



## Elmer T Hovater

April 3, 1929 - July 2, 2021

Elmer T. Hovater, age 92, Russellville, passed away on Friday, July 02, 2021 at his residence.

Elmer T. was a lifelong resident of Franklin County and he proudly served his country in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He began farming with row crops and started as a cattleman in his early 20's with a small piece of land and just 17 head of mixed cattle. He was recognized as Franklin County's Outstanding Young Farmer for 1963. He owned the Dairy Queen for many years and various buildings and businesses across Russellville. He had many titles, including husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, businessman, an entrepreneur, horse showman, and a cattleman. He won numerous ribbons showing his Tennessee Walking Horses. Elmer T. was a member of the Franklin Cattleman's Association, the VFW, and the American Legion. He was also a member of Russellville First Baptist Church, and he loved his church and church family. Elmer T. loved life, loved to travel, and never met a stranger. He loved his cows, family, and friends. In recent years, he loved just riding out to the farm and checking on his cattle. If you ever met Elmer T. you would never forget him.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 65 years, Doris Ann Reed Hovater, and parents, James & Edith Hovater.

He leaves to cherish his memory, his daughter, Edith Ann Hovater Jones (Dan) of Auburn, AL; granddaughter, Kristin Jones Southers (Daniel) of Valdosta, GA; great-grandchildren, Abby Southers and Danielle Southers;

sister, Delores Johnson; niece, DeeDee Westbrook (Todd); nephew, Kirk Johnson (LuJean); other great-nieces and great-nephews; and more like family to Elmer T. than just friends, Caleb Beason and Karina Ramirez. The visitation will be 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 06, 2021 at Spry Memorial Chapel, with the funeral following at 2:00 p.m. in the chapel. Speaking at the funeral will be Bro. Richard Parker, Bro Chase Dowdy, Caleb Beason, and Todd Westbrook. Burial will be at Franklin Memory Gardens with military honors.

The pallbearers will be Caleb Beason, Eddie Beason, Stephen Westbrook, Pete Hill, Eric McKinney, and Alan Rhudy. Honorary pallbearers will be Gerald Hester, Don Quaid, and John Alexander Bencsik.

The family would like to extend a special thanks to Karina Ramirez for six years of loving care for our dad. Also a sincere thanks to Amanda Mouser, Erica Berryman, Don & Carolyn Quaid for the many ways you have helped our family.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you consider making a donation to the Franklin County Cattleman's Association, 10180 Hwy 187, Spruce Pine, AL 35585.

Spry Memorial Chapel assisted the family.

# Tribute Wall

FU

“ *Sending our deepest condolences. Elmer was a longtime childhood friend of mine. We had recently reconnected. I will miss him.*  
*Fred Underwood*



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**Fred & Lou Underwood** - July 20, 2021 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ *Praying for the Hovater family.*



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**Janice Hill Pennington** - July 17, 2021 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ *Great friend.*

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**Dale Hester** - July 07, 2021 at 12:00 AM

RN

“ *Elmer I loved you and Doris like parents. You will be missed so much. You can be with Doris now. Every time we talked I know how much you missed her. You and her were so special to me.*

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**Ray and Kathy Nichols** - July 06, 2021 at 12:00 AM

AK

“ To the family of Elmer T. Hovater, I am sending my heartfelt condolences for your loss. I first met Elmer T. and Mrs . Doris as a child at the Blue Goose Cafe, and immediately they had a special place in my heart. My dad ran the Blue Goose Cafe from February 1979- until his death in November of 2000. So there are lots of beautiful memories, many funny stories shared with them I will always have to cherish. They were customers at first, who quickly became wonderful friends to all of my family, and then, they became family to us as well. Them 2 were truly both one of a kind, Mrs. Doris for her kind heart, and beauty, love for family, community & friends which radiated from her onto everyone. Elmer T. for his business savvy , hard working nature, love of family, and also his boldness. Elmer was a little more forthright or outspoken than some people when it came to his surroundings, never mean or harsh, more of a comical character. He absolutely let it be known, you can?t get places in life without hard work and dedication. I admired, respected and loved them both sincerely. Praying for the family to find comfort and peace in the coming difficult days ahead. May you all find comfort in knowing he was not just loved by you all, but by many and leaves a great memories behind for many. He really was a great man, and I am truly honored & blessed to have known him and Mrs Doris.

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**Amy Terry King** - July 05, 2021 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ We were so sorry to hear about your loss. Elmer T. was a long time friend. He was a one of a kind and will be missed. You will all be in our thoughts and prayers during this time.

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**Joe and Shelia Tucker** - July 05, 2021 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Elmer was a fantastic person I learned to know 39 years ago when I came to live with Doris and he as an exchange student in 1982-83. We had a fantastic year and became family. I have returned to Russellville almost every second year from Norway to visit with my family and they have been in Norway visiting with us. Doris and Elmer was the Goodparents to my son,Jonathan . My daughter Victoria lived with Doris and Elmer attending Mars Hill Bible School and later UNA. We will miss Elmer so very much and I will miss our regular phone calls?. I would have been there for his last months if there had not been for the Corona travel restrictions. Elmer rest in peace we will always cherish your memories????And love you 😊

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**John-Alexander Bencsik** - July 05, 2021 at 12:00 AM

AK

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**Amy Terry King** - July 05, 2021 at 12:00 AM

NC

“ Edith, I am so sorry to learn about your dad?s passing. I have many fond memories of your visits to visit family in NC. As was mentioned in his obituary , he was someone every one will never forget .



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**Nell Tatham Cummins** - July 05, 2021 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ *I am so sorry for your loss Edith. You and all of the family will be in my thoughts and prayers.*

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**Lucy Wilson** - July 04, 2021 at 12:00 AM

RD

“ *ELMER T. HOVATER A MAN OF COURAGE,  
AND A FRIEND TO ALL.*



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**Rev. Charles A. Dale** - July 04, 2021 at 12:00 AM