



## George Wendell Cathey

December 1, 1938 - October 15, 2013

### OBITUARY

George Wendell Cathey died October 15, 2013. He was born December 1, 1938 in Durant, Oklahoma. His parents were Neal N. Cathey and Vashti Barnes Cathey. His early years were spent in Durant and after the death of his father, when he was 9 years old, he moved with his mother and brother to Oklahoma City. He graduated from Classen High School in 1957 where he played football and ran track. He married Juliet Capps in Tallahassee, Florida in 1964. Survivors include; wife, Juliet Cathey, daughter, Rachel Boone and husband Billy, son David Cathey and wife Amy, granddaughter Shasta Rencher and husband Ricky, grandson Barrett Boone, and dearest friend and companion Connie Hestily, brother, David N. Cathey, sisters-in-law Patricia Savage and husband Larry, Brenda King and husband John, brothers-in-law Johnny Capps and wife Karen, Roger Capps and wife Tami and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, Neal N. Cathey and Vashti Barnes Harper.

He attended Kemper Military School and Junior College where he earned letters in football and track. He received his undergraduate degree and juris doctor degree from the University of Oklahoma and was admitted to practice law in Oklahoma in 1967 and before the Supreme Court of the United States in 1976. Memberships and services include Oklahoma Bar Association,

American Bar Association, Oklahoma Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, Advisory Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Trial Lawyers Association, Fellow of the Oklahoma Bar Foundation, Phi Lambda Epsilon, Kappa Alpha Order, 32nd degree Mason, Little Dixie Shrine Club, NRA, and First Baptist Church, Durant, Oklahoma.

He was appointed to serve by the Supreme Court of Oklahoma as a Judge of the Court of Appeals Temporary Division 172 in 1982. He taught business law at Southeastern Oklahoma State University and actively practiced law as a trial lawyer for more than 46 years. During his practice of the law he represented people in civil and criminal cases. He represented many people charged as defendants who were indigent. He represented people from all walks of life, including 5 death penalty cases, none ever receiving the death penalty. During the years of his practice he represented several water districts, appeals before the Supreme Court of the United States, Supreme Court of Oklahoma, Court of Appeals State of Oklahoma, appearing before the Corporation Commission and other state boards.

When his children were young he was active in little league as a coach and commissioner of local football and basketball leagues, coaching his daughter in basketball and son in basketball, football, and baseball. He took his daughter and son hunting, camping, snow skiing, sailing Lake Texoma, floating the Mountain Fork and Rio Grande Rivers. At one time when he lived in the country he raised cattle and rode a horse every day.

He liked horse racing and started going to the horse races in Hot Springs, Arkansas in 1954 and continued for more than 50 years. He saw Legends like Lil E. Tee ridden by Pat Day and he saw Smarty Jones race. He also went to the races at Saratoga Springs, N.Y. for the Jim Dandy and attended the Kentucky Oaks and Kentucky Derby.

He walked Augusta National twice and he saw the OU Sooners win the

National Championship in Miami in 2001. Through the years he saw many big O.U. football games, including a win over Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Alabama and FSU in Tallahassee, Florida.

He was a scuba diver, learned to fly when he was 59 years old, played golf at the Old Course and at Carnoustie in Scotland.

He enjoyed life to the fullest and he had a great life. Memorials may be made to the First Baptist Church, Durant, Oklahoma or a charity of your choice.

Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, October 19, 2013 at the First Baptist Church in Durant at 2:00 PM with Rev. James Robinson to officiate the service. Family Hour will be held on Friday, October 18, 2013 from 5-7:00 PM at Brown's Funeral Service. Arrangements are under the direction of Brown's Funeral Service in Durant, OK. Condolences can be sent to [www.brownsfuneralservice.com](http://www.brownsfuneralservice.com).

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# Tribute Wall



“ *George Wendell Cathey*

January 08, 2023 at 11:32 PM



“ *Revecca LeChel Welborn lit a candle in memory of George Wendell Cathey*



**Revecca LeChel Welborn** - August 15, 2021 at 03:34 AM



“ *We are so sorry for your loss.*

**Jerry and Gaynell Jackson** - October 21, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ *I am sorry for the loss to your family and for the struggle Wendell went through. I had known Wendell since we were fraternity brothers in high school. He asked me to join a friday lunch group several years ago and was able to see him quite often. Another old friend from high school, Bob Tway, asked that I pay his respects for Wendell. Bob Lives in San Antonio, TX. With respect, John Coates (Phi Lambda Epsilon)*

**John Coates** - October 19, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ *Prayers be with you at this time. Wendell was a great and well loved man. So sorry for your loss.*

**Michelle Wilhite** - October 19, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ *with Deepest Sympathy*

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**Mrs. B. J. Moore** - October 18, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DE

“ *Wendell lived life to the fullest and was an example of professionalism and courtesy to all who knew him. I will miss him as I am sure many will. To the family, I extend my deepest sympathy on your loss.*

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**Dan England** - October 18, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LE

“ *Spending a lot of time at the Cathey's as a child (David was my childhood buddy)Wendell was almost like my 2nd "Dad". I'll never forget those times out at the old house in the country, the ski trips, OU games, and "sports talks".*

*He was a great Father and great man who had a wonderfully way with people.*

*He will truly be missed.*

*Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.*

*-Leroy and Cami*

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**Leroy Engles** - October 18, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RT

“ Since we cannot join the family in person, our memories/condolences will have to be expressed in writing. So pleased to hear that Wendell got to have so many of his "bucket list" checked off. One of my fondest memories was when he would visit our farm (age 6 or so) and want to ride a horse. The desire to become bow-legged like a cowboy was the goal. So we'll say "so long Cowboy 'til we meet at the great round-up"  
Farl and Dick Tubb

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**richard and farl (cathey) tubb** - October 18, 2013 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ So sorry to hear of Wendell's passing. I always enjoyed visiting with him when I was in town, and bumping into him at the OU/Texas game. What a great guy.

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**David M. Kennedy** - October 18, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AD

“ Dear Family, my sympathy for your loss. Wendell was a great man and friend. He influenced many of us young men through his involvement in our community. He had a great influence on my life and we will miss him immensely.

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**Anthony DeVore** - October 18, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ I will always picture him standing by the fence watching Durant play football but I will remember him as a great father and natural leader who led by example. He lived a great life and left a legacy. RIP Wendell, your family is in my thoughts and prayers.

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**Jason Brady** - October 18, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ George Wendell Cathey

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**Brenda Mcclour and Family** - October 17, 2013 at 12:00 AM

PW

“ Dear Juliet, Rachel, David and families:  
Byron gained his friend back this week...But, I miss both of them!!  
Wendell was such an awesome friend to Byron and he went on the  
last Hot Springs race trip Byron was able to make. I love you all and  
you will be in my thoughts and prayers.

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**Patty Wilhite** - October 17, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AW

“ Words can't express our sorrow for your loss. Wendell was a dear  
friend to both of us, & will be truly missed. Please let us know if  
there is anything we can do.

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**Angela & David Welborn** - October 17, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ Rachel & Family, So sorry to hear that Wendell passed away. He  
was always very nice to me over the years and he will be missed by  
many. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this  
time.

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**Mary Gail Reed** - October 17, 2013 at 12:00 AM