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Aplastic anemia is a rare but serious condition characterized by the body's underproduction of new red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets. Bone marrow is a substance contained in bones that is responsible for continuously producing new stem cells, which are essential for producing new blood cells to be released into the bloodstream. Because blood cells only live for a limited period of time, it is essential that the bone marrow continually produce new blood cells. When the bone marrow is damaged, aplastic anemia may result.

The severity of this anemia ranges from mild to severe. Severe aplastic anemia requires immediate hospitalization because it is life-threatening. When the condition is not severe, treatment options include blood transfusions and immunosuppressant medications. Treatment with immunosuppressants such as cyclosporine (Neoral, Sandimmune) and anti-thymocyte globulin (Thymoglobulin) may be appropriate. These medications suppress immune cells that cause damage to the bone marrow. Corticosteroids such as methylprednisolone (Medrol) are typically given in combination with immunosuppressants. Granulocyte colony-stimulating factor medications, such as filgrastim (Neupogen), work to stimulate bone marrow production of new blood cells.

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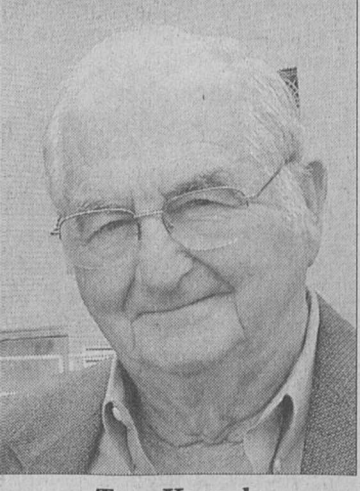
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Eagle Lake Headlight

Obituaries



Ben Farek

Ben Farek, 87, of Columbus passed away on November 27, in Cincinnati, Ohio. His life began on October 17, 1921 in Yoakum, as the son of Charles and Frances Mikulik Farek. Ben graduated from St. Joseph High School in 1939 in a class of 22. He was united in marriage to LaVene Guthmann on June 11, 1950, in Columbus and lived in the town for over 50 years. He was an active community member. He belonged to St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus Council 2971, a 3rd and 4th Degree Knight, and a member of the VFW Post 6113. He had a true love of baseball and was the catcher for the Columbus Cardinal semi-professional baseball team in the 1940's. He also could frequently be seen on the golf course. Ben served his country in the US Army during WW II. He was a member of the 929th Artillery of the 104th Timberwolf Division. He was cited for heroic action in battle. He was awarded a bronze medal and given a presidential citation for conspicuous bravery on the field of action. He retired from Shell Oil Company in Sheridan, Texas after 37 years. Ben was preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Frances Farek; brother, Julius Farek; sister, Betty Peavy; daughter, Phyllis Ann Farek; and wife, LaVene Farek. He is survived by two daughters, Judy Quick and husband, Jonathan, of Huntington Beach, California, and Kathryn Gabel and husband, Frank, of Mason, Ohio; two granddaughters, Elyse and Natalie Gabel; sister, Mary Ann Murray of Fort Worth; and older brother, George Farek of Yoakum. Funeral services were held on Friday, December 5, at St. Anthony Catholic Church in Columbus with Father Dan Kahlich and Deacon Bennie Holesovsky officiating and under the direction of Henneke Funeral Home of Columbus. Interment followed at St. Anthony Catholic Cemetery in Columbus. Pallbearers were Manuel Schneider, Michael Farek, Gary Guthmann, Daryl Orsak, Stanley Lesikar, Roland Gassmann, Edward Korenek, Mark Barten and Joe Reck. Jimmy Mikulenta and Vic Hyek served as honorary pallbearers. Memorials in his memory may be given to St. Anthony Catholic Church, PO Box 669, Columbus, Texas 78934. Sympathy is extended to the family in their loss.

Troy Krenek

Garwood Teacher and Community Leader

Troy Krenek, 83, of Garwood, passed away unexpectedly Sunday, November 30. He grew up in the Lone Pine community, three miles north of Lovelady. He was a 1948 graduate of Sam Houston State Teachers College with a degree in Agriculture Education and in 1963 he graduated from the University of Houston with a Masters in Agriculture Economics. Troy and his wife, Betty Humphrey Krenek, moved to Garwood in 1948 where Troy enjoyed a successful 30 year career as Vocational Agriculture Teacher at Garwood High School and later Rice Consolidated. Troy was a devoted family man and was always proudly showing the latest photos. He was active in the Garwood Lions Club serving a term as President and spending many years on the Board of Directors. He also served with the Garwood Volunteer Fire Department. He retired from teaching in 1983 after proudly teaching three generations of Garwood students. His retirement was spent in ranch consulting and continued community involvement. Troy was adamant in teaching youth about agriculture and giving them leadership skills. In 1956, this led to his involvement with the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. As a Lifetime Director, he was active with the show's International Committee, where he made many friends and was honored with Diplomat status. He was also lifelong member of the show's Junior Commercial Steer Show Committee where his students won twenty-three major awards including seven new trucks for first place finishes. Troy was an avid outdoorsman with a great love for hunting. His outdoor passion was guiding and teaching his children, grandchildren, and friends as they hunted the Garwood prairie. He was preceded in death by his parents, Adolph and Lottie Krenek of Lovelady; his loving wife, Betty; and his brother, Bill Krenek of Bay City. Survivors include daughters, Joyce Gouldie and husband, Robert, of Houston, Pam Talamantez and husband, David, of Brenham; sons, Jerry Krenek and wife, Debbie, of Friendswood, and William Troy Krenek and wife, Mardi, of Tomball; Special friend Dora Briscoe of Columbus; grandchildren Jennifer Gouldie of Fort Worth, Jeff Gouldie and wife, Jolene, of Fort Worth, Bradley Krenek of Friendswood, Ashley West and husband, Billy, of Friendswood, Makenzie Krenek of Tomball, Justin Brisco and wife, Ellen, of the Woodlands, Rebecca Martin of Brenham, Rhonda McClennahan and husband, Kevin, of Fayetteville, NC and Russell Krenek of Conroe; Great-grandchildren Elyssa Martin of Brenham and Elizabeth and Martha Briscoe of the Woodlands.

Services were held at Henneke Funeral Home in Columbus on Friday, December 5 at 2 pm. Graveside services followed at Lehr Memorial Cemetery in Garwood. Rev. Rick Dubroc, Senior Pastor First Baptist Church El Campo and Troy's pastor of 20 years, delivered a wonderful message capturing the essence of who Troy was and what he meant to everyone. Serving as pallbearers were Bradley Krenek, Justin Brisco, Bubba Woolard, Billy West, Stephen Chavonec and Jeff Gouldie. Honorary pallbearers were Dr. Robert Potter, Robert Woolard, Bill R. Krenek, Mark Wied, Randy Waligura, Robert Schiurring and L.L. Stallman. After the graveside rites, family and friends were hosted by Troy's children with a family style BBQ social at the Garwood Volunteer Fire Department. Troy had a heart for God and as such lived a life of service to his family, his church, his community, and the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. He will be missed by all who knew him. Memorial contributions honoring Troy Krenek may be made to the Garwood Volunteer Fire Department or the newly formed Troy Krenek Scholarship Fund under the auspices of the Garwood Lions Club, P.O. Box 295, Garwood Texas 77442. Sympathy is extended to the family in their loss.

D Wayne Allen

D Wayne Allen, 73, of Sheridan, passed away December 1 in Sugar Land. He was born June 18, 1935 in Santa Paula, California, the son of Dewey and Faye Boles Allen. D Wayne was employed by California Youth Authority and was of Methodist faith. He played piano and taught music in church and was also a chord director. He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Donna Johnson; and numerous nieces and nephews. He is survived by a sister, Beth Sipes or Sheridan, and a brother, Rex Allen of California. A memorial service will be held Sunday, December 14 at 11 a.m. at Rock Island Methodist Church. Eagle Lake Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Sympathy is extended to the family in their loss.

Charles William Hosman

Charles William Hosman, 65, of Weimar, passed away December 3 in Houston. He was born October 17, 1943 in Eagle Lake, the son of Charles Clay and Caudie Patton Hosman. Charles was a agricultural ranch hand. He was preceded in death by his parents. Survivors include his sons, Clay Hosman and Tony Hosman of Eagle Lake; a sister, Betty Rich of Crockett; and grandchildren, Jacob, Megan and Cecily Hosman. Following cremation a memorial service will be held at a later date. Eagle Lake Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements. Sympathy is extended to the family in their loss.

DAR Gets Weaving Lesson

The John Everett Chapter DAR had a lesson in weaving 101 on the first of Dec. Members met at the home of Penny Nelson of Cat Spring, owner of SkyLoom Weavers. After the business meeting, Mrs Nelson explained how she shears her own animals, how the wool and fibers are cleaned and dyed and how she spins on four different spinning wheels. The speed of the wheel determines how thin or thick the fibers will spin. Members learned about the large walking wheels a woman may have used during the American Revolution. Penny then weaves beautiful shawls on her looms. As she demonstrated her weaving technique, she also wove stories of how she became interested in knitting and later weaving. Penny owns goats, llamas, alpacas and a few dogs and cats (she doesn't shear them!) Her web site is SkyLoom Weavers. com and her shawls are for sale as well as homemade soaps and other products. The chapter voted to accept Joye Johnson as a new member. Anyone interested in tracing their ancestry to the American Revolution is welcome to join the DAR. Contact Randa Simmons at 732-6848 or Jennie Muggli at 263-4111.

New Arrivals

Jacob Anthony Salinas

Anthony Salinas and Clarissa Saucedo are pleased to announce the birth of their child, a son, born on November 17 at 7:49 a.m. at Kingwood Medical Center in Kingwood. Jacob Anthony weighed six pounds and measured 17 inches long. He was welcomed home by sister, Kayla. Proud maternal grandparent is Lucinda Saucedo of Baytown. Proud paternal grandparents are James and Hortensia Salinas of Eagle Lake. Jacob is the great-grandson of Nicolasa (Nikki) Jaramillo of El Campo and Joe and Marcelina Salinas of Eagle Lake.

Did You Know?

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 2 million couples get married across the United States each year. Counting honeymoon and other wedding-related expenses, the wedding industry grosses more than \$1 billion annually. If 2 million weddings per year seems like a high number, consider the statistics in China, where the China News Agency reported more than 9 million weddings in 2006 alone. In Japan, the Census of Japan 2005 reported that Japanese brides spent an average of \$70,000 per wedding. With such high costs, it's no wonder a 2008 article in the Pacific Daily News claimed that 25 percent of all Japanese brides marry in Guam, where they can expect to save up to 60 percent of the costs associated with being married in Japan. Of course, for those looking for an especially affordable and quick wedding, Las Vegas still reigns supreme, playing host to more than 100,000 weddings per year.

Bible Verse of The Week

"My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call be blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name."

Luke 1:46-49

Submitted by Donna Samora

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