you so much, Aunt Ieda, for your commendation of Daddy!

Helen AltonGomez - February 04, 2025 at 10:33 PM

CA

“ We moved to El Campo, TX, from Annapolis, MD, in 1950 with our Dad, Howard Walter Alton, and brothers William ‘Billy’ Howard Alton, Cecil Claude Alton (me) and David Wayne Alton. I still remember the first morning when we looked out our window for cows & cowboys. We lived in a house in Cunningham Courts on East Jackson Street until our Dad rebuilt a house for Mr. Myatt on 506 West Fourth Street next to Saint Robert’s Catholic Church. I remember walking to Southside Elementary School in 1950 with Billy when my first grade teacher, Mr. David L. Nelson, who rented a room from Mrs. Dora Thomas next to the First Lutheran Church, offered us a ride in his 1949 Ford sedan. We lived at 506 W. Fourth St. until 1958 when Dad had a heart attack. We moved to 909 Spruce St. where we lived until our Dad passed away in 1975. After the 8th grade Billy worked on a farm for Mr. Myatt, who he always spoke highly of. He worked some summers in Baltimore, Maryland, driving road construction equipment including a Euclid. After I joined the Navy in 1965, Billy & I bought a 10-acre farm and small house in Hollywood Bottom where Billy raised his family, earned his GED and passed his Master Plumber’s License and started his own company, Billy’s Plumbing. Billy spoke Spanish fluently and married Ricarda ‘Mary’ Torres on August 26, 1959, in El Campo. They raised seven wonderful children, two of which, Howard Arthur Alton and Mary Sandy Alton, preceded him in death. We highly regarded our brother Billy and looked up to him always. He also had a genius for all living things, animals & plants. I recall our Dad telling a story about Billy as a child in Annapolis, Maryland, bringing a snake into the house saying ‘Nake!’”

Cecil Alton - January 29, 2025 at 12:31 PM

EH

Awesome family history Cecil! My condolences to you and your family, Ernest Hernandez.

Ernest Hernandez - January 29, 2025 at 01:03 PM

CA

Thank you, Ernest.

Cecil Alton - January 29, 2025 at 01:42 PM

SA

Thank you Uncle Duffy for always keeping the memories alive, I never tired of hearing them. You aspire me to find the silver lining in all things. I was blessed to have you as an Uncle and friend. And also blessed to have your brother as my father. I miss him so much. God bless you always, Sarah

Sarah Alton - January 29, 2025 at 11:58 PM

CA

Thank You, Sarah.

Cecil Alton - January 30, 2025 at 11:42 AM

SU

Thank you so much for sharing such great memories! Grandpa Billy was really a genius on all living things; I loved our garden and farm animal talks! My condolences to you and your family.

Suzy - January 31, 2025 at 01:03 AM

CA

Thank you, Suzy.

Cecil Alton - January 31, 2025 at 10:45 AM

EA

Thank you for your support in these difficult time. Love you

Evelyn Alton - February 04, 2025 at 08:43 PM

HA

Thank you, Uncle Duffy, for being there to lean on during our grief and sorrow.

Helen AltonGomez - February 04, 2025 at 10:44 PM

CA

Thank You, Evelyn and Helen.

Cecil Alton - February 07, 2025 at 06:18 PM

YO

“ *Your Friends at UT Ortho purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of William Howard Alton "Billy".*



Your Friends at UT Ortho - January 28, 2025 at 01:58 PM

JA

“ *I'm so grateful I got to meet Billy and all of you. You are a very special family. I'm sending love and prayers at this tender time. ❤️*

Jenny Alton - January 28, 2025 at 12:43 AM

SA

Thank you Jenny for your beautiful words. I feel truly blessed to have you in the family. Blessings always, Love Sarah

Sarah Alton - January 30, 2025 at 12:01 AM

KN

“ *Kerri & Pablo Navarro purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of William Howard Alton "Billy".*



Kerri & Pablo Navarro - January 27, 2025 at 09:15 PM

KN

“ *Kerri & Pablo Navarro planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Howard Alton "Billy".*

Kerri & Pablo Navarro - January 27, 2025 at 09:15 PM

RF

“ *Prayers for my cousins and family in Texas, Papa Cecil and Uncle David. Uncle Billy will be dearly missed. I am thankful for the times I was able to visit and spend time with him, he was a true gentleman, always working hard taking care of people and his goats, peacocks and farm. He was loved by many.*

Robert Alton, Crystal Alton and family - January 27, 2025 at 08:26 PM

SA

*Thank you dear cousin. He will be greatly missed,
Love you
Sarah*

Sarah Alton - January 27, 2025 at 10:07 PM

CA

I love your tribute, Robert. Thank You!

Cecil Alton - January 29, 2025 at 01:43 PM

SU

Thank you Robert. Prayers and my condolences to you as well.

Suzy - January 31, 2025 at 01:13 AM

HA

Thank you Bobby and Crystal. Daddy truly was of pioneer stock. He knew something about everything. He was deeply loved and will be greatly missed.

Helen AltonGomez - February 04, 2025 at 10:49 PM

LS

“ Liz Staff lit a candle in memory of William Howard Alton "Billy"



Liz Staff - January 27, 2025 at 07:56 PM

SA

Thank you for your kindness.
Sarah Alton daughter

Sarah Alton - January 27, 2025 at 11:06 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of William Howard Alton "Billy".



January 27, 2025 at 07:10 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of William Howard Alton "Billy".

January 27, 2025 at 07:10 PM

KH

“ Karen/Sheldon Holub lit a candle in memory of William Howard Alton "Billy"



Karen/Sheldon Holub - January 27, 2025 at 07:08 PM

SA

*Thank you,
Sarah Alton, daughter*

Sarah Alton - January 27, 2025 at 10:08 PM

BC

“ *He was such a kind gentleman!
Robert and Becky Chomout*



Becky Chomout - January 27, 2025 at 07:03 PM

SA

*Thank you for your kind words, blessings to you
Sarah, daughter*

Sarah Alton - January 27, 2025 at 10:06 PM

TM

“ *Tom and Janet Mehlhoff purchased the Basket of
Memories for the family of William Howard Alton
"Billy".*



Tom and Janet Mehlhoff - January 27, 2025 at 06:48 PM

TM

“ *Tom and Janet Mehlhoff planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Howard
Alton "Billy".*

Tom and Janet Mehlhoff - January 27, 2025 at 06:48 PM

DH

“ David & Sherry Hicks purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of William Howard Alton "Billy".



David & Sherry Hicks - January 27, 2025 at 05:22 PM

LC

“ Sending prayers to the family. So many memories from Hollywood bottom times. Linda, Peggy and Cindy



Linda Boone Condell - January 27, 2025 at 01:51 PM

SA

Thank you all so much, OX
Sarah

Sarah Alton - January 27, 2025 at 10:09 PM