

**Tolbert “Tart” Crowder, Jr.**  
**April 15, 1936 - August 23, 2021**

Celebrating the Life of  
**Tolbert “Tart” Crowder, Jr.**

Monday, August 30, 2021 2:00 p.m.

Broussard’s Chapel

Nederland, Texas

Reverend Bruce Stinson



Welcome, Scripture, and Prayer

*“He Walks with Me”*

by Merle Haggard

Remembering Tart

*“Amazing Grace”*

by Alan Jackson

Message

*“I Saw the Light”*

by Hank Williams

Closing Prayer





**Tolbert Crowder, Jr.**, 85, known to most as Tart was born on April 15, 1936, to parents Tolbert Sr. and mother, Jeanette Reneau. Tart passed away on Monday, August 23, 2021, at his home in Fannett with his children surrounding him.

Tart lived most of his life in Port Acres where he grew up with his six younger siblings. Being the oldest, Tart spent many an hour helping his parents keep up with the active, mischievous younger brothers and sisters. The stories he could tell about this group were hilarious. Had the tales been captured in a

book it would have been a bestseller. The whole family often jokes about this fact.

Tart attended Stephen F. Austin School which included 1<sup>st</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades. He may not have talked much about the academic side of things but he loved school sports. Following in his father's footsteps, he was a force to be reckoned with on the football and track fields. School sports were not Tart's only interest. He was, also, an avid outdoorsman. His father taught him how to fish and hunt at a very young age. Through the years, Tart, shared his love of hunting and fishing with his children, especially with Son, Mark, and his grandchildren.

On February 15, 1954, Tart married the love of his life, Dolores McFarland. They had 3 children: Laurie, Mark, and Joanna. Once the kids were grown, Tart and Dolores went fishing and hunting together. The two were married for 42 years, when Dolores passed away.

Tart had a very successful work career. When he retired, in 1996, he was the manager of the shipping department at Oxy Chemical in Beaumont. He did not get there by having a college degree. He earned his position through dedication and hard work. He often schooled

his children and grandchildren on the importance of a positive work ethic. Tart would, also, encourage the kids to get the education needed to make their career aspirations a little easier to obtain.

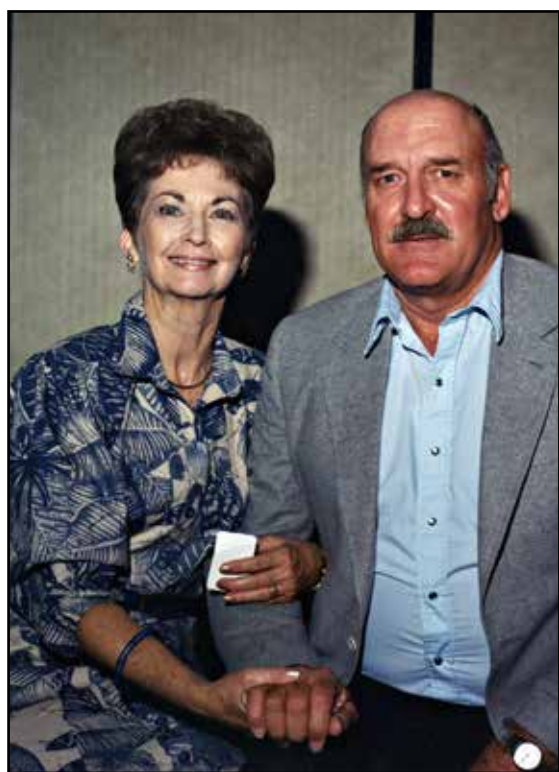
After retiring, Tart was able to spend time on another one of his interests. Refurbishing old guns. He and his brother, Bob, often spent time together working on their guns. Guns were not just for hunting, they were for collecting and displaying. He was always a firm believer in our 2<sup>nd</sup> Rights Amendment and felt like everyone in the family should own a gun. He did his part to ensure this happened.

The family's most recent memories of their Dad and PawPaw involved his love of the old western shows. He especially liked Gunsmoke and watched the episodes over and over and over. The family is not sure but feel that the neighbors may have been able to hear the episodes as well.

Tart, Daddy, PawPaw.... Was a very family oriented man. He is loved and will be missed by all his family and friends.

Survivors include his daughters, Laurie Neal and her husband, Keith and Joanna Head and her husband, Larry; son, Mark Crowder and his wife, Beverly; granddaughters, Erin Laughlin and her husband, Jeff; Jessica Merendino and her husband, Ryan; Lacie Carter and her husband, Kaleb; and Rebecca Viator; grandson, Mack Crowder and his wife, Danyel; granddaughters, Cassie Rankin and Delani May and her husband, Porter; granddaughter-in-law, Shelby Neal; great-grandchildren, Emrie, Luke, Lola, Hazel, Colin, Carter, Drayton, Cade, and Gracie; siblings, Bill Crowder and his wife, Maria; Bob Crowder and his wife, Judy; Jeanette Clements; Bernie Crowder and his wife, Lynn; and Mike Crowder; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents; wife, Dolores Marie Crowder; grandson, Eric Neal; and sister, Eleanor Spence.



















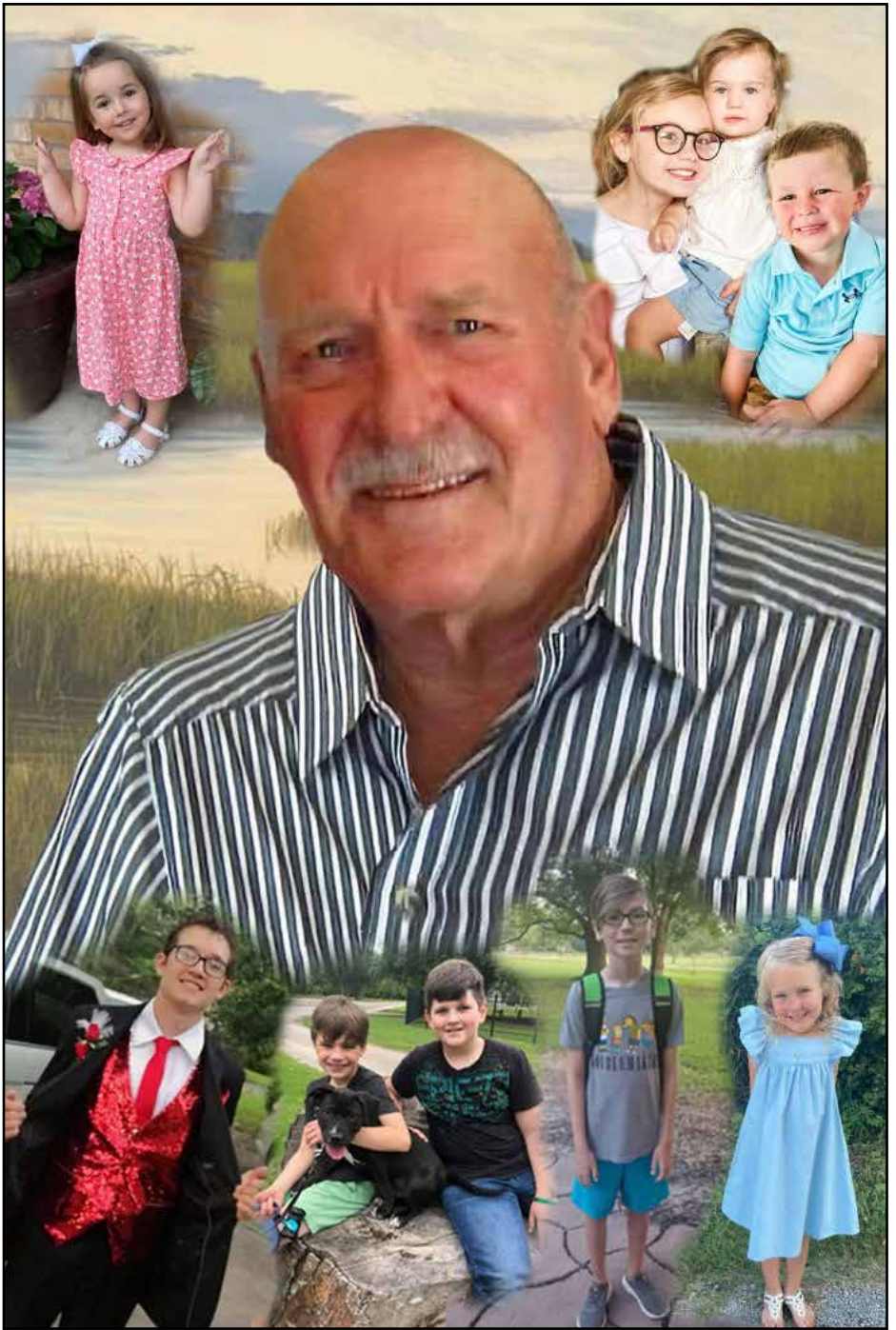
*His great-grandson, Cade Crowder, interviewed him in April 2020.*

A glimpse into the life of my pawpaw, Tolbert Crowder. My pawpaw just turned 84 years old. He lives next to me. I went to his house and interviewed him about his life. I learned a lot about his life back then. I am excited to share what he told me.

My pawpaw, Tolbert Crowder. He is strong and he knew how to box. He lived in a house that is over 100 years old now and it is still here today. It was built in 1911. He had to walk 2.5 miles to go to school but now it's not like that because we all have cars and buses. He had worked to buy his own bicycle that he rode to school until his second sister started school. Then they were back to walking because only two fit on the bike. They didn't have power or air conditioning. Growing up they didn't even have a bathroom in the house. They had an outhouse. He had 4 brothers and 2 sisters. Aunt Jenny is my pawpaw's sister. She is brave. She liked to do stuff with the boys. One time she went to visit a lady down the road to get a drink of water. After leaving she realized the snake in her pocket was missing. She had to go back into the lady's house to find her snake! Uncle Bill, pawpaw's brother, was a sleepwalker. Pawpaw had to keep an eye on him at night. Sometimes Uncle Bill would even wander into the road in his sleep. All of pawpaw's brothers and sisters were protective of each other. They were even willing to fight for each other.

My pawpaw, Tolbert Crowder, had animals like cows, pigs, chickens, goats, and sheep. He had to help his mom milk the cows. They used the milk to make butter. Pawpaw used an urn and a broomstick-like handle to churn the butter. They had to raise animals for food because grocery stores weren't the same back then. When they were going to eat chicken he would have to kill it the night before. Maw didn't like the chickens bruised up, so pawpaw would run after the chickens instead of the dogs. Pawpaw loves hunting and fishing. They had an alligator pen in their yard because Paw sold alligator hide for a 1\$ a foot. One day a man stopped by and offered to buy the turtles, snakes, and alligators alive. He paid them 25 cents for turtles and snakes. On Saturdays they wash clothes. Pawpaw's job was to keep the fire going so they would have hot water in the kettle. If they also kill a hog that Saturday then they were really busy. They would have to put the hog in hot water so the hair would pull off easy before butchering it. When they were done butchering it they put the meat in barrels with salt for 30 days for it to cure before they ate it.

I'm glad he is still here to hear his stories. His life is different from mine. He was a busy worker as a kid and I am not. Pawpaw said we are alike because we both have good parents. I love my pawpaw and I think he is hard working.



## **Pallbearers**

Mack Crowder  
Porter May  
Jeff Laughlin  
Ryan Merendino  
Kaleb Carter  
Colin Fournet  
Brett Hatcher  
Beau Hatcher

## **Honorary Pallbearers**

Cade Crowder  
Blue Constance  
Gabe Constance  
Cole Fournet

## **Interment**

Oak Bluff Memorial Park  
Port Neches, Texas

## **Memorial Contributions**

National Rifle Association  
11250 Waples Mill Road  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030  
[donate.nra.org/donate](https://donate.nra.org/donate)



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Established 1889

Please sign Mr. Crowder's guest book and share your memories at  
[www.broussards1889.com](http://www.broussards1889.com)