



Mr. Walter Donald Hamm

July 15, 1943 - May 31, 2024

Walter Donald Hamm, 80, of Celina, TX, passed away Friday May 31, 2024. He was born on July 15, 1943, to Walter Franklin Hamm and Cora Etta Brown, in McKinney, Texas on their dairy farm near Bloomdale, TX.

Donald helped work the farm and with his dad's mowing business among other things, and he enjoyed being a wide receiver in football and his time in the FFA at Prosper High School. He graduated in 1961 and attended North Texas State University (Now UNT) in Denton, Texas. He later got his banking Masters' Degree at the Southern Methodist University School of Banking in Dallas.

Donald married Janie Lou Cozart in 1963, shortly after her high school graduation. They moved to Celina, Texas. They spent many weekends teaching kids to water ski on Lake Texoma, riding motorcycle trials competitions, and he became very active in the community. In 1973, Donald and Janie became parents to Gina Marie, and new adventures began. He was a great dad, teaching her many things from motorcycling to dancing. But mostly, he instilled his git-er-done attitude and a zest for life. The family expanded again when Gina married Raymond Overstreet in 2008, and they had Ryan Overstreet in 2011. Donald was so proud of his grandson, and what an intelligent, caring, witty person Ryan is. When Ryan walked in, "Chacha" lit up even on his worst days. He said Ryan made everything better.

Donald worked at Willard Grain, and at one time he owned a service station on Pecan Street. He even had a few years in the 1980's as a Real Estate Agent. But he spent most of his professional life as a local banker at the First State Bank in Celina, which became Independent Bank. And finally opening Texas Star Bank in Celina as President. Janie went with him, and they retired from there. Donald enjoyed helping people achieve what they needed in good times and bad. If you were in his office, he genuinely cared about you.

He spent countless hours supporting Celina Students and Athletics, and he was an enthusiastic leader in the Celina Quarterback Club. Donald announced football games for many years until 1991 at Bobcat Stadium, he and continued with playoff radio broadcasts and The Bobcat Relays, and even the Homecoming Parade, culminating in almost 50 years of announcing. He even served a term on the Celina School Board. Donald and Janie followed the Bobcats all over the state to football games, basketball tournaments and track meets.

Donald believed in Celina and building business and community. He helped the Greater Celina Chamber of Commerce get its charter and held every office at some point. He helped start Celina Fun Day, the Celina Balloon Festival, the fireworks at Old Celina Park, Christmas on the Square, Trick or Treat on the Square, and delivered meals to families during the holidays. His deep voice and love for music spilled over to every event and brought people joy for years. And he loved being in the middle of all of it.

Donald also spent many years as a volunteer fireman, and he served as Fire Chief for a while. He put out fires in banking suits, melted dress shoes, and carried many friends in the ambulance.

Donald and Janie loved to travel and were blessed with 60 years of

adventure. National Parks were a favorite, from coast to coast on motorcycles, and even into Canada. He always said his favorite place on earth was the Rocky Mountain National Park. He rode his mountain bike to the top with Janie and Gina as his support vehicle. It took a little longer with Coca-Cola and smoke breaks, but he got-er-done. Janie lovingly encouraged and cared for him from their teens, until he left this earth.

Donald was blessed with a host of long-time friends & cousins that were loyal and made life sweeter. From ski trips, dove hunting, dancing and many motorcycle trips, Donald loved to be surrounded by friends and family. And if you were on any of those, you likely have a story or two.

Donald is survived by his wife Janie Hamm; daughter Gina Overstreet and husband Raymond; grandson Ryan Marshal Overstreet; Donald's siblings; Barbara Luan Sleeper and husband Clarence, Jimmy Kirk Hamm and wife Shirley; brother-in-law Dennis Gray; and thirteen nieces and nephews who he dearly loved.

He is preceded in death by his parents, and his sister Shirley Judith Gray.

A Celebration of Life will be held 2:00PM-4:00PM, Saturday, July 27, 2024 at Celina High School in the Bobcat Stadium Hospitality Suite in Celina, TX.

Online condolences may be shared at www.slaymemorialfuneralhome.com.

Arrangements are under the direction of Terri Slay and Slay Memorial Funeral Center.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUL 27. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Celina High School, Bobcat Stadium Hospitality Suite
3455 N. Preston Road
Celina, TX 75009

Tribute Wall

DD

“ I was sorry to learn that we have lost Donald. We attended school together for twelve years in Prosper and shared many adventures. He was truly one of the good guys in all of his endeavors. Donald will be missed by all who knew him.

Doyle Dean

Doyle Dean - June 22, 2024 at 08:05 PM

JH

Thank you Doyle

Janie Hamm - June 27, 2024 at 11:01 AM

RM

“ He was a great man whom I met more than 20 years ago. The first day that I met him was when my younger brother and I went to Celina Day. His daughter, Gina, invited him and I tagged along. I was wearing my Ray-Ban sunglasses and he blurted out, “The day that the mafia came to Celina.” I laughed and responded, “Fuhgedaboutit. Youse da only wise guy I see.” It was a great memory. Now, I’m a made man, in the comedy world, anyway. I call it my “Cosa Rostra.”

Rich Martinez - June 15, 2024 at 11:59 AM

RM

My condolences to Janie and Gina. Both of you and your loved ones are in our prayers. May God comfort, strengthen and guide you through this time of loss.

Rich Martinez - June 15, 2024 at 12:41 PM

JH

Thanks Richard, hugs...

Janie Hamm - June 16, 2024 at 11:19 PM

GO

I remember that Richard. Thank you friend!

Gina Overstreet - June 20, 2024 at 10:53 PM

RS

“ Donald was one of those friends who would drop anything to help you out. He was a great father, husband, and friend. It was an honor to have know him and I enjoyed the many conversations I've had with him over the years! He will be missed. Prayers to Janie and the family. ❤️

Robert Shuster - June 15, 2024 at 09:15 AM

JH

Thanks Bob, hugs.

Janie Hamm - June 16, 2024 at 11:13 PM

GO

Thank you ❤️

Gina Overstreet - June 20, 2024 at 10:54 PM

GB

“ Donald and I started the first grade in Prosper together in 1949. We graduated Prosper High School together in 1961 and found an apartment together in Denton to attend North Texas State College. There are so many memories during those years. They include Donald turning his Dad’s pickup on its side with 4 of us in the cab. We turned it back on its wheels and continued with what we were doing and I do not believe his Dad ever knew. Donald dated my wife Nancy and I dated Janie and somewhere along the way we changed partners. I married Nancy on 29 June 1962 and Donald married Janie on 28 June 1963. I could go on forever. Donald was my best friend even though we lived very different lives and were often half a world apart. We maintained contact and very often talked on the phone. I loved him like a brother. I will see and join you on the “other side”.

Gary Bell

Gary Bell - June 15, 2024 at 08:18 AM

JH

He loved you too Gary. Hugs

Janie Hamm - June 16, 2024 at 11:21 PM

GO

I love your stories, Mr. Bell. Friends like you are cherished.

Gina Overstreet - June 20, 2024 at 10:57 PM

DE

“ Oh how I loved Donald and Janie. I love that Donald never forgot his Prosper roots but boy did Celina get lucky that he fell in love with a sweet girl from Celina. Celina was lucky to have both of them. Donald was funny and such a good man. Prayers for you Janie and Gina and Raymond and that special grandson Ryan. Love you sweet Janie.

Donna Elliott - June 14, 2024 at 11:10 PM

JH

Love you too Donna, Hugs

Janie Hamm - June 16, 2024 at 11:17 PM

BS

“ So many memories with Donald and Janie. All the home coming parades and days at the lake watching you two drive around on the golf cart and stopping for a chat and hugs. I loved all of our visits.

becky stalcup - June 14, 2024 at 10:14 PM

JH

Me too Becky, hugs

Janie Hamm - June 16, 2024 at 11:18 PM

GO

Thank you Becky!

Gina Overstreet - June 20, 2024 at 10:58 PM

LH

“ Janie and family, sympathy and hugs sent your way. He was the best. We need more men like Donald Hamm.

Lynda Humbarger - June 14, 2024 at 10:12 PM

JH

He was a special man. He loved all you Prospertoots. Hugs

Janie Hamm - June 16, 2024 at 11:23 PM

BM

“ *Janie & Gina, my condolences out to you. So sorry to hear of the loss of Donald. He was one of the good ones! Seems like he always had a smile on his face. Another pillar of "old" Celina gone. RIP Donald.*

Brian Martin - June 12, 2024 at 08:11 PM

JH

Thanks Brian, hugs

Janie Hamm - June 16, 2024 at 11:26 PM