



**Richard Bryan Cotton**

September 23, 1937 - August 13, 2024

Celebrating the Life of  
**Richard Bryan Cotton**

Monday, August 19, 2024 2:00 p.m.  
Broussard's Chapel  
Nederland, Texas  
Reverend Charles Pederson

Military Honors  
Southeast Texas Veterans Group

*"How Great Thou Art"*  
by Alan Jackson

Opening Prayer

Obituary

Message

Closing Prayer

Benediction

*"I'll Fly Away"*  
by Alan Jackson

Masonic Rights

*"Go Rest High on That Mountain"*  
by Vince Gill



**Richard Bryan Cotton**, of Groves, Texas, passed away on Tuesday, August 13, 2024, at Forever Young House in Groves, Texas. He was born September 23, 1937, in Baltimore, Maryland, to Curtis Bryan Cotton and Anna Elizabeth Nugent Cotton.

Richard was a dedicated and hard worker and started working at the Don Drive part-time while

attending Thomas Jefferson High School. He worked for Gulf Oil Corporation, Marine Department and when it shut down, he went right to work for American Heavy Shipping Company as Chief Engineer, where he retired.

He served his country in the United States Army. He enjoyed reading. He looked forward to, as he would say... “learning from the right people.” He took classes in Marine Firefighting and Emergency Training at Texas A&M University, a course “Invert Gas and Crude Oil Washing” at College of Nautical Studies, South Hampton, England, U.K., a course in “Automation” Forney Engineering, Dallas, Texas, and a training course in Pollution “Bad Day at Bunker Point” Gulf Oil Corporation, Houston, Texas.

Richard was proud to be a Master Mason and served several Masonic Bodies faithfully for over 50 years. He was an Endowed Member of Nederland Masonic Lodge No. 1368 A.F. & A.M. and was accorded the Honor of the Golden Trowel Award. He was also a Past Most Excellent High Priest of Port Neches Chapter of Royal Arch Masons No. 436, Past Thrice Illustrious Master of Port Neches Council of Royal and Select Masters No. 413, Member of Port Arthur Commandery No. 73, a Life Member of Valley of Galveston, Orient of Texas Ancient and Accepted Sottish Rite of Free Masonry as a 32 degree Mason and member of Galveston El Mina Shrine, Past Worthy Patron of Nederland Chapter No. 1079 Order of the Eastern Star.

Richard's gentle spirit will remain in the hearts of all who knew him. He was preceded in death by his parents, Curtis Bryan Cotton and Anna Elizabeth Cotton; wife, Betty Jackson Cotton; brother and wife, Martin Edward Cotton and Delores Cotton; sisters and their husbands, Doris Ann Cotton Comeaux and Frances Ray Comeaux, and Irene Gertrude Cotton Lewis and Ernest George Lewis; and stepdaughter, Renona Rae Rife Williams.

He is survived by wife, Jeanette Merchant Rife-Cotton; son, Richard Bryan Cotton, Jr.; stepsons, Ronald Ray Rife, Jr. and wife, Rhonda; Rodney Reagan Rife and wife, Karen; step grandchildren, Taylor Rife and wife, Alicia, Carter Rife and wife, Courtney, Roberto Mario Morgan, and Rodney Rife, Jr.















## **Committal**

Broussard's Crematorium  
Beaumont, Texas

## **Memorial Contributions**

Knights Templar Eye Foundation  
3201 Cross Timber, Building 4, Suite 300  
Flower Mound, Texas 75028



*Broussard's*  
Established 1889

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