



## Mr. Larry Don Goolsby

July 23, 1943 - January 3, 2026

Larry Don Goolsby, 82, passed away on Saturday, January 3, 2026, in Denton, Texas. Born on July 23, 1943, in Portales, New Mexico, he was the son of Andrew Dewey and Edna Mae Horton Goolsby.

Larry grew up in New Mexico graduating from Floyd High School and was honored with the prestigious award of State Farmer in FFA, the highest award in the state at the time. With receiving this award, he got to be governor for the day and signed a bill. He later attended and received a degree in finance from Eastern New Mexico University.

Larry started farming at the age of four and more than anything was a farmer and had a gift for understanding dirt, the lay of the land and drainage. He was the largest alfalfa grower in New Mexico.

He was also a pilot and loved his Beechcraft Bonanza. Most importantly, Larry loved Jesus and brought hundreds of people to Christ including his wife and acted as deacon in the Baptist Church.

In 1999, he moved to Texas and in 2000, Larry met his wife of over twenty-four years Leslie Fay Laird, and they married April 20, 2001 in Carrollton, Texas. He was a loving father to his daughter, April.

At one time prior to retirement, Larry built the largest septic installation company in Collin County, Texas.

As one of the kindest people you will ever meet, Larry loved and cared for all animals, especially countless dogs which included his best friend Lefty that left him years ago and his gorgeous, Gypsy Vanner Henry. He and Henry also won the Pinto World Champion Carriage Driving.

The family will receive friends during a visitation time, Monday, January 5, 2026 from 6:30 -7:30PM at the Slay Memorial Funeral Center in Aubrey, Texas. A funeral service honoring his life will take place the following day at the Slay Chapel, Tuesday, January 6, 2026 at 11:00AM with Duane Edwards officiating. Serving as honorary pallbearers; Howard Smith, Justin "Gunny" Matheson, Robin Collinsworth, Matt Walls, Jeffery Beadles and Paul Wehba.

He is survived by his wife, Leslie; his son, Landall Goolsby of Portales, New Mexico; two daughters, Lexi and her husband Kevin Meyers of Clovis, New Mexico, and April and her husband Athen Fish of Tioga, Texas; two grandchildren Kyla Jones and Lance Meyers with Baby Girl Fish on the way; and a nephew, Tommy Goff of Prosper, Texas.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his daughter Vickie Lynn Goolsby; two sisters, Wanda Goff of Hobbs, New Mexico, and Joy Leatherwood of Portales, New Mexico; and two brothers-in-law, Cloyd Goff and Lee Leatherwood.

On-line condolences may be shared at [www.slaymemorialfuneralhome.com](http://www.slaymemorialfuneralhome.com)

Services are under the direction of Terri Slay and Slay Memorial Funeral Center, Aubrey, Texas.



# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 5. 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM (CT)

Slay Memorial Chapel of Aubrey  
400 South Highway 377  
Aubrey, TX 76227  
info@slaymemorial.com  
<http://www.slaymemorialfuneralhome.com>

## Funeral Service

JAN 6. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Slay Memorial Chapel of Aubrey  
400 South Highway 377  
Aubrey, TX 76227  
info@slaymemorial.com  
<http://www.slaymemorialfuneralhome.com>

## Interment

JAN 8. 2:30 PM (MT)

Fort Sumner Cemetery  
3501 Billy The Kid Drive  
Fort Sumner, NM 88119

# Tribute Wall

CD

“ *What a wonderful & kind christian person - we can see him now friendly, smiling & happy - so fortunate to have known him as a friend- our deepest condolences Mike & Cheryl Doolin*

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**Cheryl Doolin** - January 08 at 09:15 AM

AC

“ *My condolences to Larry's family. I always enjoyed it when he would come to the office to visit. Always smiling and compassionate. I remember when he came in and sang to Leslie in front of the office staff. Aaron enjoyed visited with him and listening to his stories. No matter what, he always had a smile on his face. Heaven got a great angel.*

*Aaron and Amy Jo*

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**Amy Jo Clark** - January 06 at 09:53 AM

BA

“ Larry was a man of so many kind traits. He enjoyed helping people and looking for solutions and wanting to see his friends and strangers happy. Howard & I were blessed to be part of an Adult Sunday School class at Chambersville with him. We would all have coffee, visit, and Joe Covington, the teacher would ask Larry for his joke. We would all laugh and then he would tell one more joke. The class would have many discussions which he would share his thoughts. He led the singing, helped with Vacation Bible School and in all areas if he could. We enjoyed many celebrations of Birthdays, horse shows, stories of animals he rescued. One of many times would be watching April dance, celebrating her 16th Birthday, and several horse shows. Larry would often say go do it or go try it. He loved life. The Parkinson's is a terrible disease but he fought it as long as he could and now he has received his promise of internal life. Larry would say it is all going to be all right. We will miss him the way he was before the disease but his smile and love he shared with actions, I have no doubt April has been taught many jokes and his humor will carry forward.

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**Becky Airhart-Smith** - January 05 at 04:36 PM

MW

“ Every time we saw Larry he had a smile on his face that made you feel so welcome and happy to be around him. He helped so many people. He will truly be missed.

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**Matt & Susan Walls** - January 05 at 11:22 AM

DR

“ Larry was a man of quiet strength. I enjoyed his clever sense of humor. His spirituality was deep and his generosity was immense. We are all better people for knowing him.

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**Debbie Ryan** - January 05 at 10:41 AM

LB

“ Leslie and April, my heart is broken for you. We have so many wonderful memories of time spent with Larry. NYC and New Mexico trips are some of my favorites. Please know you are in mine and Tony's prayers. Lisa and Tony



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**Lisa Blake** - January 05 at 07:44 AM