

Barbara Crews

January 11, 1954 – December 12, 2023



This very, very sad news leaves us all totally devastated. Barbara was riding her horse Monday, December 11th, and she fell to the ground. No one knows exactly what happened, but it was a fatal fall. She was taken to the hospital and never regained consciousness. Barbara was so full of life, so giving, and always doing everything for everyone. All of us were totally blessed to have had her in our lives. None of us can believe she is gone. We know God has welcomed her with open arms.

Barbara Crews

January 11, 1954 — December 12, 2023

Barbara Jeffords Crews, DVM, passed away on December 12, 2023, at the age of 69. She was the beloved daughter of Alexander H. B. and Felicitas Jeffords, who preceded her in death. Barbara was a 1978 graduate of the Texas A&M School of Veterinary Medicine and spent the bulk of her professional career as a veterinarian and partner at Crossroads Animal Hospital.

She was an accomplished skier, Scuba diver, and bridge player, and was a lifelong advocate for the welfare of all animals - both wild and domestic.

Dr. Crews is survived by her husband, William E. "Billy" Crews, sister Stephanie (David) Hyink, sister-in-law Carolyn Fall, nephew Jonathan (Rachel) Hyink, and great nieces Olivia and Anni Hyink.

In lieu of flowers please make a donation to Bridge Center, Unit 159, Box 3080 El Paso, TX 79923, or your favorite charity. Services entrusted to Sunset Funeral Home-West.

1954 Barbara Crews 2023



On February 3, 2024, hundreds gathered to celebrate the life of Barbara at the Billy Crews restaurant. Dee Craig created a video of photos showing what a wonderful life Barbara led and many of the exciting places she and Billy traveled which included all seven continents. Lorraine O'Donnell wrote and read a poem which you can read by clicking this note. Rest in peace, Barbara. You have been the golden thread in the tapestry of all our lives.



A poem for Barbara Crews sent by Barbara Harrid



Emilie "Sis" Morrow Hardie December, 26 1926 – December 14, 2023 Emilie "Sis" Morrow Hardie went to be with the Lord on December 14th, 2023, twelve days shy of her 97th birthday. She was a beautiful lady completely devoted to her family, friends, and canines. Sis was born on December 26, 1926, in El Paso, Texas, to J. Walker and Emilie Gatling Morrow. She married William "Bill" B. Hardie, Sr., on January 4, 1947. She was a loving, generous mother to their children, Bill Hardie Jr. (Jane), Emilie Bolton (Mike), and Leigh Broadway (John), and a great "Mimi" to her grandchildren, Allison Knaupe (Gregg), Brooke Hardie, Bradford Hardie (Afra), Stephanie Bolton, Hardie Bolton (Hayley), Johnathan Broadway, and Christopher Broadway (Jenn). Sis was proud to have seven beautiful great-grandchildren - Ely, Ben, Adele, Bradford, Gentry, Ruby, Loretta, and Jake. Sis was a member of St. Clements Episcopal Church and the Junior League. She supported many El Paso organizations, including the Symphony Orchestra, the Museum of Art, and the Sun Bowl Association. She was an avid golf and tennis player winning many tournaments with her lifelong friends. Sis was an accomplished contract bridge player and, after Bill's death, spent many happy years playing with her many friends and longtime bridge partner and friend, Rex Glimp. She was preceded in death by her loving husband of 49 years, Bill, her parents, her sisters, Louise Smith and Virginia Ford, and her brother, Bill Morrow. Graveside Service will be held on January 3rd, 2024, at 11:00 AM at Memory Gardens of the Valley Cemetery, 4900 McNutt Rd., Santa Teresa, NM 88008. In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Sis may be made to the Humane Society of El Paso, the Williams Syndrome Association, the El Paso Bridge Center, or any charity of your choice. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.MartinFuneralHomeWest.com for the Hardie family.



Dr. Robert M. Esch

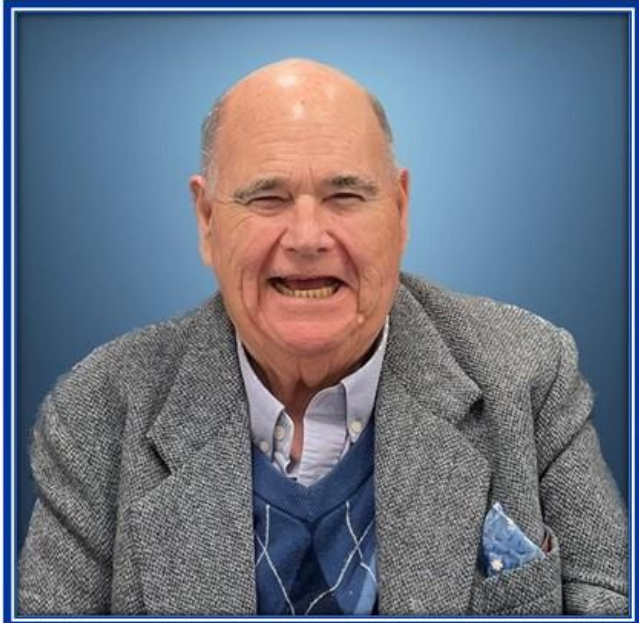
January 10, 1940 - September 10, 2023

Sadly, our faithful half-century-plus veteran of the game of bridge, Bob Esch, passed away Sunday, September 10th following a brief stay in hospice.

He served as the Unit 159 president and vice president many times over the years. He chaired sectional tournaments, was the membership chair for decades, and published and edited the Unit newsletter plus the membership directory. He was also an Emerald Life Master. Many years ago, regional tournaments had Saturday night dances with a live band. Bob was called dapper in his tux.

He was Associate Professor Emeritus at the University of Texas at El Paso and was a lector and long-time member of Queen of Peace Catholic church. His wry wit will long be remembered. His friends, partners, and team members will miss him greatly. Rest in peace, Dr. Esch!

Arrangements will be posted once made.



Robert Morley Esch, age 83, died in El Paso, Texas on September 10, 2023. Preceded in death by his parents, Frank Morley and Anne Miller Esch, he was a retired Associate Professor Emeritus of U.T. El Paso, having graded papers there for thirty-seven and a half years before retiring in December 1999, well known as a witty, sarcastic, and demanding teacher. He received his BA in English from Southern Methodist University (1961) and his M.A. and PhD (1976) from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. Twice serving as Assistant Chair of the English department and as Director of First Year Composition, he taught Romantic, Gothic, and Victorian literature, courses in Browning, Tennyson, Conrad, Oscar Wilde, as well as his passion English grammar and usage. He co-authored two books with colleagues in the department. Upon retirement, he traveled extensively and participated in UTEP's Center for Life Long Learning. In 1987, he was awarded a special distinction by the College Board for developing courses for future teachers of Advanced Placement English. From 1986 to 1988, he was part of UTEP's undergraduate consortium program in Shah Alam, Malaysia. Serving over twenty years on the board of Community Concert Association, he was a member of Delta Sigma Pi and a life member of the University of Wisconsin alumni association. Thrice past president of the American Contract Bridge League, Unit 159, he achieved the status of Emerald Life Master and contributed bridge reports to El Paso Inc. and various bridge publications in Texas. He served as Lector at Queen of Peace Catholic Church, a role he cherished and enjoyed. He has no immediate survivors beyond distant cousins, and his friends within the bridge and academic communities. Mass will be held Thursday, October 26, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at Queen of Peace Catholic Church, 1551 Belvidere St, El Paso, TX 79912. Burial will be in Houston Texas. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Robert M. Esch Fund, the University of Texas at El Paso Office of Development.

Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.MartinFuneralHomeWest.com for the Esch family.

Barbara Harrid's Memories of Bob Esch

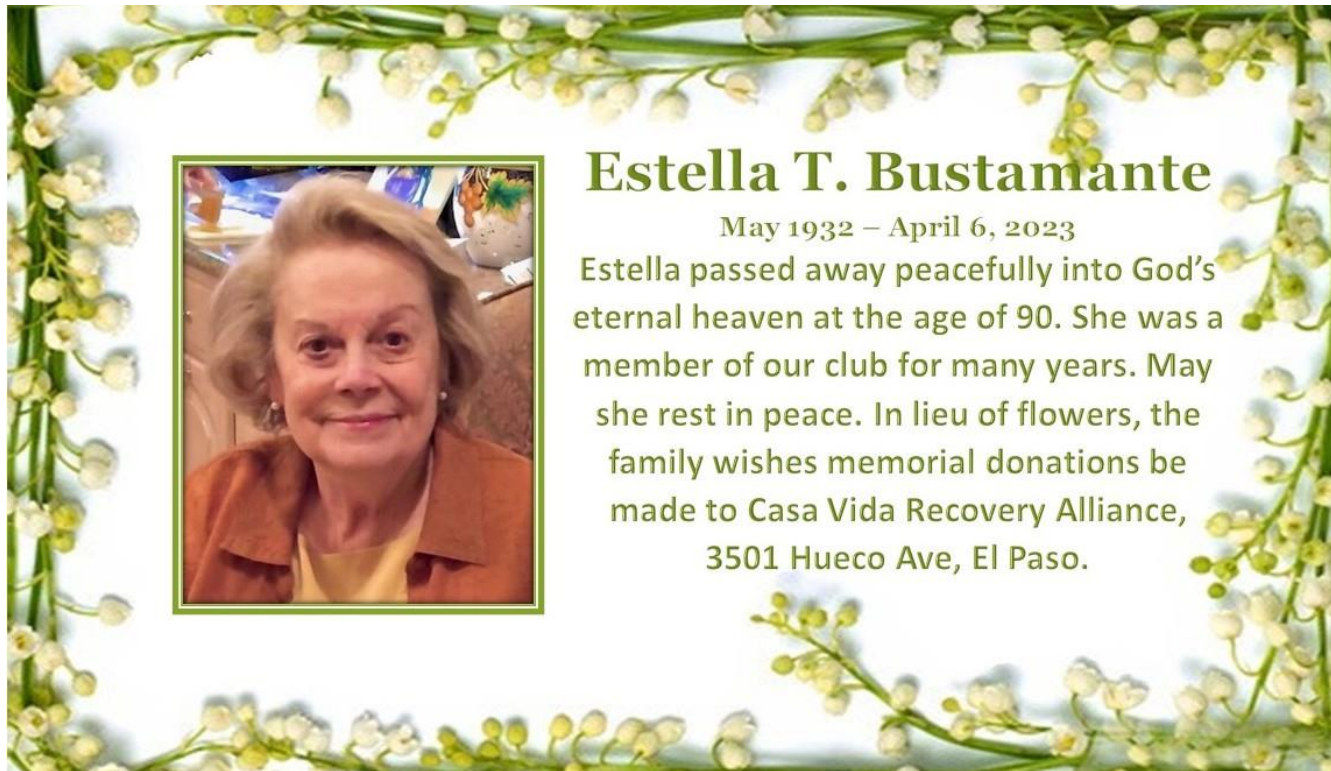
I have known Bob Esch since sometime in the early 70s. We were all friends associated around the game of bridge. We would go to house parties and to social events. Bob liked to dance. He and many others were wine connoisseurs. I was never a part of his student population (He was an English professor) although I was on the UTEP campus majoring in English/history and subsequently working for the Dean of Students That is where I met Ervin who was instrumental in introducing me to El Paso bridge. At bridge later we all traveled a lot and associated with each other at party bridge. I did not play with Bob at any tournaments where we traveled. Much later, from perhaps in the '90s up until present day, I may have played with him four or five times total. Each time we mutually agreed we would not play subsequently. I don't think he and I were part of the enmity, although it became evident that there was a major fracture that occurred somewhere and sometime in our group. I didn't get what or why when this occurred, but it was palpable. I never had any animus for Bob. This is the Bible verse that I would like associated with Bob from me. ¹⁵ *For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.* ¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.* Hebrews 4:15-16. Also 1st Corinthians 15:19 – *"If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable."* And lastly, I read a lot of the writings of the minister Mike Murdock. This is a quote from him, "Death for the believer is simply the end of pain."



Carli Metheny

Our beloved mother and wife, Carli Metheny passed away on June 17, 2023. After a series of bad falls in December she spent the last 6 months in Rehab/Memory Care at the Good Samaritan in Las Cruces. We will miss her dearly but are grateful her suffering has come to an end. Her passion in life, after her retirement from the insurance industry, was Bridge. She was just short of attaining the rank of Silver Life Master before she stopped playing. No services or memorials will be held.

Paul W. Ritters

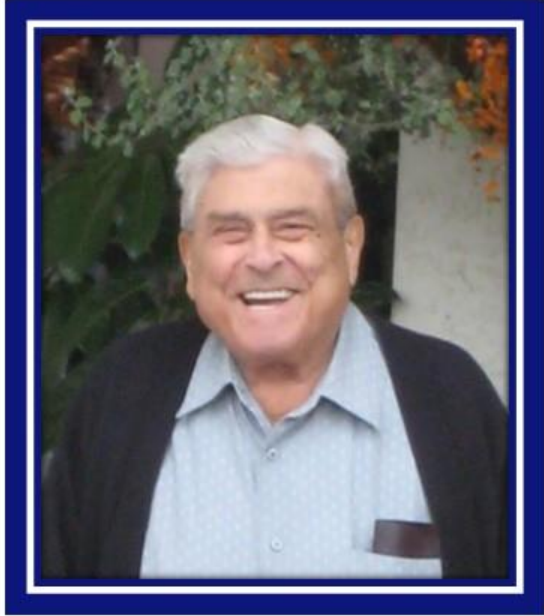


Estela T. Bustamante, a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great Grandmother, passed away peacefully into God's eternal heaven on April 6, 2023, at the age of 90. A lifelong El Pasoan, Estela married the love of her life, Robert Bustamante, whom she was devoted and married to for 64 years. Together they raised a family of four girls. Estela was a teacher in the El Paso Independent School District for over 30 years. Although she could be known as a challenging teacher that pushed her students, she was often told by former students she was "one of their very favorites". Estela is predeceased by her husband Robert and her grandson Brandon. She is survived by her four daughters, Aida Fowler (Jim), Laura Gryta, Margie Bruner (Bob), Alyce Lee (Todd), and eight grandchildren, Caitlin, Garrett, Hannah, Robert, John, Austin, Andrew, Peter, and great grandson, William. A Rosary and Mass will take place on Monday, May 22, at Queen of Peace Catholic Church at 11:00 am. Following, she will be laid to rest at Ft. Bliss National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family wishes memorial donations be made to Casa Vida Recovery Alliance, 3501 Hueco Ave, El Paso, TX 79903-4312.



Joseph P. Pepe

June 1, 1924 – March 23, 2023



Joseph Peter Pepe, a proud veteran of the United States Army, passed away peacefully with his family on Thursday, March 23, 2023, in Austin, Texas, at the age of 98. Joe was a longtime member of our bridge club. We loved seeing him when he returned to play in many of our tournaments. We miss him still. Rest in peace, Dear Joe. Interment will be at Ft. Bliss National Cemetery, El Paso, TX on March 30, 2023, at 9:00 AM.

Retired Colonel Joseph Peter Pepe, a proud veteran of the United States Army, passed away peacefully with his family on Thursday, March 23, 2023, in Austin, Texas, at the age of 98. A loving husband and father of three, Joseph was born to Peter and Fortunata (Ruocco) Pepe on June 1, 1924, in Haverhill, Massachusetts.

Joseph was a graduate of West Point, class of 1946. He honorably served his country in World War II, the Korean War, and Vietnam. His specialty was Field Artillery and Air Defense. Notable late career assignments included stints at NORAD, Stewart Air Force Base, Newburgh, NY and White Sands Missile Range, NM. He retired from the Army in 1975 and continued his career with Raytheon and Northrop Grumman Company until his retirement in 1989.

Joseph was an accomplished bridge player and earned a Silver Master ranking in the ACBL. He also loved a competitive round of spades with his family. Crossword puzzles were another favorite pastime. There wasn't a puzzle that he couldn't solve.

Joseph was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Ruth, his great grandson Crockett Mahan and his grandson Matthew Pepe. He is survived by his son Joseph Jr. and his wife Julie, son Michael and his wife Christi, daughter Theresa and her husband Gary Callaghan, sister Antoinette Borrelli, his grandchildren John Pepe, Rachel Pepe Mahan, Shannon Pepe Montoya, Joseph Lynn Pepe, Nick Pepe, Mike Pepe, and 11 great grandchildren.

A service honoring Joseph will be on March 27, 2023, at Chapel of the Hill Funeral Home, 9700 Anderson Mill Rd., Austin, TX, 78750. Viewing will be 10:00 a.m. and the service after at 11:00 a.m. Interment will be at Ft. Bliss National Cemetery, El Paso, TX on March 30, 2023, at 9:00



This is written by a friend of Jerry Hess and Melena Van Arsdall, Russ Whitney, concerning the passing of Jerry Hess. We all can take this to heart as we too have these feelings for one another.

We have lost so many players, and so suddenly, it moves me to write.

Bridge players as a group are superior individuals. Smarter than average, competitive, willing to walk into a room full of experienced players and take a beating, until they get good enough to overcome and succeed. We all have our idiosyncrasies, some more than others, but most are charming and increase the experience of playing a game by dealing with interesting people.

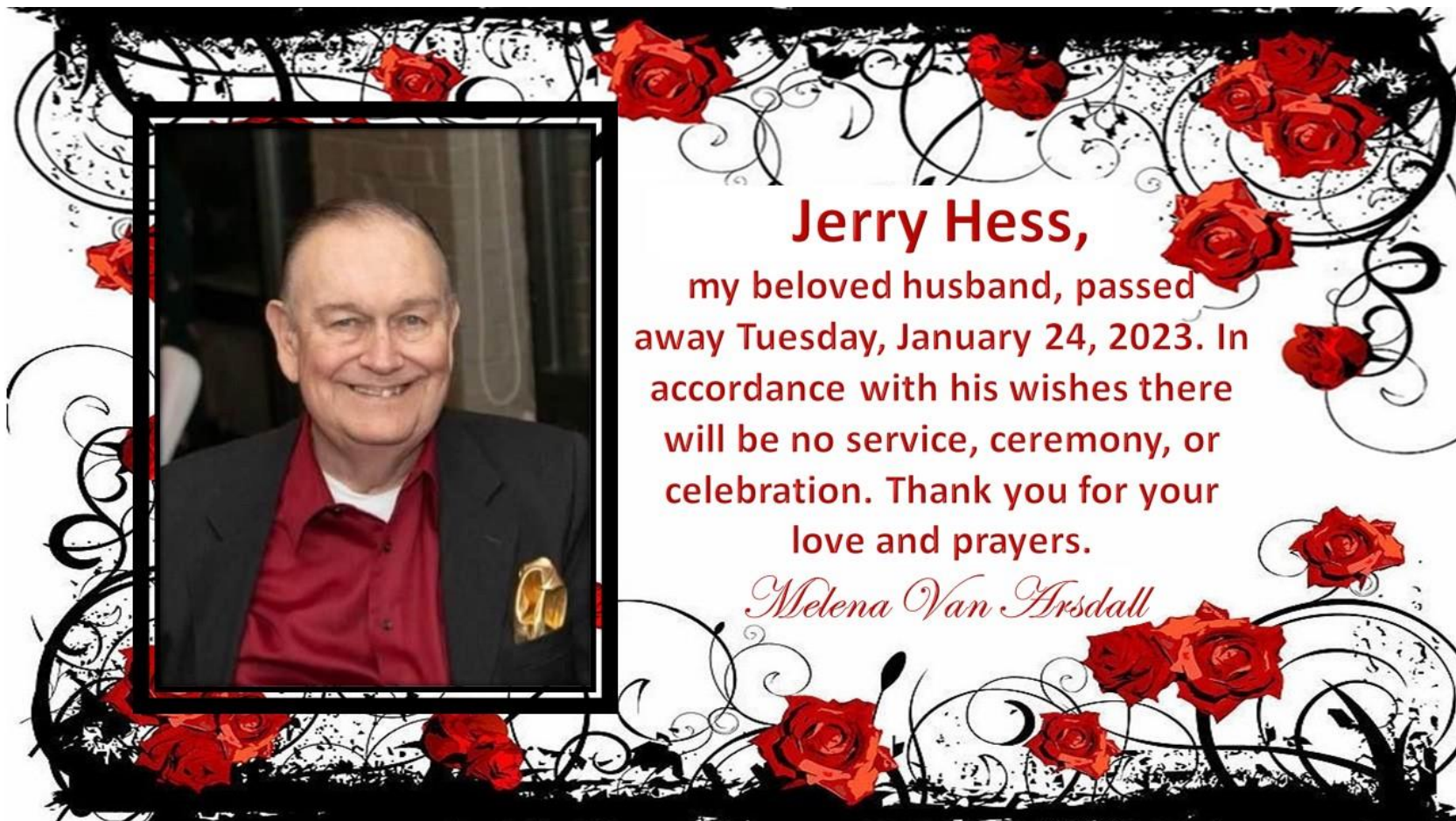
The Ancient Greeks had many words for love. Eros was sexual love. Pragma was the love gained over years of marriage, the way I feel for my wife of 37 years. Agape was the Universal Love, like the love of God. Philia was the love that was affectionate and friendly love.

I regret that we are losing so many friends and fellow bridge players, and I never told them I loved them. Jerry Hess's passing was so sudden. I had seen him hours before and now he's gone. Peggy Pace and Dan Robinette and so many others are gone. What a loss for all of us.

I regret never telling these wonderful people that I loved them. So, I'm telling all of you now. Yes, I love you, I miss you when you don't come to play, and I look forward to seeing you when you come. I regret not telling Jerry Hess, I loved him. Not a typical man to man statement, but I want everyone to know, if suddenly I'm gone, how I feel about all of you.

So, take care, rest, eat well, and see your doctor as directed.

*See you at the Bridge Club.
Russ Whitney*



Jerry Hess,

my beloved husband, passed away Tuesday, January 24, 2023. In accordance with his wishes there will be no service, ceremony, or celebration. Thank you for your love and prayers.

Melena Van Arsdall



Roy Howard Chase

December 29, 1933– January 9, 2023

An avid bridge player in decades past, sadly, at age 89, Roy passed away last week after a fall. Roy played bridge here for many, many years and has visited several times since he retired from the game. Rest in Peace, Roy.

January 15, 2023

Roy was an avid bridge player and was still playing online as recently as June 2022. He was very pleased to have finished in the top 1.6% of the 15,622 entries for that online BBO tourney. If he wasn't actively playing, he was following the results of the local bridge club's weekly games.

Although his grandmother taught him how to play bridge at a young age, he was completely self-taught and, since 1960, spent all of his spare time learning to master the game. He could remember and perfectly relate (to anyone who was interested) all the intricacies of a hand he played some 50 years ago. One of the many highlights of his "career" was when he and his wife, Peggy, won the Regional Seniors (over 50) - 168 pairs - in San Diego in 1990. He also was offered an all-expenses-paid trip to play at Bridge Week in Los Angeles, CA, which he declined.

I would say that our Dad did, indeed, master this game that he loved. And, we, his three daughters and step-daughter, loved and admired him until the day we lost him to an untimely death (January 9th, 2023). He was 89 years old.

Alexandria Lowry



Jerry Loyd Williams

September 10, 1929 to December 5, 2022

Bernice Williams' husband Jerry lived a beautiful life that came to an end. He died as he lived, everyone's friend. In our hearts a memory will always be kept of one we loved and will never forget.

There will be an interment service at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, December 27th, at Fort Bliss National Cemetery. (Masks required)