



## Haydon Hendrickson

September 29, 1936 - December 5, 2020

Haydon Hendrickson, 84, a longtime Muskogee rancher, died Saturday, Dec. 5, 2020, at home. A devoted father, grandfather and brother, Haydon died doing what he loved most, heading out to check cattle.

He was born Sept. 29, 1936, in Okmulgee to Haydon and Glenna Hankins Hendrickson. He graduated from Okmulgee High School and immediately joined the United States Marine Corps. After a distinguished tour in the Marines, Haydon returned home to Okmulgee, finally settling in Muskogee in 1969.

He worked as an engineer for Southwestern Bell from 1959 to 1991 and was a self-employed contract engineer from 1992 to 2003. All the while, Haydon worked his ranch south of town.

He joined the Civil Air Patrol after retirement in 1991 and rose through the ranks to captain by 2004. When he wasn't spending time with family, Haydon enjoyed duck hunting, square dancing, round dancing and two-stepping. But most of all, he loved his family.

Granddaughter Mandi wrote, "He was a great man! A man who was honest, hard-working, loyal, a man of integrity, and so much more. ... He always told me he loved me, and he showed it."

Haydon was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Andy, and a sister, Doris Chapman.

Haydon is survived by his three children, Chris Hendrickson (Heather), Debbie Rowan (Olen) and Karen Cox, all of Muskogee. He had 11 grandchildren, Josh Rowan (Rebekah), Shawn Rowan (Ashley), Jason Rowan, Amanda Butler (Jason), Blake Rowan (Sam), Zac Cox, Jacob Hendrickson Gunnar Drake, Kayla Hendrickson, Chandler Drake and Harper Kennedy. His great-grandchildren are Seth Leavell, Blake Leavell, Kenzie "Nikki" Rowan, Brody Rowan, Austin Rowan, Audrey Rowan, Addalyn Butler, Preston Butler and Whitlee Rowan.

He is survived by his siblings, Donald Hendrickson, Glenna McConnell (Bob), Alice Jeffress (Joe Bob) and John Hendrickson (Mary), along with longtime friend and business partner Roy Entz.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Haydon Hendrickson*

October 23, 2023 at 09:38 AM



“ *MELISSA 'GEORGE' BURLISON lit a candle in memory of Haydon Hendrickson*



**MELISSA 'GEORGE' BURLISON** - December 18, 2020 at 11:31 AM



“ *I have the same great childhood memories of Uncle Haydon that my sister, Lisa Hendrickson, wrote about here, including the Perseid Meteor Shower night. Sleep-overs at his ranch home with our cousins Chris, Debbie, and Karen were the highlight of our yearly vacations to Oklahoma. Last fall and winter, before the Corona virus pandemic, I had the pleasure to join him and my dad for some of their weekly FRIDAY lunch meet-ups at the BOOMERANG DINER in Muskogee. Uncle Haydon always stood up from the table whenever I arrived - a true gentleman. He would always greet me with that SMILE and a great, big hug. I will miss him.*

**Elaine** - December 12, 2020 at 10:54 PM

LH

“ I remember that smile, and my heart hurts - especially for our cousins, Chris, Debbie and Karen. I've saved a voicemail from the last time we visited. Thank you Uncle Haydon for so many fun memories in our childhood - staying at the ranch, riding horses, hauling hay the old-fashioned way with us kids a pick-up (first time Elaine got to drive a vehicle), playing spotlight tag in the barn and running into the new barbwire fence (still have the scars), picking dewberries, floating the Illinois River, stargazing and watching the Perseid meteor shower reclining on the hood of your Thunderbird, just to mention a few. Uncle Haydon was a hero and a rancher to the end. I'm sure he had his boots on. I will always remember the vision of his cowboy boots plunging into a swimming pool when he jumped in to save me. We were on a combined family vacation in Monterey, Mexico. We kids were swimming in the hotel pool, and this other boy screamed for help, so I extended my hand. He pulled me under and tried to climb on my shoulders. It happened so fast, and yet the time underwater slowed way down. Seeing the air bubbles streaming out of the tops of Uncle Haydon's leather boots was surreal. He pull me out, and a vacationing US Air Force pilot pulled the boy out. Both he and Uncle Haydon were heroes . . . simply good men doing the right thing. Til we meet again.



---

**Lisa D. Hendrickson** - December 12, 2020 at 12:20 PM

EL

After the scary near-drowning incident, our father and Uncle Haydon paid for the other hero's lunch. He told them that he knew if he pulled the boy who couldn't swim off of the top of YOU, then Uncle Haydon could get you. All I remember about him was that he and his bride were on their honeymoon.

---

**Elaine** - December 12, 2020 at 10:33 PM

BF

“ *Bettie Fuller lit a candle in memory of Haydon Hendrickson*



---

**Bettie Fuller** - December 10, 2020 at 11:03 PM

BF

“ *My condolences to the family of Haydon Hendrickson. He was a friend and schoolmate of my husband, Ben Fuller. In our early married years we visited him and his family regularly. I have fond memories of those days. Sincerely, Bettie Fuller*

---

**Bettie Fuller** - December 10, 2020 at 11:02 PM

DR

*Thank you Mrs. Fuller for the sweet message. Daddy spoke of Mr. Fuller and what a dear friend he was.....Your son Tim and my youngest Blake are friends and met up through Rodeo....daddy was able to talk to him several years back at one of the events Tim was announcing! Sure did put a smile on daddy's face. Thank you again for your message. ❤️*

---

**debbie rowan** - December 15, 2020 at 10:15 AM

AH

“ I was shocked and saddened to hear of Haydon's passing. I talked to him by phone just a few days ago. I saw him last just a few weeks ago at his home when he gave me his old VHS tape player so I could watch the steam engine video that he recorded for me back in 1989, I think.

My sincere condolences to the family. I share your loss. Haydon was one of my oldest and dearest friends. I met him in 1979 as a fellow engineer with SWBT, and worked with him through the years continuing after both our retirements including our contract engineering work for various communications companies through about 2010. I really valued his friendship during those years and he helped me with many things from helping me roof my house to loaning me his mowing machine to cut some hay.

Haydon was a straight shooter and I could always count on him to keep commitments, to follow thru, and go the extra mile. I do not know any man with more honesty and integrity than Haydon. I will miss you very much, Haydon. Rest easy, my friend.

Alan Hutchins

---

alan hutchins - December 10, 2020 at 07:17 PM

DR

Thank you for the memories ...it is so heart warming to hear from his close friends and family.....Daddy spoke of you often!

---

debbie rowan - December 14, 2020 at 08:09 PM