Memorial Book



In Loving Memory of

Allen S. Craig

(April 7, 1944 - February 17, 2008)



In Loving Memory of

Allen Craig
April 7, 1944 - February 17, 2008

Forever loved

Forever missed

Forever in our hearts



Allen was born in Springfield, MO. on April 7, 1944 and passed away on February 17, 2008 in Jay, OK. at the age of 63.

His body was recovered February 20, 2008 at around 8:00 am.

He is survived by his mother Roxanna; wife: Marian; son and daughter-in-law: Mark & Amy;

daughter-in-law: Linda (Terry's wife); grandson: Cody and fiancée Jessicah,

granddaughters: Ashley and Jessica; 1 great-granddaughter, Kynzee; uncle and aunt: Harvey & Goldie;

Other survivors include: step-daughters: Tina and husband Dewane; Teresa and husband Kevin; and Brenda; step-son: Bobby and wife Lynle;

Naydens children:

step-daughters: Cindy and husband Gordon;

Sandy and fiancé Alan;

step-son: Chuck;

and numerous step-grandchildren, nephews, nieces and

friends

He is preceded in death by a wife: Naydean; son: Terry;

step-son: Clint

Memorial services were Friday, February 22, 2008 at 10:00am at the Butler Baptist Church. The Grove Veteran's Ritual Team performed military rites.

I created this site as a place where family and friends can come visit, write tributes, light candles, view memories, and to just remember Allen.

Everyone who knew him is well aware of what a special and loving man he was. Love for his family was his main purpose in life. He was...and still is...an angel to all whose lives he touched.

His memory will live in our hearts forever.





Chance Colby Craig (grandson born sleeping)

~Angel Date: July 1, 1984~

Clint Storey (step-son)

~Angel Date: ~

Terry Craig (son)

~Angel Date: October 22, 2000~

Noah Will Craig (great-grandson born sleeping)

~Angel Date: April 8, 2005~

Kenneth Clevinger (Amys father)

~Angel Date: July, 17, 2006~

http://kenneth-clevinger.memory-of.com

Staff Sgt. Clint Storey (step-grandson)

~Angel Date: August 4, 2006~

In Iraq

Naydean Craig (wife)

~Angel Date: August 19, 2006~





I would like to thank the following agencies,
organizations, and businesses for their dedication and patience
in helping to locate Allen:

*Oklahoma Highway Patrol: Trooper Eric Gibe, Lts. John Starling, Lake Patrol Officer Ben Chapman

*Delaware County Sheriff's Department: Jay Blackfox

*Butler Fire Department

*Cherokee Nation Marshals

*Eucha Fire Department

*GRDA Lake Patrol

*Deerlick Wrecker

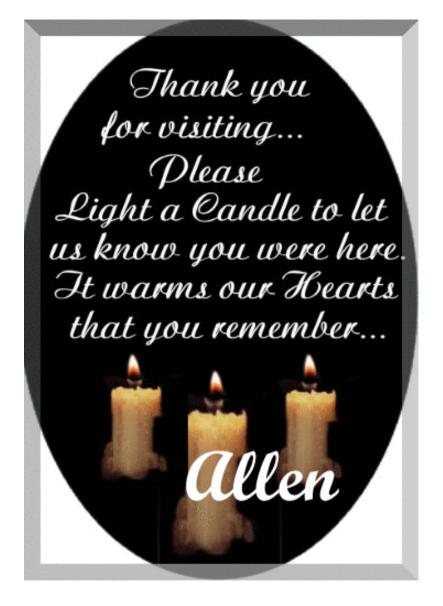
*Jay & Grove Emergency Managements

*Newton County Emergency Management's Wilderness Search & Rescue Team Divers and Human Remains Detection dogs

*The Jay McDonalds, Sonic, Pizza Hut, Spudnuts, and Okie Mart, as well as the Grove Wal-mart, Rib Crib, and Charlies Chicken for providing food and drinks for the rescuers during their search.

This also goes for anyone else that helped in the search that I have not listed.





Thank you for allowing me to share Allen and his family with you.

Whether you are passing through or you are a loved one, we would love for you to light a candle (light and write however often you would like). If Allen has touched your life in any way, write a tribute and share that memory. If you have any photos you would like to share, please contact me. Visit his "Life Story" page to read more about him.

I will continue to add to Allen's site, so visit again and as often as you please.

*** Please do not copy the graphics with Allens picture or name in them. These graphics were made especially for him and are very special to his family. If you see one you like, please email me and I'll give you the name of who made it.

This also goes for any poems that were written especially for him and any other poems that I have asked for permission to use.









Sadly missed along life's way, Quietly remembered every day. No longer in our life to share, But in our hearts he's always there.



There Is A Special Angel

There is a special Angel in Heaven that is part of me, it is not where I wanted him, but where God wanted him to be. He was here but just a moment like a night time shooting star, and though he is in Heaven he isn't very far. He touched the heart of many like only an Angel can do, so I send this special message to the Heaven up above, Please take care of my Angel and send him all my love.







HIS JOURNEY'S JUST BEGUN

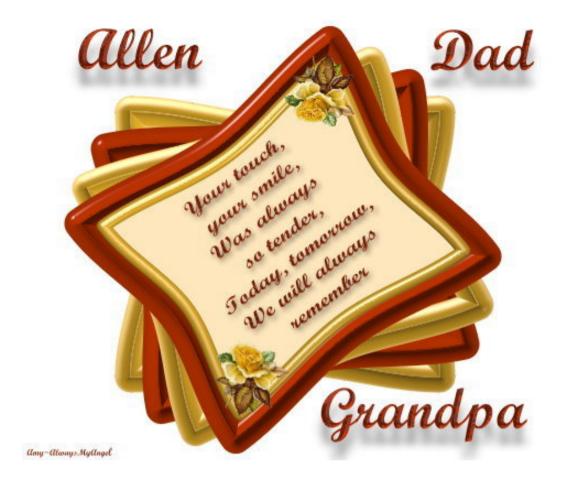
Don't think of him as gone away

his journey's just begun, life holds so many facets this earth is only one.

Just think of him as resting from the sorrows and the tears in a place of warmth and comfort where there are no days and years.

Think how he must be wishing that we could know today how nothing but our sadness can really pass away.

And think of him as living
In the hearts of those he touched
For nothing loved is ever lost And he was loved so much.
~Author Unknown





A Fallen Limb

A limb has fallen from the family tree I hear a voice that whispers "Grieve not for me."

Remember the best times, the laughter, the songs, The good I lived while I was strong. Continue my heritage, I am counting on you. Keep on smiling, the sun will shine through.

My mind is at ease, my soul is at rest Remembering all...how I was truely blessed.

Continue traditions, no matter how small. Go on with your life, don't stare at the wall.

I miss you all dearly, so keep up your chin, Until that fine day, we're together again. ~Author Unknown







A heart of gold stopped beating, two shining eyes at rest.

God broke our hearts to prove, he only takes the best.

God knew you had to leave us, but you did not go alone, for part of us went with you, the day he took you home.

To some you are forgotten,

to others just part of the past, but to us who loved and lost you, your memory will last ~Author Unknown



The mention of his name
May bring tears to our eyes,
But it never fails to bring
Music to our ears.
If you are really our friend,
Let us hear
the beautiful music of his name.
It soothes our broken hearts
and sings love to our soul.
~Author Unknown~





Father's Are Wonderful People

Fathers are wonderful people too little understood, and we do not sing their praises as often as we should...

For, somehow, father seems to be the man who pays the bills, while mother binds up little hurts and nurses all our ills...

And father struggles daily to live up to "his image" as protector and provider and "hero of the scrimmage"...

And perhaps that is the reason we sometimes get the notion, that Fathers are not subject to the thing we call emotion.

But if you look inside dad's heart, where no one else can see you'll find he's sentimental and as "soft" as he can be...

But he's so busy every day in the gruelling race of life, he leaves the sentimental stuff to his partner and his wife...

But fathers are just wonderful in a million different ways, and they merit loving compliments and accolades of praise. For the only reason dad aspires to fortune and success is to make the family proud of him and to bring them happiness...

And like Our Heavenly Father, he's a guardian and a guide, someone that we can count on to be always on our side.

~Helen Steiner Rice~





When Tomorrow Starts Without Me

When tomorrow starts without me,

and I'm not there to see,
If the sun should rise and find your eyes
all filled with tears for me.

I wish so much you wouldn't cry, the way you did today, While thinking of the many things we didn't get to say.

I know how much you love me, as much as I love you, And each time that you think of me, I know you'll miss me too.

But when tomorrow starts without me,
please try to understand,
That an angel came and called my name
and took me by the hand,
And said my place was ready, in heaven far above,
And that I'd have to leave behind
all those I dearly love.

But as I turned to walk away a tear fell from my eye, For all my life, I'd always thought I didn't want to die.

I had so much to live for, So much left yet to do, It seemed almost impossible that I was leaving you.

I thought of all the yesterdays, the good ones and the bad, I thought of all the love we shared and all the fun we had.

If I could relive yesterday,

just even for a while, I'd say good-bye and kiss you, and maybe see you smile.

But then I fully realized, that this could never be, For emptiness and memories would take the place of me.

And when I thought of worldly things, I might miss come tomorrow, I thought of you, and when I did, my heart was filled with sorrow.

But when I walked through heaven's gates I felt so much at home, When God looked down and smiled at me. from his great golden throne He said. "This is eternity, and all I've promised you. Today your life on earth is past but here life starts anew, I promise no tomorrow but today will always last, And since each day's the same way there's no longing for the past, You have been so faithful, so trusting, and so true Though there were times you did some things you knew you shouldn't do, But you have been forgiven and now at last you're free, So won't you come and take my hand, and share my life with me?"

So when tomorrow starts without me, don't think we're far apart, For every time you think of me,

I'm right here in your heart.





How Long Will The Pain Last

How long will the pain last?"
a broken hearted mourner asked me.
"All the rest of your Life."
I have to answer truthfully.

We never quite forget. No matter how many years pass, we remember. The loss of a loved one is like a major operation. Part of us is removed, and we have a scar for the rest of our lives.

As years go by, we manage.

There are things to do, people to care for, tasks that call for full attention.

But the pain is still there, not far below the surface. We see a face that looks familiar, hear a voice that echoes, see a photograph in someone's album, see a landscape that once we saw together, and it seems as though a knife were in the wound again. But not so painfully. And mixed with joy, too. Because remembering a happy time is not all sorrow, it brings back happiness with it.

How long will the pain last?

All the rest of your life. But the thing to remember is that not only the pain will last, but the blessed memories as well.

Tears are proof of life. The more love, the more tears. If this be true, then how could we ever ask that the pain cease altogether. For then
the memory of love would go with it.

The pain of grief is the price we pay for love. ~Author Unknown~





To My Beloved

You had a talent for bringing special meaning to life, It was such a pleasure to be your wife. You helped me to grow and to realize The fullness and the beauty in our lives.

Every day I counted my blessings
Then God called, and you went away
Out of this world to a brighter day.
Suddenly my life of gladness
Turned to utter sadness.

My grief wears me down, I shed so many tears,
As I recall your love and devotion through the years.
For your sake and in memory of your name,
I pray for strength to do things the same.

To reach out, to fill the hours with useful ways
To comfort, to cheer and have no more empty days.
I try to console myself-it was God's greater plan,
So I must accept it, if I can.

You moved away to His splendid home above,
If there is life after death,
I know you will be waiting there for me,
With love.

Through Heaven and Earth divide us, and the distance is so great, I count my blessings for the years you were my mate.

I will live my life remembering, while you wait slumbering,

My beloved, may you rest in peace.







I Thought Of You

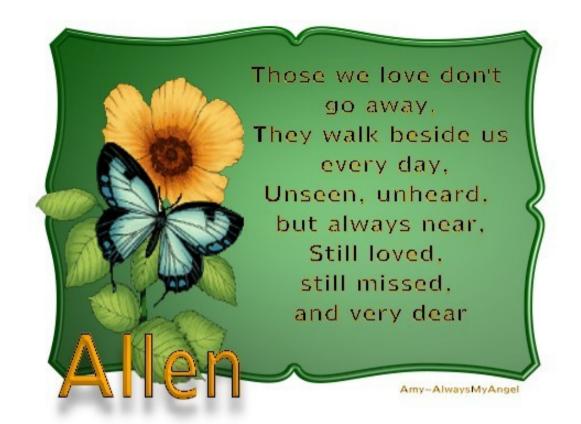
I thought of you with love today, but that is nothing new. I thought about you yesterday, and the day befor that too.
I think of you in silence, I often say your name,
But all I have is memories and your picture in a frame.

Your memory is my keepsake, with which I'll never part.
God has you in his keeping, I have you in my heart.
I shed tears for what might have been, a million times I've cried.
If love alone could have saved you, you never would have died.

In life I loved you dearly, in death I love you still,
In my heart you hold a place no one could ever fill.
It broke my heart to lose you, but you didn't go alone
For part of me went with you, the day God took you home.

~Arthur unknown~







Letter From Heaven

To my dearest family,

Some things I'd like to say, but first of all, I'd like to let you know that I arrived oaky. I'm writing this from heaven. Here I dwell with God above. Here there is no more tears of sadness. Here is just eternal love.

Please do not be unhappy just because I'm out of sight. Remember that I am with you every morning, noon, and night. That day I had to leave you when my life on earth was through, God picked me up and hugged me and said, I welcome you. It's good to have you back again, you were missed while you were gone. As for your dear family, they will be here later on. I need you here badly, you're part of my plan. There's so much we have to do, to help our mortal man."

God gave me a list of things, that he wished for me to do. And foremost on the list, was to watch and care for you. And when you lie in bed at night, the day's chores put to flight God and I are closest to you...in the middle of the night.

When you think of my life on earth and all those loving years, because you are only human, they are bound to bring you tears.

Do not be afraid to cry, it does relieve the pain. Remember there would be no flowers, unless there was some rain.

I wish that I could tell you all God has planned. If I were to tell you, you wouldn't understand. But one thing is for certain, though my life on earth is over, I'm closer to you now, than I ever was before.

There are many rocky roads ahead of you, and many hills to climb, but together we can do it by taking it one day at a time. It was always my philosophy and I'd like it for you too, that as you give unto the world, the world will give to you. If you can help somebody who's in sorrow and pain, then you can say to God at night..."My day was not in vain."

And now I'm contented that my life was worthwhile, knowing as I passed along the way I made someone smile.

So if you meet somebody who is sad and feeling low; just lend a hand to pick him up as on your way you go.

When you're walking down the street and you've got me on your mind, I'm walking in you footsteps only half a step behind.

And when it's time for you to go...from that body to be free.

Remember you're not going...you're coming here to me.







If tears could build a stairway
And memories were a lane
We would walk right up to Heaven
And bring you back again

No farewell words were spoken No time to say goodbye You were gone before we knew it And only God knows why

Our hearts still ache in sadness And secret tears still flow What it meant to lose you No on will ever know

But now we know you want us
To mourn for you no more
To remember all the happy times
Life still has much in store

Since you'll never be forgotten
We pledge to you today
A hallowed place within our hearts
Is where you'll always stay

~Author Unknown~



Just a Breath Away

Look for me in springtime As raindrops fill the air In the splendor of the rainbow You'll find my presence there.

You will find me in the fragrance Of April's sweet perfume Drifting through the clover On a sultry day in June.

An August day will find me
Upon the summer breeze
On the distant sound of the thunder
In the gently swaying trees.

In the golden fields of harvest
Is where I can be found.
As autumn time approaches
And leaves comes tumbling down

In the wintertime when days are short
And chill is in the air
Just look into a moonlit night
You'll find me lingering there.

When the setting sun has gone away
And shadows fill the night
When the cloak of darkness lifts its veil
I'll be your morning light.

So when you feel discouraged Get on your knees and pray You'll feel me there beside you I'm just a breath away.



I have an angel on my shoulder
He whispers in my ear.
His voice is soft and gentle
And no one else can hear.

When I'm tired and lonely It's comfort that he brings. When I'm filled with happiness I hear his laughter ring.

My angel's very close to me.
I even know his name.
And though I cannot see him
I love him just the same.

He now has no more suffering And gone is all the pain. I believe with all my heart We will someday meet again.

An angel's job is taxing
It's as hard as it can be.
I hope he doesn't get too tired
Looking after me.

Yes, my angel's with me from morning til the night. I know as long as he is here Everything will be alright.

So when my days are over I'll not pass in fear.

I know my angel's waiting To lead me home up there.





A Grandfather Like You

Throughout the years, you've always been
A wonderful man you see
When I was small you took the time
to bounce me on your knee.

As I grew older you were there
I only had to call
I knew that I could count on you
You'd never let me fall.

So many hard times in my life
You've helped to get me through
I'm so glad God gave me
A grandfather as special as you.
~Unknown~
We all love you: Cody, Ashley, Jessica, and Kynzee





Footprints In The Sand

One night a man had a dream.

He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the Lord.
 Across the sky flashed scenes from his life.

For each scene, he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand;
 One belonging to him, and the other to the Lord.
 When the last scene of his life flashed before him,
 He looked back at the footprints in the sand.
He noticed that many times along the path of his life,
 there was only one set of footprints.
He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest
 And saddest times in his life.

This really bothered him and he questioned the Lord about it.
 "Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you,
 you'd walk with me all the way.

But I have noticed that during the saddest and most troublesome times in my life there is only one set of footprints.

I don't understand why, when I needed you most, you would leave me."

The Lord replied, "My precious, precious child,

I love you and I would never leave you.

During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints in the sand, it was then that I carried you."

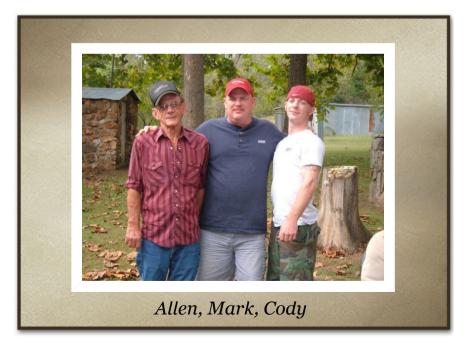


Gallery

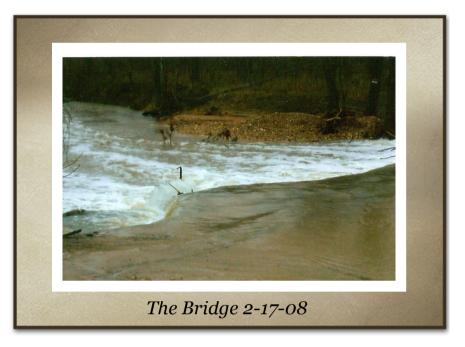
so sweet, so unforgettable...



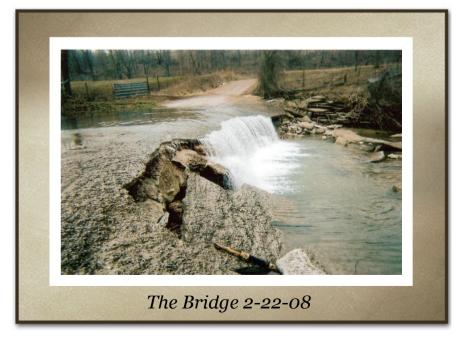


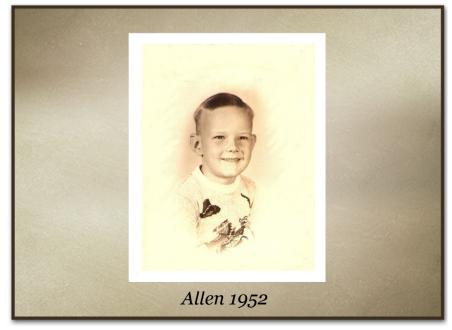


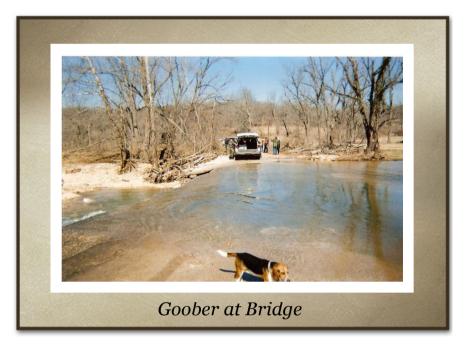


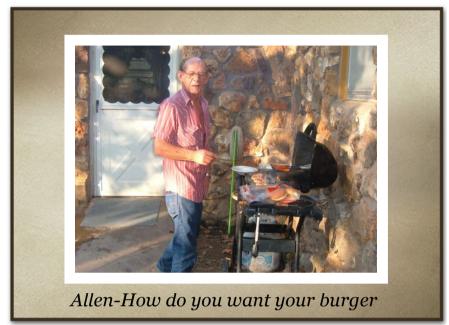


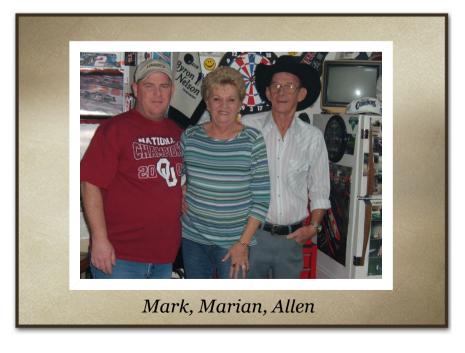


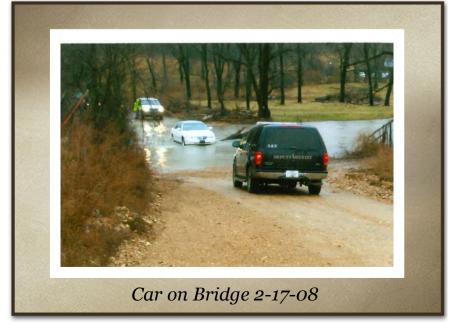


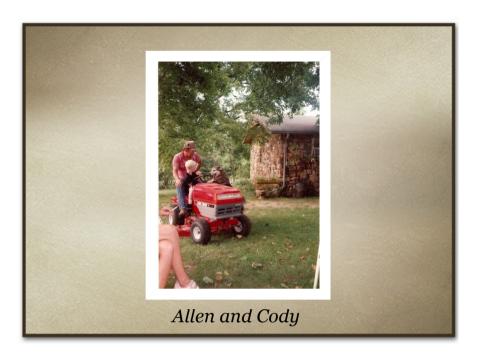


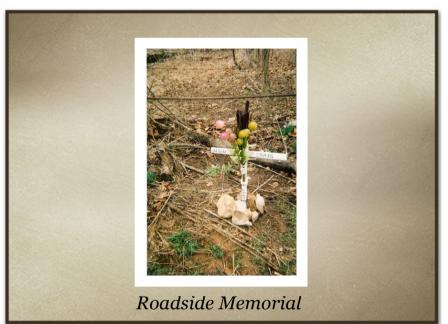


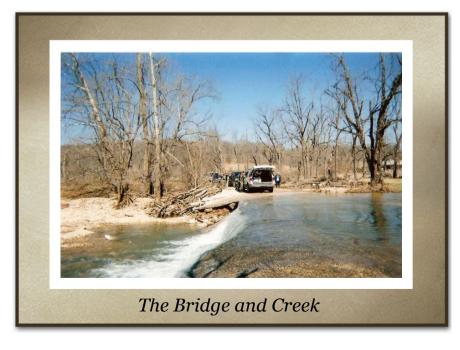


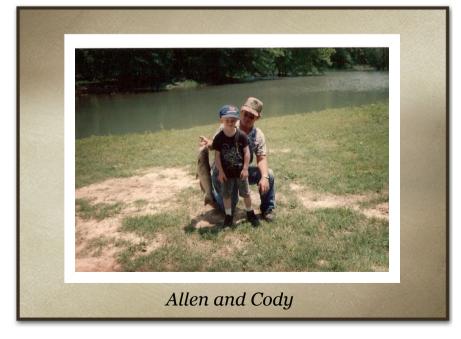




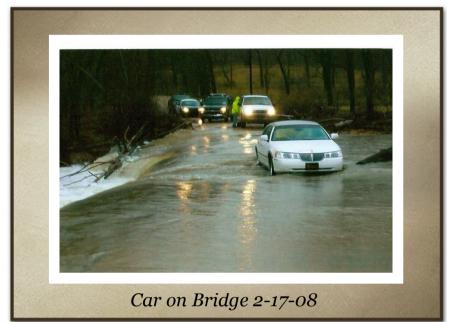


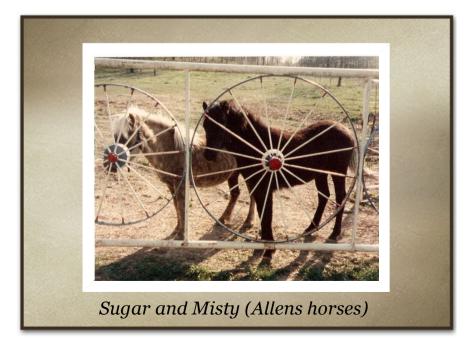


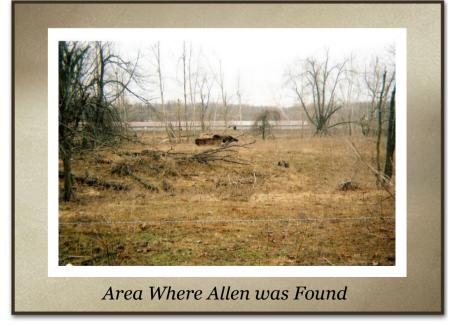


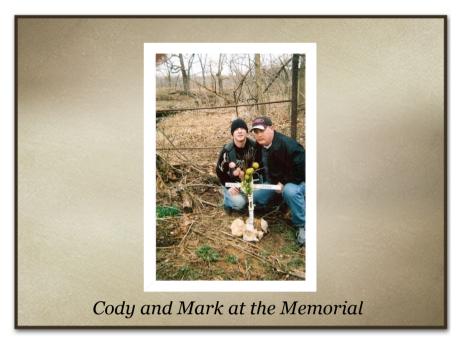




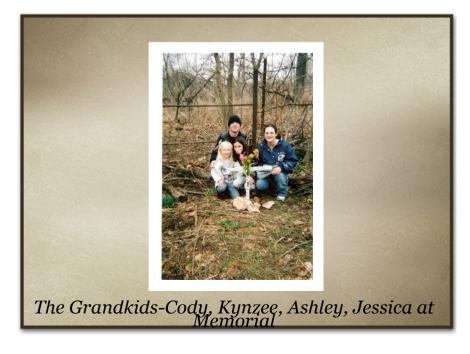


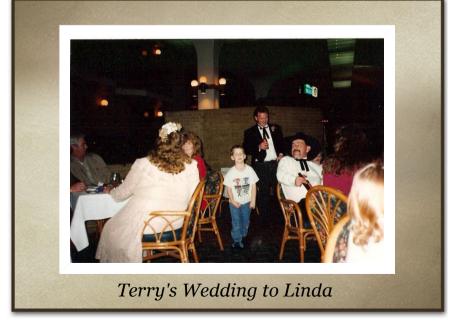




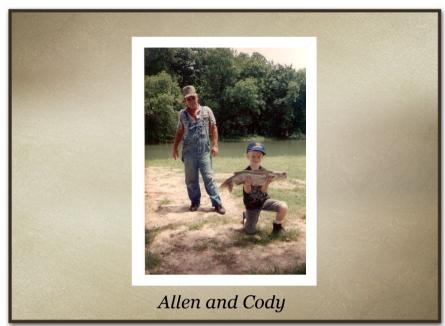


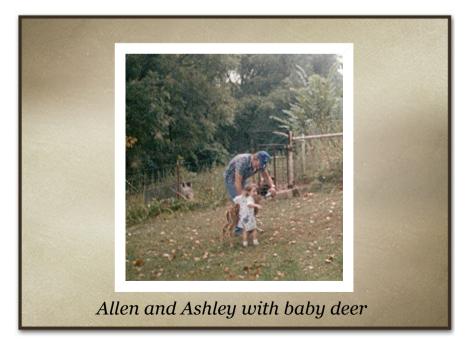


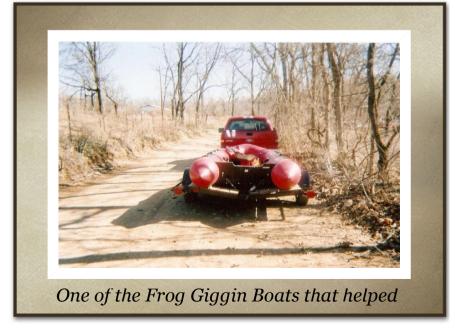


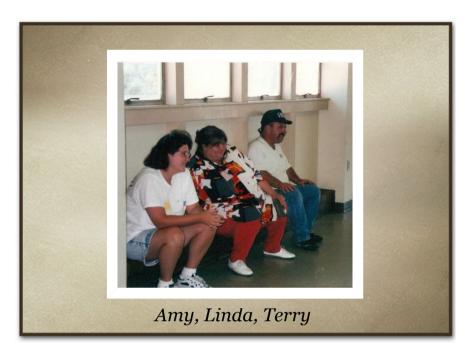






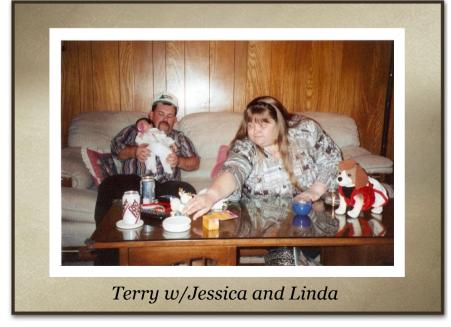


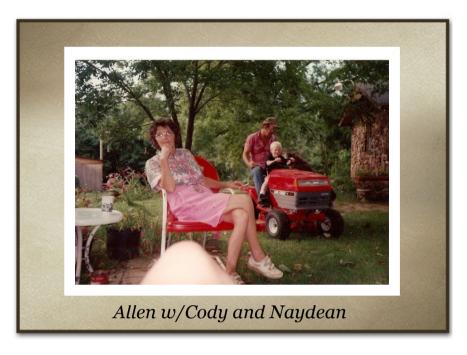














Memorial Candles

our words, your light...

03/08/2008

Ashley

Hi grandpa i miss u so much. i will always love u 03/08/2008

Jessicah and Cody Craig

We miss and love you grandpa!

03/07/2008

BrandyJuliasMommy

Thinking about you Allen and family. Hugs

03/06/2008

Baby Ethan Lombard's Mommy

Lighting a candle for you Allen! Sending big hugs to all who love & miss you! GOD BLESS! <3

03/04/2008

Lucy-mom to angel Laura Hunter

RIP Allen.May God be with you and all of your loved ones.My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. 03/04/2008

Amy

You will always hold a special place in my heart. I will never forget you. Miss you lots!! 03/04/2008

Mark

I Love You Dad!

03/04/2008

BrandyJuliasMommy

I am sorry for your loss. Sending lots of love and hugs to you Allen and family.

Condolences

from the deepest of our hearts...

Hi Allen,

I hope you like this new site I made for you. The 2 week free trial I had for you at the other site is due to expire tomorrow (March 8) and I had this site I made for dad that was sponsored already, and since I never used it for him, I decided to make it for you. This way, I didn't have to find someone to sponsor it since we couldn't afford it.

Anyway, Mark got grandma taken care of. She is doing good, so don't worry about her. She will be ok.

We miss you each and everyday!

Life Story

every hour, every thought, every smile...

The "Accident"

Allen and Marian were traveling home late Saturday night early Sunday morning from a birthday party. It had been raining and by the time they left the party, it had stopped.

Allen lived in Jay, Oklahoma for 24 years, so he knew the low water bridges well. He was known to turn around and go another way home if there was even the slightest doubt in is mind that it was safe to cross.

As they approached the bridge, Allen rolled his window down to watch the side of the bridge where a log had lodged itself against the bridge. As they got to the middle of the bridge, the car stalled. Marian (who is deathly afraid of water) noticed water already up to her ankles. Allen tried to start the car, only it wouldn't turn over. He proceeded to crawl out of the open window and threw his cowboy hat into the back seat. He then grabbed Marians purse, and put it over his shoulder. He then helped Marian out of the car to try to walk to safety. As he held her hand and walked to the back of the car, the water knocked him off his feet and over the bridge.

Marian screamed for Allen as she watched in horror her husband disappear under the water. She then managed to get herself back to the drivers window and get one leg into the open window, where she hung on for dear life for the next 2 hours.

A lady that lives on the road (Nadine) decided to stay up late that night. She said she normally goes to bed early, but decided to stay up and read a book. She was so engrossed in the book that she didn't notice the time... 3 hours later. She said she faintly heard something that sounded like "Help me". She went and opened the door, but didn't hear anything. She closed the door and heard it again. At first she thought it was

a coyote, but then thought it was someone having a party at the bridge. She called her daughter, who lives on the other side of the creek and road from her and told her she was going to go check. Her daughter met her at the bridge and realized someone was stranded.

Nadine and her daughter and son-in-law tried everything they could think of to get Marian to safety. They threw her ropes, electrical cords, anything they could think of...to no avail. After about 2 hour in the water, she was rescued...it took this long because they live 15 miles from town...and it took the rescuers time to get to them. It was then that Marian was able to tell the rescuers that Allen was in the creek.

Marian was treated for severe hytohermia and released from the hospital later that day.



News Articles

February 18, 2008

Jay man missing after being swept away from vehicle by floodwater

Associated Press - February 17, 2008 9:05 PM ET

JAY, Okla. (AP) - A 62-year-old Jay man is missing after authorities say he was apparently swept away from his stalled vehicle by rushing water.

The Oklahoma Highway Patrol says Allen S. Craig was traveling eastbound on a Delaware County road

near Jay about 1 a.m. Sunday when his vehicle stalled as he attempted to cross rapid flood water over a low-water bridge.

Authorities say Craig exited the vehicle and walked to its rear but was swept away by the current. Rescuers are continuing to search for Craig.

A passenger in the vehicle, 64-year-old Marian A. Craig of Jay, stayed in the vehicle and was rescued by members of the Butler Fire Department.

She was taken to a Grove hospital, where she was treated for hypothermia and released.

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http://www.9online.com/Global/story.asp?S=7886059

February 21, 2008

Body of Jay man recovered after fourth day

From staff reports Thursday, February 21, 2008 2:40 PM EST

JAY - The body of a Delaware County man who was swept away by high water was recovered Wednesday, the Delaware County Sheriff's office confirmed.

Allen S. Craig, 62, of Jay was found approximately 400 yards downstream from Whitewater Bridge in rural Delaware County.

His body was located near an embankment where water was estimated to be five feet deep, said Capt.

Larry Barnett, of the Delaware County Sheriff's Office.

Craig was less than a miles from his home Sunday when his vehicle stalled as he attempted to drive through high water as it flowed over a low-water crossing.

The Oklahoma Highway Patrol reports that Craig was apparently swept away from his stalled vehicle by rushing water. Authorities believe Craig exited the vehicle and was swept away by the current.

The bridge was a couple of feet under water and the creek had risen to six feet, Barnett said.

Rescue workers were in the creek Wednesday breaking up brush when they discovered him, Barnett said.

A passenger in the vehicle, 64-year-old Marian A. Craig of Jay, stayed in the vehicle and was rescued by members of the Butler Fire Department. She was taken to a Grove hospital, where she was treated for hypothermia and released.

About 50 rescue personnel, including volunteers and members of the Delaware County Sheriff's Office, OHP, the Grove and Jay police departments, and local emergency management departments spent the past four days looking for Craig, Barnett said.

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Body of drowned man recovered

Jay man swept away by floodwater Sunday From Staff Reports

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JAY – The search for a Jay man who was swept away by floodwater concluded Wednesday morning with the discovery of his body, according to the Delaware County Sheriff's Department.

Allen S. Craig, 62, was traveling eastbound on a rural Delaware County road between Jay and Grove about 1 a.m. Sunday when his vehicle stalled as he attempted to cross rapidly flowing floodwater over a lowwater concrete bridge in the Whitewater area.

Searchers found his remains at 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, Sheriff's Captain Larry Barnett said. The body was located about 250 yards downstream from the bridge where Craig exited his vehicle, according to the Oklahoma Highway Patrol. It was in approximately five feet of water beneath some brush.

The OHP reported Craig was apparently swept away from his stalled vehicle by rushing water. Authorities said Craig exited the vehicle and walked to its rear but was swept away by the current.

"There was a couple of feet of water over the bridge and the creek had gotten as high as six feet," Barnett said.

A passenger in the vehicle, 64-year-old Marian A. Craig of Jay, stayed in the vehicle and was rescued by members of the Butler Fire Department.

She was taken to a Grove hospital, where she was treated for hypothermia and released.

Efforts of several agencies continued Tuesday morning throughout the day and ended with local giggers coming out after dark to take over the watery search.

Approximately 40 searchers from the Oklahoma Highway Patrol, Delaware County Sheriff's Department, Butler Fire Department, Cherokee Nation Marshals, Eucha Fire Department, GRDA, Deerlick Wrecker, Jay and Grove Emergency Managements, were joined by Newton County Emergency Management's Wilderness Search & Rescue team's divers and three human remains detection dogs.

About ten members of Craig's family also joined the search on Tuesday.

Delaware County Sheriff Jay Blackfox said the family and his department were very appreciative of all those who came out to assist with the search.

"The community really pulled together. We are grateful to everyone who helped," Blackfox said.

Rescuers would like to thank Jay McDonald's, Sonic, Pizza Hut, Spudnut's, and Okie Mart, as well as Grove Wal-Mart, Rib Crib, and Charlie's Chicken for providing food and beverages for them during the four-day search.

http://www.grovesun.com/articles/2008/02/22/news/doc47bf0dc0c17b6412162399.txt

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