



Alton Steelman

December 6, 1941 - November 12, 2025

Funeral services for Alton Steelman, 83, of Gilmer, Texas, will be held at 3:00 pm, Saturday, November 15, 2025, at First Methodist Church Gilmer with Rev. Matthew Smith and Bro. Charles Johnson officiating. Interment to follow at Sunset Memorial Park. The family will receive friends at 2:00 pm before the service.

Alton was born on December 6, 1941, in Gilmer, Texas, to E. C. "Pete" and Exie Pool Steelman and passed from this life on November 12, 2025.

Alton married Sandy Brown on February 9, 1962, in Bettie, Texas. He and Sandy loved to travel in their RV and had visited all 50 states. Alton loved running his trotlines and his tractor and hosting fish fries at the "Farm". He became a loyal Gilmer Buckeye fan when Susan joined the band and JP played football. Most of all, he loved being Poppy to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

After graduating from Harmony High School and working several different jobs, including Kelly Plow, General Electric, and Economy Auto Supply, Alton was hired at Lone Star Steel as a machinist. After several years, he moved to Continental Can and continued working as a machinist. He realized shift work was not allowing him to be as involved in his children's lives as he wanted to be, so he decided to go into business with Bobby Whiteside and they started

Whiteside and Steelman Garage. At one point, he also owned a car wash and was a partner in Gilmer Auto Supply. In 1979, Alton decided to go out on his own and opened Steelman's Garage, where he worked until his retirement in 2004.

Alton joined the Gilmer Volunteer Fire Department in 1964 and was honored to serve the community for many years. He was nominated as Captain and eventually as Assistant Fire Chief by his fellow firemen. Alton was named Fireman of the Year in 1988. He retired from the Gilmer VFD in 2004. He was also a member of the First Methodist Church of Gilmer.

Those left to cherish his memories are his wife, Sandy Steelman; daughter, Susan Davis; son, John Paul "J.P." Steelman (Becky); grandchildren, Katie-Beth Morton (Sam), James Whittenberg (Rachel), Sydnee Mangini (Chris), Erin Whittenberg, Lauralee Davis (fiancée Matthew Flanagan), and Sophia Jurecek (Matthew); great grandchildren, Mollie Kate Morton, August James Whittenberg, and June Noelle Mangini.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sisters, Maevon Blundell and Shirley Williams; brother, Wayne Steelman; and his son-in-law, Bradley Davis.

Pallbearers will be James Whittenberg, Sam Morton, Matthew Jurecek, Matthew Flanagan, Jacob Tarrant, and Mike Waller.

Donations in Alton's memory may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, First Methodist Church of Gilmer, or the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Please visit Alton's online registration book at www.mcwhorterfh.com to leave a memory for the family.

Cemetery Details

Sunset Memorial Park

1582 US Hwy 271 S
Gilmer, TX 75645

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 15. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

First Methodist Church
105 N Montgomery St
Gilmer, TX 75644
(903) 843-2610

Service

NOV 15. 3:00 PM (CT)

First Methodist Church
105 N Montgomery St
Gilmer, TX 75644
(903) 843-2610

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album Alton Steelman Funeral Service



McWhorter Funeral Home - November 15, 2025 at 07:49 PM

LR

“ *Andy and I are so sorry to learn of Alton's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all*

Liz Richardson - November 15, 2025 at 10:49 AM



“ *Alton was a great man. Our family knew him for a very long time. My prayers are for his family at this time. May the Lord comfort and lift them up,*

Clayton Venn - November 15, 2025 at 10:35 AM

JA

“ *Julie A. purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Alton Steelman.*



Julie A. - November 15, 2025 at 08:48 AM



“ 186 files added to the album LifeTributes



McWhorter Funeral Home - November 14, 2025 at 04:50 PM

PF

“ Patricia, Larry, Cathy, Butch and Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Alton Steelman.



Patricia, Larry, Cathy, Butch and Family - November 14, 2025 at 11:35 AM

JP

“ Oh, Sandy, we are so sorry. God Bless, you Sweetie !! Alton was a good student and athlete in school. I was a freshman, when Alton and Harold Paul were Seniors and when the 2 of them got together. You better run !!! They were so funny, together. Alton was always a good guy in school and was well respected. When, we rode the bus to play basketball games at different Schools. Being a freshman was scary, but, I always felt safe around Alton and Harold Paul. Sandy, I am praying for God, to give you and the Kid-0's Strength, that you will need, and that God will grant you comfort and wrap you in his love . June(Buchanan) and Lorece Phillips.

June Phillips - November 14, 2025 at 10:57 AM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Alton Steelman.



November 14, 2025 at 09:56 AM



“ I grew up in Rosewood with Alton. He was a nice and respectful man. His parents were salt of the earth, and their apples didn't fall far from the tree. I remember when he bought his first car. He financed it through Buron Bullock at the Rosewood store. Mr. Bullock only loaned to people he trusted. My prayers are with all the Steelman family.

Charles Johnson - November 13, 2025 at 09:09 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Alton Steelman.



November 13, 2025 at 01:58 PM



“ Love, The Jurecek's planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Alton Steelman.

Love, The Jurecek's - November 13, 2025 at 01:58 PM