



## Van Crane

November 6, 1954 - May 17, 2020

Van Alexander Crane, formerly of Terrell, passed away on May 17, 2020 at his home in Kaufman. Van was born November 6, 1954 in Terrell, TX to Herman and Jimmie Marie (Terry) Crane, both of whom preceded him in death along with his brother, Ruddy Crane.

Van grew up in Terrell and was a 1973 graduate of Terrell High School after which he attended Henderson Co. JC (now TVCC). He had a membership with Cornerstone Baptist Church in Terrell. He loved music and, early in life, he found a talent for singing country and western songs. He and several friends would regularly form bands where they would play for other friends, family, gatherings and get together. He made a livelihood of music and for the rest of his life he would sing at local clubs including Silver Spur at Lake Tawakoni and at the Longhorn Ballroom in Dallas. Van's gift for singing was evident throughout his career even allowing him to open for Ray Price. He loved to entertain and when not booked for shows, Van would be one of the performers with the Wild West gun shows where he could be counted on to give the Six Flag visitors the most authentic and one-of-a-kind entertaining experience. A man who would always go the extra mile to be on the stage, his talent and friendship will be greatly missed.

Van is survived by his longtime companion, Nona N. Smith; children: Stephanie Miller and husband, Ben, and her son, Ty McSpadden, Sarah Ashely Dye and husband, Wesley, Jennifer Erin Crane, and Jason Lamar Crane; grandchildren: Jaden Crane, Jackson, Knox and Maxwell Dye, and

Conner Crane; sisters: Trecia Gispanski and husband, Robert, and Gita Crane; nephew, Ruddy Crane as well as several other nieces and nephews, extended family and a host of friends.

A graveside service will be at 2:00pm, Thursday, May 21, 2020 at Oakland Memorial Park. Family will receive friends 5:00pm to 7:00pm, Wednesday, May 20, at Max Slayton Funerals and Cremations.

# Cemetery Details

## Oakland Memorial Park

1000 W. Moore Avenue  
Terrell, TX 75160

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 20. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

## Graveside Service

MAY 21. 2:00 PM (CT)

Oakland Memorial Park  
1000 W. Moore Avenue  
Terrell, TX 75160

# Tribute Wall



“ *Van Crane*

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October 08, 2023 at 07:43 PM



“ *I am very saddened by this news. Van was one of my favorite people/bandmate that I ever had the privilege of knowing. He was a true friend and an over the top bassist and vocalist. I worked with him in the late 80's and early 90's doing in road bands across the south. I was going through a rough period in my life mentally. He showed compassion like no one I had ever known. He helped me get through those years just by caring and not judging and listening to what I had to say. He was a friend and I am not sure what the outcome would, have been had he not been there for me. In 2019 I began searching for him online. We had lost contact w/ one another. We were looking for a new bass guitar player/vocalist and he was the guy we wanted. I had no luck locating him. So, today I once again decided to give it another try and see if I could find out where he was. The first thing I found was his obituary. The world is a much lesser place without Van Crane. There is a big empty spot in my heart that will never be replaced. I send my deepest condolences and love to all of the family. May he rest in peace. With love, Gary Joe Mitchell*

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**Gary Joe Mitchell** - October 29, 2021 at 10:31 AM



“ *I'm so sorry to hear the sad news of Van's death. I remember that he was such a fun person ("back in the day") who was always smiling. Just fun to be around....  
Debbie Burk Morgan*

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**Debbie Burk Morgan** - June 04, 2020 at 12:38 AM

JP

“ Joe Parnel lit a candle in memory of Van Crane



Joe Parnel - May 26, 2020 at 09:27 PM



“ Angela Hayes lit a candle in memory of Van Crane



Angela Hayes - May 24, 2020 at 11:55 AM

SC

“ RIP Van.



Sharon Rush Collins - May 22, 2020 at 10:57 PM

DT

“ Donna Tapp lit a candle in memory of Van Crane



Donna Tapp - May 21, 2020 at 11:53 AM



“ 3 files added to the album Life Tributes



Max Slayton Funerals & Cremations - May 20, 2020 at 02:33 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall

way to the State Championship in San Antonio, Texas but lost out by one group, members were, Ronnie Hunt playing lead and sometime fiddle, Van Crane playing rythum and vocal, James Lindsey " Chezzy " playing drums, Billy R Frosch playing rythum, and Mike Bardin playing bass.



Billy R Frosch - May 20, 2020 at 10:55 AM



“ Mary Darst-Yarbrough purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Van Crane.



Mary Darst-Yarbrough - May 20, 2020 at 10:22 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Billy R Frosch - May 20, 2020 at 09:28 AM

BF

*Playing at the City Park in Terrell I believe it was 1969 or 1970, Van Crane, Ricky Boon, Billy Frosch & Ronnie Hunt*

**Billy R Frosch** - May 20, 2020 at 09:34 AM

BF

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Billy R Frosch** - May 20, 2020 at 09:27 AM

BF

*This is when we first got together and started our Country & Western Band*

**Billy R Frosch** - May 20, 2020 at 09:36 AM



“ 24 files added to the album Life Tributes



**Max Slayton Funerals & Cremations** - May 19, 2020 at 05:40 PM

MD

“ To Trecia, Gita and all of Van's family...thinking of you as you celebrate his life. Van was always kind and friendly and such a talented musician. I know his sweet spirit will continue to live on through all of you.

*Martha Darst*

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**Martha Darst** - May 19, 2020 at 04:56 PM

KB

“ Kimberly Brown lit a candle in memory of Van Crane



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**Kimberly Brown** - May 19, 2020 at 01:47 PM

SC

“ I was a classmate of Van's. We didn't see each other often but he always seemed glad to run into each. Rest In Peace.

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**Sarah Curry Coffman** - May 19, 2020 at 01:14 PM

SC

“ Sarah Curry Coffmsn lit a candle in memory of Van Crane



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**Sarah Curry Coffmsn** - May 19, 2020 at 01:11 PM

PS

“ Tricia and Gita, I'm so very sorry to hear about Van. He was a classmate of mine and a great friend. We skated together for many years and then off to the Silver Spur and dance halls to hear him sing. He had a great heart and a Big voice. He will be missed greatly. Thoughts and prayers for your family. Love always, Ronald and Pam



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**Pam Sitzes** - May 19, 2020 at 08:56 AM

SB

“ Sharon Boyd lit a candle in memory of Van Crane



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**Sharon boyd** - May 19, 2020 at 08:13 AM

SB

“ Sharon Boyd lit a candle in memory of Van Crane



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**Sharon boyd** - May 19, 2020 at 08:12 AM

SM

“ Van and I over the years had a lot fun together. He would volunteer to do anything for you. He had a big heart and he will be missed. God bless you Van and your family.

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**Steve McCown** - May 19, 2020 at 08:12 AM

SB

“ I met Can Crane several years at Nona beautiful home in Birdsong division. My dad was a very good friend of Vans dad. He was such a delightful guy and nice person to be around. Her had great talent. Was a great singer. I even heard a day in his time he opened for the great Ray Price. How awesome and great to be asked to do that. I know how much he loved his dear friend Nona. RIP sweet friend

Sharon boyd - May 19, 2020 at 08:11 AM



“ Van was a wonderful friend, so very polite and one of the most talented musicians ever. He had a huge heart and was a good friend to so many. Blessings to the family and all his wonderful friends.

Don Burnes - May 18, 2020 at 10:48 PM

SB

“ I used to spend a lot of time and spend the night at the Crane house when I was a young teenager. Van and I would spend hours feeding the hundreds of greyhounds they boarded. He would also use me as a roping target. Had some good times with Van even though he was a few years older than me. Kinda like an older brother I never had. Rest in peace Van.

Scott Boyd - May 18, 2020 at 08:20 PM

DL

Fond memories of hearing him sing at the Silver Spur in West Tawakoni, Texas..RIP Van

Debbie Lewis - May 18, 2020 at 10:52 PM

JH

*I'm sorry to hear about Van's passing. We were high school classmates and skating rink buddies, I remember he always sang "Hey Jude" to me when we couple skated. He was a very sweet person. Rest In Peace Van.*

**Judy Hulon Hayes** - May 19, 2020 at 11:07 AM

DW

*So sorry for this sad loss! Haven't seen Can in years but I remember him from slepoverxs with his sister Trisha! Loved the entire family! Much love and prayers to the family! Darla Whitley*

**Darla Boyd Whitley** - May 19, 2020 at 04:58 PM

AA

*Sorry to hear about Van. Praying for family!! 🙏🙏*

**Audrey Moss Appleton** - May 20, 2020 at 06:55 PM

TM

*Sorry to hear the news of Van passing! I always loved hearing him sing and he would always play something i requested. Later in life If we ran into each other at Venues he would make a request for me to sing one of his favorites! Prayers for your Family!*

**Tim Minter** - May 21, 2020 at 10:40 AM