

Sherwood D. Armstrong

S. D. Armstrong passed away August 26, 2005 in Midland. He was born September 19, 1918 in Barstow, Texas to J. D. and Georgie Armstrong.

S. D. was raised in Barstow and graduated from Barstow High School in 1935. He went to Draughans Business School in Abilene and graduated in 1937. S. D. then joined the Air Force in 1942 and was honorably discharged in 1946. He went to work for Gulf Oil in Wickett, Texas in 1949. In 1956 he was transferred by Gulf to Monahans where he met and married Geraldine Webb on September 27, 1957. Their daughter, Shery, was born in Monahans in 1960 and their son Lance was born in Midland in 1962. When S. D. was in the Air Force he began teaching tennis lessons and after his transfer by Gulf Oil to Midland in 1960 he opened Armstrong Racquet Shop out of his home. He moved the shop to Midland College in 1985 where he continued stringing racquets five or six days a week until his death; long after his retirement from Gulf Oil in 1979. He was a member of Main Street Church of Christ from 1960 until his death.

S. D.'s hobbies were magic and tennis. He loved magic tricks and was always adding to his collection. He performed for elementary schools, birthday parties, scout meetings, banquets and weddings all around West Texas.

S. D. was a talented athlete who competed at state for Barstow High School in tennis, shot put, half mile and basketball. He was also a golden glove boxer. He began playing tennis at the age of 12 and teaching tennis at 19. He taught tennis lessons at the Midland High School courts and the Midland College courts for over fifty years and strung over 36,000 racquets for people including John McEnroe, Billie Jean King, Dennis Ralston and George W. Bush.

He is survived by his wife Geraldine of Midland; his daughter Shery Layne and husband David of Flower Mound, TX; his son, Lance Armstrong and wife Kathy of Midland; his grandchildren, Garrett Layne and Erin Layne of Flower Mound, TX, and Jackson Armstrong and Dezi Armstrong of Midland; and his cousin, N. L. Pruett of Baytown, TX.

Funeral services will be at 9:00 A.M. Tuesday, August 30, 2005 at Ellis Funeral Home Chapel. Interment will follow at Resthaven Memorial Park. Arrangements are under the direction of Ellis Funeral Home.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Midland Tennis Club, P.O. Box 50113, Midland, TX 79710.

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