



Dale Ham

July 15, 1940 - May 31, 2026

Arthur Dale Ham passed away peacefully on May 31, 2026, surrounded by his devoted family, following a lengthy battle with Alzheimer's.

Dale, the son of Polly and C.A. Ham, was born on July 15, 1940, in Laneville, Texas, and was raised in Mt. Enterprise. After losing his mother at just four years old, Dale was blessed to be surrounded by the love of family. His father remained an important part of his life, and his grandparents helped provide a steady foundation of love, faith, and guidance that would shape the man he became.

After graduating from Mt. Enterprise High School, where he was voted Senior Class Favorite, Dale attended Panola Junior College where he played baseball. He later moved to Dallas and began working for Braniff Airways, where he met Judy Edam. In 1963, Dale enlisted in the United States Army and was stationed in El Paso. The following year, he married Judy, and together they began building a life and raising a family. After his military service, Dale joined the University Park Police Department. Dale and Judy were blessed with two daughters, Karien and Sharien.

1966, Dale was hired by the Richardson Fire Department. He climbed the ranks to Captain, where he served faithfully until his retirement in 1998. During those years, Dale and Judy made their home in Garland, Texas where they raised their daughters and built a life centered on faith, family, and

community. Captain Ham was well respected by his fellow firefighters - including his future son-in-law Richard Strange. Dale's crew formed a brotherhood that lasted his entire life.

He enjoyed hunting, fishing and spending time outdoors. Dale and his family were active members of Braeburn Glen Baptist Church in Dallas, where he was ordained as a deacon.

Upon his retirement in 1998, Dale and Judy moved to Terrell and built a home on their land so they could focus on their growing orchard business. They became devoted members of First Baptist Church of Terrell, where Dale continued serving the Lord through church leadership and various committees.

Dale was involved in the Texas Fruit Growers Association and served as president from 1998 - 1999, and was also a member of the National Peach Council. He partnered with Dr. David Byrne of Texas A&M University, allowing his orchard to be used for fruit grower clinics and as a testing site for the development of new peach varieties. Dale served on multiple boards including the Elmo Water Supply Corporation, the Texas Farm Bureau and the Kaufman County Emergency Services District Board.

Dale was preceded in death by his parents, Polly and C.A. Ham and his half-brother Bobby Charles Ham.

Dale is survived by his beloved wife of 62 years, Judy Ham; his daughters and sons-in-law Karien & Danny Thomas and Sharien and Richard Strange; his granddaughter, Alexandra Strange; his grandson, Taylor Thomas and other family members and friends.

The Ham family wishes to thank Dr. Tyson Barnes, Patsy Walker, Dr. Charlie Risinger and Dena Risinger. Christian Companion Senior Care and Anew Hospice for their outstanding medical care. They also are grateful to Dale's team of caregivers: Linda Adair, RN, Valencia Brown, Michael Duckworth,

Shannon Harrison, Jenny Holland, RN, Ronnie Howell, Betsy Kitur, Jeff Mayhall, Brandy McCord, Amanda McDonald and Rhonda Rork.

Funeral service for Dale will be held at 4 p.m., Sunday, June 14, 2026, at First Baptist Church in Terrell. The family will receive friends beginning at 3 p.m. until service time with an interment to follow at College Mound Cemetery in Terrell. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be made to the First Baptist Church Transportation/ Van Fund at <http://onrealm.org/FirstBaptistChurch66550/-/form/give/now>

Cemetery Details

College Mound Cemetery

15010 FM 429 South
Terrell, TX 75161

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 14. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Terrell
403 N. Catherine
Terrell, TX 75160
<http://www.fbcterrell.org>

Funeral Service

JUN 14. 4:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Terrell
403 N. Catherine
Terrell, TX 75160
<http://www.fbcterrell.org>

Tribute Wall



“ *Max Slayton Funerals and Cremations created a Tribute Video in memory of Dale Ham*



Max Slayton Funerals & Cremations - June 15 at 11:47 AM

EH

“ *I have fond memories of Captain Ham. My best years in the Richardson Fire Department were spent with Dale and the rest of the "yardbirds" at Station 3. We went fishing together but not enough he was too busy with peaches. He will be missed by all.*

Ed Hotz - June 14 at 01:01 PM

JY

“ *I was so sorry to hear of the passing of Dale Ham. My sympathy to Judy and her family. I grew up down the street from the Ham family, and on many, many occasions, I babysat for their kids. I remember Dale as the sweetest, kindest man, husband and father. It wasn't until many years ago that I put two and two together, and realized Ham Orchard, I've been going to for years, is owned by Dale and Judy Ham... The very family I shared life with for years! I have recently reconnected with Karien, and I look forward to visiting with her when I go to their orchard! God bless you all!*

Johanna Maddox Yates - June 13 at 01:24 PM

ME

“ *Marty, Lisa and Savannah Ellison purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Dale Ham.*



Marty, Lisa and Savannah Ellison - June 13 at 10:03 AM

TF

“ *The Rowland/Koch/Fredericks Familys purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Dale Ham.*



The Rowland/Koch/Fredericks Familys - June 12 at 11:48 AM

KS

“ *Karo Stewart lit a candle in memory of Dale Ham*



Karo Stewart - June 08 at 11:26 AM

AK

“ *Alli, Jen, Mary, Kaitlynn, Lilli & Kaylee purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Dale Ham.*



Alli, Jen, Mary, Kaitlynn, Lilli & Kaylee - June 08 at 10:31 AM

JF

“ Jane and families purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Dale Ham.



Jane and families - June 07 at 02:31 PM

SW

“ Dear Ham Family,

I am so sorry for your loss. Please know that I am praying for peace, comfort, and strength for your family in the days ahead.

I have fond memories of Mr. Ham's kindness. Many years ago, he would hand-deliver peaches to our grandmother across the street. It was such a simple but thoughtful act that left a lasting impression.

*With deepest sympathy and prayers,
Wooten Family*

Shelly Wooten - June 05 at 09:58 PM

BF

“ I worked with Dale while I was with the Richardson FD. He was a really nice guy. We have been customers of the Orchard for years.
Rest in Eternal Peace

Butch Fife - June 05 at 11:17 AM

JG

“ *Mr. Ham was always such a kind man. He brightened my day each time I stopped at his peach stand. I always came away with some tasty peaches and the feeling of time well-spent with one of God’s servants. Praying for his family to be comforted*

Julie Garrett - June 05 at 12:34 AM

KH

“ *Kurtis and Caitlyn Hawn purchased the Beautiful i
n Blue for the family of Dale Ham.*



Kurtis and Caitlyn Hawn - June 04 at 11:47 PM

KH

“ *Kurtis and Caitlyn Hawn planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dale Ham.*

Kurtis and Caitlyn Hawn - June 04 at 11:47 PM

TC

“ *I’m so sorry for your loss. He was such a sweet and kind man. I remember him from my daddy, Billy Ray Tarver and him working together at Richardson Fire Department and oh some of the stories my dad had. I know he really enjoyed working with him. I will be praying for the family 🙏*

Tammy Cox - June 04 at 08:13 PM

BB

“ Dear Ham Family, Bobbi and Larry Byford send hugs and prayers for comfort that God provides and we stand in the gap as you navigate this journey. Bobbi and Larry.

Bobbi L Byford - June 04 at 12:14 PM

BL

“ Bobbi L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dale Ham.

Bobbi L. - June 04 at 12:09 PM

PN

“ We will never forget Dale delivering peaches to our house early in the morning the day before Margaret's wedding. He knew we were hosting a wedding breakfast and he said she simply couldn't get married without some Ham's peaches. She had worked at the orchard when it was just a covered stand by the railroad track. He never failed to ask about her every year since.

Patricia Nix - June 02 at 01:58 PM

AF

“ Alan and Trisha Nix and family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Dale Ham.



Alan and Trisha Nix and family - June 02 at 01:48 PM

RS

“ My condolences and prayers for the Ham family, have many good memories of Dale when he came to my business on the Dallas Farmers Market at Roger's Produce

roger sutton - June 02 at 12:25 PM

GA

“ Dear Judy and Family,
I was so sorry to hear about Dale who was one of my favorite cousins, and I loved his stories. This one makes me smile, and I hope it's a good memory for you.
Dale grew up in a nearby "city" with a 4-way stop sign and in the backwoods that needed no traffic control. He started the peach orchard with a few acres in Terrell while you were still living and working in Dallas. One year his crop was robbed, and he employed country-boy security by nailing a coyote hide on the fence with the words "Owner NOT Responsible for Deaths."
From that start, he made big news in the Metroplex and around the globe for his expertise in orchard maintenance and excellent fruit products. This East Texas country boy is known in our region mainly as "Ham's Orchard." I knew him as a kind-hearted, generous man, who was thoughtful of others, and earned his success.

Along with your family, I will remember his stories and share your pride.

Gay (Poovey) Allen
Henderson, TX

Gay Allen - June 01 at 07:55 PM

SR

“ We are so sorry to hear of Dale's passing. He will be missed in our community.

Sandra & Loren Riggin

Sandra Riggin - June 01 at 12:05 PM