



Bud Dennis

November 6, 1943 - October 7, 2025

John "Bud" Dennis passed away on October 6, 2025. Bud was born in Poetry, TX on November 6, 1943 to John Henry and Adlene Dennis and he was preceded in death by his parents John Henry and Adlene Dennis, sisters; Martha Dennis, Louise Bennett, and Sue Cates.

A lifetime resident of Poetry, Bud grew up with a passion for the land around him and his life always reflected his love of his home. Bud had quite the resume in his lifetime being a plumber, a custom home builder, Deputy Game Warden for the State of Texas, custom farmer and rancher, and later retiring from Big Rack Ranch in 2010.

He married Sandra Gayle Dennis May 16, 1984 in Terrell, Texas and they shared 41 years together. Bud loved dancing and, after teaching Gayle, they would spend many wonderful evenings together, dancing, on their porch. He also loved sitting on that same porch, telling old time stories with friends and family, and watching his great grand kids play and ride bikes. Family was so important to him; he would drive 4 hours one way just to pick up his golden grandchild, Matthew, and bring him back to Poetry to spend time with him. His great-grandson Cason loved getting to sit in the hunting trailer with Papaw Bud and drink coffee with him in the wintertime, both keeping warm as they kept watch for that perfect opportunity. Bud was a well-known prankster, and many unsuspecting people fell for his giving them a crabapple when in fact, it was a green persimmon. Trying to outdo him, Matthew, Whitney, and Michelle, as kids, froze glass marbles and stuck them in his bed while he was sleeping to try and out prank the ultimate prankster. Bud was also a master at other skills including irritating telemarketers (he might be the only person on Earth that got telemarketers to block him. After talking with him they never wanted to call back) and keeping drivers safe on Poetry Road. Anyone that lives in Poetry knows they never wanted to get stuck behind Bud on the road when they were in a hurry. He would have cars backed up behind him a mile long!

He was most proud of becoming a Deputy Game Warden. He was always known for his integrity and his work ethic. He loved spending time rodeoing, hunting, and fishing with friends and family. He always loved having visitors come over and enjoy Gayle's good cooking, and if he couldn't see his friends in person, he always loved a good phone call to catch up with them. His friendship will be greatly missed, and Bud will never be forgotten.

He is survived by his wife, Gayle Dennis; children: Tanna Gafford and husband Dan, Steven Dennis and wife Sokha, Pooh Dennis and wife Shawnde, Vanessa Floyd and husband Robert. Sisters: Joyce Salisbury, Jane Wilson, and Dolly Nell Turner.

Grandchildren: Zachary, Michelle, Whitney, Matthew, Amanda, Maddison, Cassie, and Dustin. Great grandchildren: Marley, Rosie, Dani, Caden, Cason, Logan, Lennie, Monte, Jewel, Ethan, Alex, and Charlie as well as many other extended family, countless friends and so many others who met Bud, each of whom will forever remember him.

Stewart David, David Dennis, Maddison Dennis, Matthew Dennis, Mike Lee, Caden Scott, Cason Scott, Cody Scott will serve as pallbearers.

Funeral service will be at 11:00am, Monday, Oct. 13, 2025 at Max Slayton Funeral Chapel with interment to follow at Campground Cemetery. His family will receive friends beginning at 10:00am to service time.

Cemetery Details

Campground Cemetery

County Road 326
Terrell, TX 75160

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 13. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Max Slayton Funeral Chapel
642 N. Rockwall Ave.
Terrell, TX 75160

Funeral Service

OCT 13. 11:00 AM (CT)

Max Slayton Funeral Chapel
642 N. Rockwall Ave.
Terrell, TX 75160

Tribute Wall



“ *Max Slayton Funerals and Cremations created a Tribute Video in memory of Bud Dennis*



Max Slayton Funerals & Cremations - October 23, 2025 at 12:22 PM

HD

“ *Poo and family, sorry for your loss. Even though I have not seen Bud in years, I cant think of a better person. This world is a better place because of Bud.*

Harland Dixson - October 15, 2025 at 12:07 PM

CS

“ *Gayle & family Joyce,Dolly,Jane & families,
So sorry for your loss of Bud! Keeping all of you in our
thoughts and prayers!
With Deepest Sympathy,
Karo(Smith) & Wilson Stewart*



Carolyn(Karo) Stewart - October 14, 2025 at 03:37 PM

MD

“ *Mary Darst-Yarbrough purchased the Emerald Garden Basket
for the family of Bud Dennis.*



Mary Darst-Yarbrough - October 14, 2025 at 10:45 AM

SP

“ Bud Dennis will be miss. I was so bless to be around him back in the day with Andy Brewer Runt Akins I got to work cows with these great men. They played tricks on each other the stories I could tell. Most wouldn't believe them. I have seen them at their best and sometimes at their worst. I remember the first time I really got to meet Bud. Me and Pat and Zanette who was six months old at the time went down to rope in his pen. Little pen GALYE wasn't into the picture then. Buds kids were little I was 17 Pat was 21 maybe. He will be missed. So sorry for your loss Gayle and his boys and grandkids. Shonnie and girls Zanette and Tricia

shonnie paul - October 13, 2025 at 07:14 PM



“ I've knew Bud Dennis for many years. He did love a good prank. His laugh was one I will remember. Gayle, Jane, Joyce, and Dolly along with the rest of your extended family I'm praying for you. My memories of this large extended family are a treasure for me.



Sharon Collins - October 13, 2025 at 01:09 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Bud Dennis.



October 13, 2025 at 10:50 AM

TF

“ The South family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bud Dennis.

The South family - October 13, 2025 at 10:50 AM

AN

“ May God bless u Gayle and all the family &.friends of Bud's. My prayers & thoughts go out to each of you.



Angi Naquin - October 13, 2025 at 09:35 AM

LB

“ Love , Angelia & Ashley Bennett purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Bud Dennis.



Love , Angelia & Ashley Bennett - October 12, 2025 at 06:21 PM

BW

“ Beth Wilder lit a candle in memory of Bud Dennis



Beth Wilder - October 11, 2025 at 08:26 PM

BW

So sorry for y'all's loss! My thoughts and prayers are with your family. 🙏

Beth Wilder - October 11, 2025 at 08:27 PM

CT

“ Cathy and John True purchased the *Beautiful in Blue* for the family of Bud Dennis.



Cathy and John True - October 11, 2025 at 04:04 PM

TG

“ 2 files added to the album *Memories Album*



Tanna Gafford - October 11, 2025 at 08:36 AM

TG

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Tanna Gafford - October 11, 2025 at 08:31 AM



“ 92 files added to the album Memories Album



Max Slayton Funerals & Cremations - October 10, 2025 at 04:05 PM

DA

“ Doyle Anderton purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Bud Dennis.



Doyle Anderton - October 10, 2025 at 03:27 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Bud Dennis.



October 10, 2025 at 11:07 AM

CA

“ Carole-Justan-Veronica-Nicole-Kalen planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bud Dennis.

Carole-Justan-Veronica-Nicole-Kalen - October 10, 2025 at 11:07 AM

B3

“ BSFD Local 3147 purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Bud Dennis.



BSFD Local 3147 - October 10, 2025 at 10:17 AM

LB

“ Gayle and all of Bud’s family, I am so sorry for all of you at this most difficult time. When I was in school I used to spend the night at their house often since I was good friends with his sisters, I loved his family. Bud probably didn’t remember me later in life but he and my first husband Glen and several of their friends used to hunt together, sometimes around Bud’s home place and according to stories I heard from them they had some really good times and usually good luck on their hunting. And Gayle, over the years you and I had some good times together and I’ve always thought of you as a good friend. Time goes on and everyone’s so busy that we don’t see other as often but the good memories last forever. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. Love Linda Baker Bankston

Linda Bankston - October 10, 2025 at 03:33 AM

RS

“ We are so sorry for the passing of this great man! Gayle, you & Bud are truly blessings from above. Praying for peace & comfort to Gayle & all the family & friends. What an awesome reunion is going on in heaven.



Richard & Tricia (Pirtle) Selman - October 09, 2025 at 10:53 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Bud Dennis.



October 09, 2025 at 08:04 PM

RF

“ Robert &Vanessa Floyd and Family purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Bud Dennis.



Robert &Vanessa Floyd and Family - October 09, 2025 at 06:19 PM

JC

“ John and Terry Crocker purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Bud Dennis.



John and Terry Crocker - October 09, 2025 at 04:30 PM

JC

“ John and Terry Crocker planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bud Dennis.

John and Terry Crocker - October 09, 2025 at 04:30 PM

RC

“ Rachel Calvin purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Bud Dennis.



Rachel Calvin - October 09, 2025 at 03:49 PM

MA

“ Molly and Craig Akin purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Bud Dennis.



Molly and Craig Akin - October 09, 2025 at 03:38 PM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Bud Dennis.*



October 09, 2025 at 02:49 PM



“ *George and Cathrine Vaughan purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Bud Dennis.*



George and Cathrine Vaughan - October 09, 2025 at 02:30 PM



“ *Bud and Gayle have come to my aid so many times over the years. The epitome of what good people are supposed to be. Bud will truly be missed by all, even those corny jokes. He was a hero.*

Janet Ralston - October 09, 2025 at 01:56 PM



“ *K.C. & Beth Lockhart purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Bud Dennis.*



K.C. & Beth Lockhart - October 09, 2025 at 01:26 PM



“ *Richard Brazell lit a candle in memory of Bud Dennis*



Richard Brazell - October 09, 2025 at 12:21 PM



“ *So sorry to hear of the passing of Bud. Praying for peace and protection for his family.*

Mike Jaffe - October 09, 2025 at 09:57 AM

SM

“ So Sorry For Your Loss. Bud was such a Great Guy. Many Prayers for the Family. He will Certainly Be Missed.

Steve Maldonado - October 08, 2025 at 08:30 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Bud Dennis.



October 08, 2025 at 08:09 PM

MW

“ I don't even know where to begin. He was like my second dad after mine passed away. He was always there to lend an ear or hug if it was needed or just a good ole laugh. I spent many a summer out at the house with him, Gayle and Nessa. Those were my favorite times spending it there with them. I'll always cherish those memories. My prayers go out to everyone 🙏 until we meet again Bud. Love ya

Melinda Leach Whetstone - October 08, 2025 at 05:23 PM