



**Eldon Joseph Soileau**

July 24, 1941 - September 9, 2023

Celebrating the Life of  
**Eldon Joseph Soileau**

Thursday, September 14, 2023 10:00 a.m.  
Broussard's Chapel  
Silsbee, Texas

*"What a Friend We have in Jesus"*  
by Alan Jackson

Obituary and Remarks  
Reverend Travis Hood

*"Amazing Grace"*

Message of Comfort  
Reverend Bob Webb

*"Well Done"*  
by The Afters

Military Honors  
Southeast Texas Veterans Service Group



**Eldon Joseph Soileau**, 82, of Beaumont, died Saturday, September 9, 2023, at Harbor Hospice, Beaumont. He was born on July 24, 1941, to Lydia Marie Borque Soileau and Elta Soileau, in Pine Forest, and was a United States Marine Veteran.

Eldon was a member of Pipefitter's Local 195 and served on the Pipefitter's Pension Plan as Trustee and Chairman of the

Board. A lifelong supporter of employee rights, he was very active in local and statewide politics and worked as a volunteer and staff member in numerous statewide campaigns. As President of the Sabine Area Central Labor Council, he kept abreast of legislation before the Texas State Legislature and U.S. Congress and effectively advocated the concerns of construction workers and those employed in the petro-chemical industry.

Eldon was later recruited to serve as a Director for the Human Resources Development Institute associated with the National AFL-CIO. While in this position, his department assisted dislocated workers in Beaumont and Houston. He was subsequently promoted to National Coordinator for the Dislocated Workers Program in Washington D.C. with responsibility for overseeing 8 state-wide dislocated worker programs. Although he enjoyed working at the National AFL-CIO headquarters in Washington, he later resigned his position and returned home to chair his son's campaign for State Representative.

After tirelessly working to support his son's successful election to the legislature, Eldon served as Director of Dislocated Workers at the John Grey Institute at Lamar University for six years. He would eventually start and own Soileau Printing located

in Beaumont. Soileau Printing was widely known throughout Texas and much of Louisiana for quality political sign and literature printing. He enjoyed advising and visiting with political candidates for local and state-wide office during these years until his retirement.

Eldon believed that it was important for his children and grandchildren to understand that helping those less fortunate and less influential would ultimately result in a successful and fulfilling life. His desire to help those less fortunate led him to serve on the first board of directors for the Southeast Texas Food Bank shortly after its inception. Eldon was also a member of Beaumont Masonic Lodge 286. His love for God was consistently demonstrated through his willingness to advocate and serve those who were vulnerable and powerless in society. Always guided by his conscience, he believed that social and economic justice should be his life's work.

His love and devotion to his family was perhaps his greatest accomplishment in life. His children and grandchildren will miss the love and concern he consistently shared but are so grateful for the living example that his life of service to others demonstrated.

Survivors include his children, Curtis Soileau and his wife, Becky, of Lumberton; Kim Coker and her husband, Gary, of Beaumont; and Troy D. Soileau and his wife, Pam, of Lumberton; grandchildren, Curtis Soileau, Jr. and his wife, Bre, of Lumberton; Justin Soileau of Austin; Lauren Sheffield and her husband, Eric, of Pinewood; Lindsey Gladden and her husband, Doug, of Allen; Dr. Matthew Coker and his wife, Candice, of Meridian, Mississippi; Kyle Coker and his wife, Kate, of Dallas; Megan Rawlins and her husband, Andrew, of Brampton, England; and Captain Troy D. Soileau, Jr. and his wife, Katelin, of Palm Dale, California; twelve great-grandchildren; and brother, Aubrey Dean Soileau of Lumberton. He is preceded in death by his parents; wife, Rhonda Ard Soileau; and brother, John Darrell Soileau.













**John 14:1-3**

*"Do not let your hearts be troubled.*

*Trust in God, trust also in me.*

*In my Father's house are many rooms;*

*if it were not so, I would have told you.*

*I am going there to prepare a place for you.*

*And if I go and prepare a place for you,*

*I will come back and take you to be with me  
that you also may be where / am.*

*You know the way to the place where I am going."*





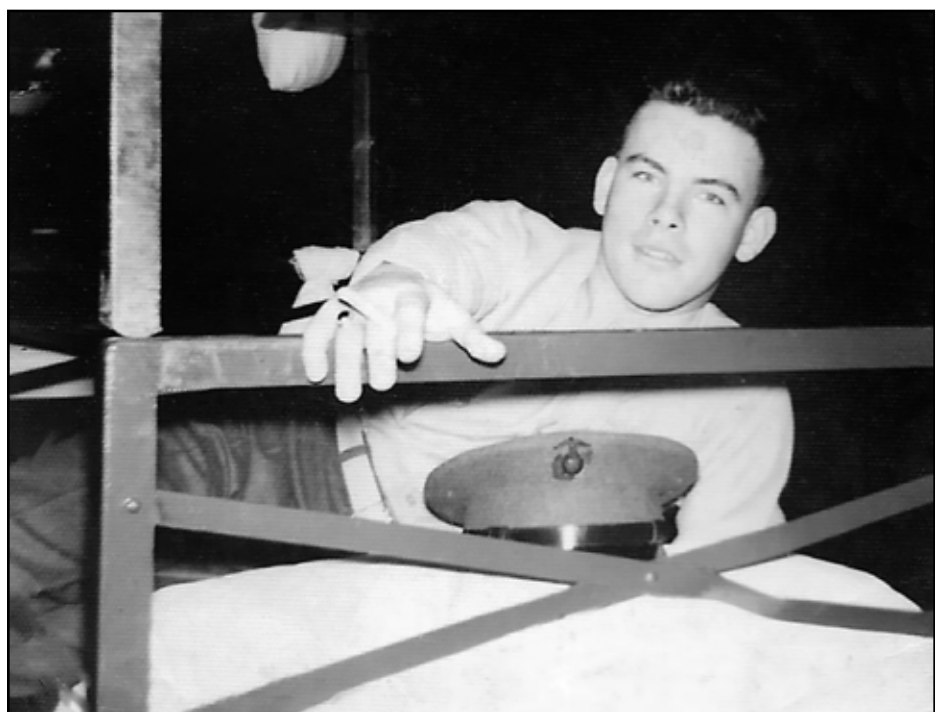
**John 14:6**

Jesus answered, *"I am the way and the truth and the life.  
No one comes to the Father except through me."*

### John 3:16-17

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."*











*The family would like you to know that because Dad placed His faith in Jesus Christ, he took his last breath on earth and his next breath in eternity There was no cessation of life.  
We love you Daddy and will see you again!*

**Pallbearers**

Curtis Soileau, Jr.  
Justin Soileau  
Kyle Coker  
Eric Sheffield  
Danny Soileau  
Spencer Guillory

**Honorary Pallbearers**

Dr. Matthew Coker  
Troy Soileau, Jr.  
Doug Gladden  
Andrew Rawlins

**Interment**

Franks Branch Cemetery  
Fred, Texas

**Memorial Contributions**

Southeast Texas Food Bank  
[setxfoodbank.org](http://setxfoodbank.org)



*Broussards*  
Established 1889

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