



Obituary



Richard Don Hunt 1940-2011

The Texas Ranger Hall of Fame was sad to learn of the passing of San Antonio Sculptor Don Hunt.

Don (left, holding miniature of his sculpture at the dedication) was a gifted artist who produced the hallmark outdoor sculpture of a Texas Ranger on horseback for the entrance to the museum. He was a gentleman who loved Texas and its colorful history.

The Board and Staff of the Hall of Fame and Museum offer their condolences to his family and friends.

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Richard Don Hunt, 70, of San Antonio, died Monday, Feb. 14, 2011.

Mr. Hunt was born March 20, 1940, in Gatesville, to Walcie Spence and the late Troy Lee Hunt. He grew up and attended schools in Gatesville, and after attending Southwest Texas State University, Don joined his family cattle and ranching business, Gatesville Commission Company. He married Mary Margaret Nesbitt Sept. 15, 1963, in the First Baptist Church of Gatesville.

Mr. Hunt proudly served his country in the U.S. National Guard. He was a leader at First Baptist Church of Gatesville as a deacon, R.A. Teacher and Sunday school teacher. He contributed to his community generously devoting his time as a member of the Gatesville Independent School Board, FFA sponsor and as a mentor for future artists and students of sculpture.

Inspired by his life as a rancher, Mr. Hunt left the cattle business and followed his passion and vision and began his career as a full-time bronze artist. His contributions include The Texas Ranger Monument that serves as the focal point of the Texas Ranger Museum. He was selected from hundreds of artists across the United States to memorialize and honor such legendary figures as Barbara Jordan, Tom Landry, Whizzer White, and Grant Teaff.

"My sculpture is an extension of my life, my interests and beliefs. I know the agony and the ecstasy. My roots run deep. My heart skips a beat when I hear the sounds of an auctioneer."

Don was a devoted husband and father. His legacy lives on in his art, his love for his family, his dedication and his charismatic magnetism that inspired all that met him and he also leaves a legacy as an inspired and talented bronze sculptor.

Don is survived by his wife of 47 years, Mary Margaret Nesbitt Hunt; daughters, Melanie Eddolls and husband, Tony, of Austin, and Allison Hilliard and husband, Joe, of Corpus Christi; son, Jonathan Hunt and wife, Niki, of Lumberton; grandchildren, Macy Richards, Branden, Braeden, Reece Hunt, Hunter and Savannah Hilliard; mother, Walcie Hunt of Gatesville; his brothers, Robert J. Hunt and wife, Dorothy, of Gatesville, and Ronnie Hunt and wife, Brenda, of Gatesville; sister-in-law, Nancy Tindall and husband, Steve, of Nacogdoches; and brother-in-law, Bill Nesbitt and wife, Dwana, of Waco.

