



David L. Ledbetter

June 28, 1948 - December 2, 2025

A LIVESTREAM will be available to those unable to attend David's Service at the following link <https://player.memoryshare.com/video/davidl-ledbetter-terrell-tx>

David Lendol Ledbetter, former resident of Terrell, passed away December 2, 2025 surrounded by family. He was born June 28, 1948 in Wichita Falls to Thurman Lendol and Sybil Louise Ledbetter, both of whom preceded him in death along with other family including his wife, Mary; sister, Janelle Lott; brother-in-law, Bill Marshall and sister-in-law, Pat Sparks.

David was a part of the Terrell High School Class of 1967. During that year, he entered the U.S. Navy and where he served with honor and distinction from 1967 until 1973 on the aircraft carrier, USS Coral Sea. After his honorable discharge in '73, David began his storied and respected career fighting fires when he joined the University Park Fire Dept. His skill at serving his community as well as his company, units, battalions and fire houses was well known and highly respected. David was not only adept at making sure the city residents were safe, he was just as committed to his fellow firefighter's safety. After 35 years, he retired from UPFD as Fire Chief in 2008 having left a legacy of selfless commitment that current fire personnel are still proud to carry on. While working at the FD, David attended El Centro Community College and always valued learning throughout his lifetime. From 1980-1983, he was on

staff as a teacher at Dallas Fire Academy where, once again, his dedication to learning how to be the best in firefighting was easily seen in every student that entered his classes. Having a heart for his hometown, David served on the Terrell Volunteer Fire Department for many years and could be counted on to join any emergency need and keeping those he cared for safe. When not working, he loved spending time with his family, especially his children. Watching each of them grow into adults who held the same high regard for honesty, integrity and service was a blessing that made David's heart full. His many stories of the accomplishments of his children and grandchildren were freely shared and always welcome. After retiring, he made sure to slow down a bit and enjoy the days by spending time at his happy place-his farm near Athens where he enjoyed raising cattle, deer hunting and a little bit of gardening. A man who exemplified the dedication of life in service to his family and others, David will be forever missed and never forgotten.

He leaves his memory to be forever cherished by his wife, Jennifer Ledbetter of Union Valley; sons: Jeremy Ledbetter and wife, Deanna, Barrett Ledbetter and wife, Michelle, Bradley Ledbetter and wife, Jenna and daughter, Evelyn Ledbetter. David is also survived Amara McWilliams, whom he lovingly considered to be his daughter; his grandchildren: Matthew, Layton, Victoria, Lorelei and Spencer; siblings: Raymond Sparks and wife, Tootsie, Patsy Marshall, Janette Simons and husband, Bobby, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, other extended family, his fellow firefighters and a host of friends. A celebration of David's life and legacy will be at 11:00am, Thursday, Dec. 11, 2025 at First Baptist Church in Terrell with honors rendered by the fire departments where he served. His family will receive friends beginning at 10:00am to service time. An inurnment will follow at D/FW National Cemetery with honors provided by the US Navy at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that anyone who wishes to send a gift please consider making a donation to one of the following organizations; Cystic Fibrosis Foundation at <https://www.cff.org/donate> or Make-A-Wish

Foundation at https://wish.org/give-hope-granting-life-changing-wishes-0?form=FUNGRDTBXXR&utm_medium=paidsearch&utm_source=google&utm_campaign=mw-ads-google-search-brand-d2d-evergreen-0825&SubSource=mw-ads-google-search-brand-d2d-evergreen-0825-sl1&gclid=Cj0KCQiA_8TJBhDNARIsAPX5qxStW3CrdIYiUIQ58Q3wf7GTpj2tOmcu30PIxecMrsafPtk53Um7hnEaApSEEALw_wcB

Cemetery Details

Dallas/Ft. Worth National Cemetery

2000 Mountain Creek Parkway
Dallas, TX 75211

Previous Events

Family to receive friends

DEC 11. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

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

Memorial Service

DEC 11. 11:00 AM - 12:00 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 Webcast in memory of David L. Ledbetter*



Max Slayton Funerals & Cremations - December 15, 2025 at 11:03 AM



“ *Max Slayton Funerals and Cremations created a Tribute Video in memory of David L. Ledbetter*



Max Slayton Funerals & Cremations - December 10, 2025 at 10:21 AM

JR

“ *I worked in Personnel with David at the City of University Park for 12 1/2 years. He was a great fireman and person. Everyone thought the world of him. I remember when his son's were born. Greatest days of his life. We all mourned when his wife passed away. She was a special person. Please except my condolences and prayers to his family.*

Janis Todd Reynolds - January 24 at 04:48 PM

MS

“ Photos of the University Park FD and Terrell FD apparatus at Chief Ledbetter’s service



max slayton - December 18, 2025 at 06:02 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of David L. Ledbetter.



December 10, 2025 at 07:36 PM

NS

“ I was a firefighter at UPFD when Chief Ledbetter was there. He trained me to be a second driver and later I became a driver engineer. Chief Ledbetter will surely be missed. I can't make the service because of health issues. Rest in peace chief. Nelson Shaw

Nelson Shaw - December 09, 2025 at 07:37 PM

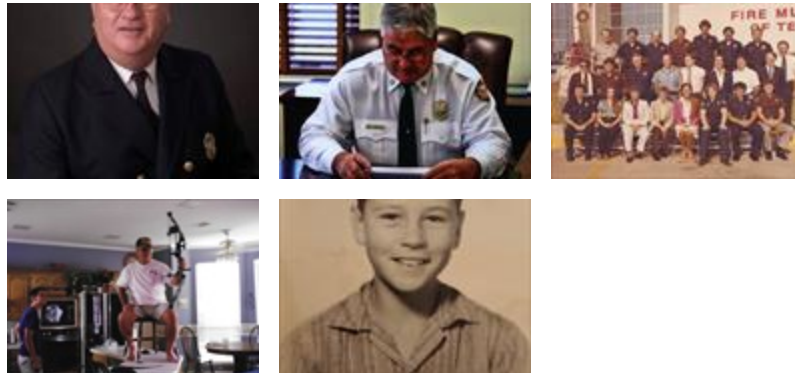
BL

Thank you, Nelson! I hope you heal well and we appreciate your kind words about my Father!

Barrett Ledbetter - December 11, 2025 at 10:22 PM



“ 156 files added to the album Memories Album



Max Slayton Funerals & Cremations - December 09, 2025 at 11:57 AM

RT

“ *Those We Love, Don't Go Away. They Walk Beside Us Everyday. Unseen, Unheard, But Always Near. Still Loved, Still Missed, and Very Dear. Our thoughts are with the family, Sandy and Rick Traylor*

Rick and Sandy Traylor - December 05, 2025 at 06:43 PM

BL

Thank you Rick and Sandy!

Barrett Ledbetter - December 11, 2025 at 10:21 PM

JC

“ *To my honey, I will forever cherish every second spent with you. I will always remember your kind words, positive attitude and your perseverance. You inspired me so much. I will carry that with me through nursing school, as you say I no longer have a choice on going! I will make you proud ! I am beyond blessed to have been apart of your care team ☐ I love you and I'll miss you. Forever in my heart.*

Jada Clanton-Landrum - December 05, 2025 at 03:47 PM

BL

Jada, thank you so very much for the love, care, and ALL the sacrifices you've given for my Father. It's people like YOU who make the difference in happiness!

Barrett Ledbetter - December 11, 2025 at 10:19 PM

KB

“*David had one of the biggest hearts of any man I know. He was always so humble and trying to make you laugh! He took my son in and helped keep an eye on him for me while I worked quite a few times. I hope he knew how much it meant to my son him getting to spend that time with him. David was one of a kind and he is going to be missed. Rest in paradise David. Love Kass*

Kassaundrah Bush - December 04, 2025 at 09:46 PM

BL

Thank you, Kassie!

Barrett Ledbetter - December 11, 2025 at 10:20 PM

BW

“*Beth Wilder lit a candle in memory of David L. Ledbetter*



Beth Wilder - December 04, 2025 at 03:29 PM

BW

I'm so sorry for the loss of David. He was a nice guy who really cared for his family. He will be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and Janette, Patsy and Raymond. 🙏

Beth Wilder - December 04, 2025 at 03:36 PM

BL

Thank you, Beth. He will never be forgotten. Thank you for the prayers, they were heard. I promise.

Barrett Ledbetter - December 11, 2025 at 10:27 PM