



R. O. "Ocoho" Ward

May 27, 1942 - March 15, 2020

Graveside services for R.O. "Ocoho" Ward, 77, of Gilmer, Tx are scheduled for 10:00 am, Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at the Kelsey Heritage Center with Bishop Dennis Means officiating. Visitation will be held 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm, Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at McWhorter Funeral Home. He was born May 27, 1942, to Herman Arleigh Ward and Edith Ozell Harris Ward, in Gilmer, Texas and passed from this life March 15, 2020, in his home in Gilmer, Texas.

Ocoho worked at Lone Star Steel for 17 years was a paint contractor for 45 years. He was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Those left to cherish his memory are his sons, Ben Spencer Ward and Bradley Scott Ward; daughter, Shelby Ward; sisters, Virginia Denton, Lana Smith, JoAnn McBride, Janice Davis; brothers, Kevin Scott Ward, Fred Ray Ward, David Ward, Randy Ward and Elwyn Ward; and grandson, Jaylen David Ward; and granddaughter, Keira Thompson.

He is preceded in death by his parents; his sons, Barry Jayson Ward and Brent Lee Ward; sister, Judy Ward White; and by his brothers, Herman Oscar Ward and Harold Ward.

Pallbearers will be Kevin Ward, Fred Ward, David Ward, Randy Ward, Gene Davis, Ben Ward, Bradley Ward, Danny McBride and Jaylen Ward.

Please visit Ocoho's on-line registration book at www.mcwhorterfh.com to leave a memory for the family.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 17. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

McWhorter Funeral Home
1074 St. Hwy 300
Gilmer, TX 75645
(903) 734-7070
info@mcwhorterfh.com
<https://www.mcwhorterfh.com>

Graveside Services

MAR 18. 10:00 AM (CT)

Kelsey Cemetery
6380 Magnolia Rd
Gilmer, TX 75644

Tribute Wall



“ *McWhorter Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of R. O. "Ocho" Ward*



McWhorter Funeral Home - March 17, 2020 at 02:45 PM

SG

“ My dad, he was everything to me. I will cherish the memories of being your “good luck charm” on a job bid, our countless garage sale and Walmart trips. He’s been gone for 6 years now....looking back I see how much I took for granted. My biggest supporter, he never missed a volleyball game or a track/power lifting meet. He put a volleyball net in our backyard, he would stand on the other side and fetch the ball for me while I practiced serving. I always heard stories of his younger days and what a great athlete he was, he made sure to pass down as much knowledge as he could to me. My dad was the kindest, most genuine, positive person I’ve ever known, he never met a stranger and he would run you down to speak if he saw you in Walmart, younger me would get irritated at times but looking back I’d give anything to be standing in an aisle at Walmart with him again just to listen to him talk. One of my strongest memories from a young age and throughout my teenage years, my dad would never pass up someone that was in need of help it didn’t matter if they were on the sidewalk or broke down on the side of the road, he never passed someone without lending a hand. What specifically stuck in my brain is one day we were in Mineola leaving Walmart and this man stopped him and asked for money because he was out of gas, my dad handed the man a folded up bill and told him to wait right there and we drove over to whataburger and he got that man a meal and took it back to him. We left and I remember asking him “what if that man was lying about his situation?” These are the words I’ll never forget, my dad replied “if he was lying then the sin is on his head not mine, God places us where we’re meant to be” my dad was selfless and the best roll model I could’ve ever had. I wish he could see the person I’ve grown into over the past 6 years, I got married 3 years after he passed and no one warned me how difficult that would be, it’s almost impossible to be a daddy’s girl and not walk down the aisle with him..but I know he was there with me in spirit. I miss him each and every second of the day, there will never be another Ocoho and I am just so unbelievably thankful that he was my dad.



Shelby Ward Gage - May 08 at 09:47 PM

BP

“ *Knew Ocoho for years in the house building business as he was a paint contractor. He was always cheerful and patient and helpful. God bless his memory. God bless his family. Bill Patterson*

Bill Patterson - March 20, 2020 at 08:13 PM

BG

“ *I have known, & been friends with Ocoho & his family for many years, & I was honored to be Ocoho's home teacher many years back. I always loved to visit with he & his family, & always received love & kindness when I visited with them. I graduated from Harmony High School also, but didn't know Ocoho at that time because of he being quite a few years older than me, but attend school with two of his younger brothers, Randy , & David. May God's blessings be with all of the family & friends of Ocoho at this time.*

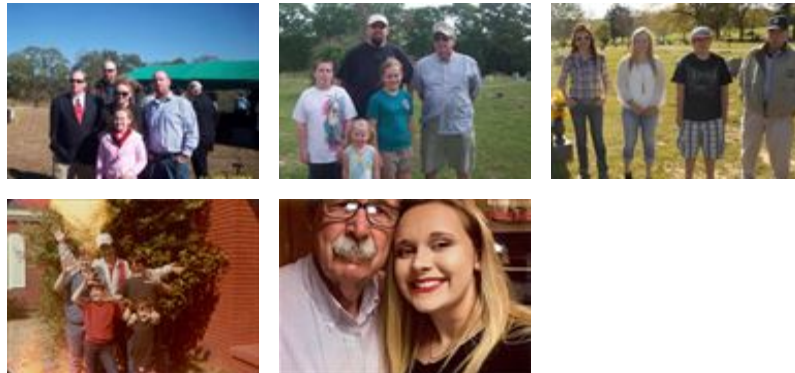
My condolences:

Bobby J. Gray

Bobby Gray - March 17, 2020 at 06:07 PM



“ 110 files added to the album LifeTributes



McWhorter Funeral Home - March 17, 2020 at 02:38 PM

BG

*My thoughts & Prayers goes out to all of the Family & love ones, during this time of the loss of Ocho Ward.
I know that he will be missed my many, because I had the pleasure to know Ocho for many years, & also was honored to serve as his home teacher many years ago.
May god comfort & be with all the family, friends, & love ones @ this time in in the days to come.*

Bobby Gray - March 17, 2020 at 05:20 PM

GC

“ We are so sorry for your loss. You all will be in our thoughts and prayers.

Glenda Culberson - March 17, 2020 at 02:20 PM



“ Dish Garden with Fresh Cut Flowers was purchased for the family of R. O. "Ocho" Ward.



March 17, 2020 at 12:26 PM

GC

“ *Ward Cousins, I am so sorry you have had to give up another sibling. I can't be there, but my love and prayers will be. Ocoho, Virginia and I are about the same age. I spent good times with them in the summer when we would visit Kelsey. He use to tease Ruth about running him down to kiss him. She didn't remember that and she was much older than us, so I'm thinking it was probably me. He was a sweetheart. Love to all his children, who will miss him the most. Think of the Ward reunion on the other side of the veil.* 🙏💕👤



Gail Chevalier - March 17, 2020 at 12:10 PM

LR

“ *Prayers for the family.
Andy and Liz Richardson*



liz richardson - March 17, 2020 at 09:24 AM

MM

“ *My condolences to the family.*

Mack McLendon - March 17, 2020 at 02:37 AM

PM

“ *I am so sorry to hear about Ocoho's death. I have many fond memories of our visits the times he painted our house.*

Peggy Moughon - March 16, 2020 at 11:12 PM



My Brother was 17 when I was born...He always greeted me by saying hey SISSY...I was the baby girl to him. He was always supportive of me when I was in High School and running Track. He came to watch me run in Harmony Play offs where ever they were at...I won Bronze my Soph. year, Silver my Junior and Gold my senior Year in the 220 Yard Dash...He bragged to my Mama when he got home how fast I was, he took pictures of me crossing the finish line....I got my Electrical Apprentice 10 years ago to help my husband with his Electrical Business...He was so Proud of me for getting my License... I was his Sweetest Sister he would say...LOL...We had many talks and visits on the Phone and I will miss him always telling me something I did not know about...I always learned something from Ochoh... You told me last week, if God wanted to take you home, you was alright with that, because he had so many loved ones to be with again....Happy For You to Be with Your Boys and Parents and Brothers and Sister.... I Love and Miss you Ochoh...

Janice Ward Davis - March 17, 2020 at 12:39 AM



We are so sorry to hear about Ochoh, We are praying for comfort and God's Love to surround all of the family. We know how much he loved his family. We went to school together and he was great in all sports and very well liked, by all . He always was a great guy. He would be sure to speak to you , even if he had to chase you down to speak. I don't think, I ever saw Ochoh that he didn't say, Are You ready to play some volleyball or basketball. He always made me smile. Lorece and I will miss our visits in Walmart and Subway. We send love and hugs to Ochoh's Family. God Bless All of You.

Lorece and June Phillips - March 17, 2020 at 10:04 AM

CJ

“ Ocho was in high school at Harmony when I was in elementary. He was one of the best football players to come out of Eagleland. He was always a friendly and outgoing person. I remember his characteristic "wink" when he would greet you. I also remember him and some high school girls dancing the "Tango" on Harmony's float in the Yamboree parade in the early 1960s. He attended many Harmony games. I visited with him at several games in the past year. He was even present at the last home football game last fall when it was very cold. I am very thankful to call many in the Ward family my friends, and they are in my prayers and thoughts,

Best regards,

Charles Johnson

Charles Johnson - March 16, 2020 at 10:19 PM

BG

“ Uncle Ocho has always supported my career dreams and has always held me accountable to being a good person. He was not one to be around if you had a guilty conscience, and could always root out the truth in me. Growing up in a culture that didn't/doesn't always support women working outside the home, especially in a "man's profession," he always cheered me on and let me know how proud he was of me, just for doing what I do. He was a champion for us girls daring to do more than was planned for us. When I got married, it was again in a non-traditional fashion. He was the first to acknowledge my adult stepdaughter as who she is: my daughter. He welcomed Randy and our new family back to my family with open arms. I love him and already miss him so much.

Your 007 Niece,

Brittany (Davis) Gowin & Randy

Brittany Gowin - March 16, 2020 at 08:44 PM

RJ

“ Ocoho has been a friend for a long time. In the summer we would meet at the Gilmer swimming pool and play tag along with a lot of others. We also played together on the Church basketball team many years. Always enjoying talking to him no matter where we meet. Will miss my friend and prayers for family at this time.

Robert e Johnson - March 16, 2020 at 01:56 PM