

**THE OBSERVER/ENTERPRISE**

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**Obituaries**



**Fikes**

Weldon Farrell Fikes, 93, one of the Greatest Generation, passed from this country that he loved into the one he lived for all his life on Thursday, September 29, 2011, at the Robert Lee Care Center. The family received friends at Wes/Farrell Jean's home, 4801 FM 2034, (Water Valley Hwy.) The memorial service was Tuesday, October 4, 2011, at 1 pm at the Robert Lee Baptist Church. Visitation with the family immediately followed the service in the RLBC fellowship hall. Burial was at the Robert Lee Cemetery. Services were under the direction of Shaffer Funeral Home.

Born January 28, 1918, on the Fikes home place five miles north of Robert Lee, Coke County, Texas, Weldon was the middle child of Will and Birdie Markham Fikes. He was raised on the home place along with his older brother, Henson, and younger sister, Lorene, all who preceded him in death.

Weldon was a student at Robert Lee ISD from 1924 through graduation in 1936 where he was active in football, basketball, and track. He worked for a period of time to be able to attend Texas Tech for a year. However, the start of World War II changed the lives of many Americans, including his.

He was called into military service on Sunday, December 7, 1941, by the Coke County Draft Board, after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Three days later, Weldon was inducted into the U.S. Army at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. He received training at Camp Roberts,

California, Camp San Luis Obispo, California, Camp Young in the Mojave Desert with General George Patton, and amphibious training at Fort Ord, California, and the Catalina Islands. In March 1943, the 17th and 32nd Regiments of the 7th Division sailed from the San Francisco pier to the Aleutian Islands off the Alaska Peninsula. They were issued Artic equipment and given the assignment to take Attu Island back from the Japanese. The operation was to have taken three days. However, because of a late spring storm, fog, and frostbite, it took three weeks to secure the island. The next two years he saw service in various areas in Alaska. Weldon was discharged from the U.S. Army at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, on October 29, 1945, after serving four years. Weldon and Bryce Stewart were married September 18, 1945, and shared 49 years together prior to Bryce's death on November 2, 1994. Their lives were enriched with the addition of their three daughters, Elaine, Farrell Jean, and Marion whom they raised with love, compassion and a healthy

dose of realistic guidance.

Weldon's life and Robert Lee Baptist Church walked hand in hand most of his ninety-three years. In 1933, at the age of thirteen, he became a Christian and a member of Robert Lee Baptist Church. There he was ordained a deacon on May 17, 1946, and enjoyed serving alongside his church family in numerous capacities for many years.

Weldon was a good steward of the land in his farming and ranching occupation. Hunting was a life-long joy to him. He served as County and District Clerk of Coke County from 1950-1955. In 1956, he became Coke County's first Auditor, retiring in 1982.

On April 4, 1996, Weldon and Virginia Black, long-time acquaintance and former Howard County Auditor, were married in San Angelo, Texas. After living in Robert Lee for several years, Weldon and Ginny moved to San Angelo in 2004. They enjoyed their Baptist Memorial neighbors on West Street and their Immanuel Baptist Church family before health issues necessitated a move back to Robert Lee in 2009.

He is survived by his wife, Ginny of Robert Lee; three daughters and sons-in-law: Elaine and David Miller of Abilene and their sons, Nathan Miller of Midland, Jonathan Miller of Boerne; Farrell Jean and Wes Washam of Robert Lee and their daughter, Jamie (N.J. Unaka) Washam of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Marion and Jimmy Stewart of Midland and their children, Deana Baker (Dan) Lewis of Lubbock, David (Misty) Baker of Midland, Jay

(Wynne) Stewart of Midland, Jeff Stewart and Rafael Dalmau of Los Angeles, Kelly (Heather) Stewart of Frisco, and Susan Stewart (James) Britt. Thirteen great grandchildren also survive him.

His sixteen-year old grandson, John Mark Washam preceded him in death in 1990.

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**Benitez**

Arturo Giles Benitez went to be with his Lord and Savior on Sunday, October 2, 2011, at Shannon Medical Center surrounded by his family.

He was born on September 23, 1941, in Mexico City, D.F., Mexico, to Edmundo and Susana Giles Benitez. He was an accomplished cook for over 30 years and worked in San Angelo and Bronte restaurants. Arturo was a faithful member of River City Baptist Church where he served as Deacon and Sunday School Teacher for over 30 years and

very active in the music ministry. He directed several cantatas and shared his love of music by playing his guitar and mentoring other musicians. Arturo was an animal lover, an avid reader and pursued the study of astronomy.

On December 24, 1992, Arturo married the love of his life, Belia Atilano Lopez. Arturo embraced not only Belia, but her children and grandchildren as well. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him. He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers. Arturo is survived by his wife of 19 years, Belia; children Rev. Edward A. Lopez (Becky) of San Angelo, Sylvia Bauchman (Gary) of New Rochelle, New York, Nelda L. Garcia (David) of Austin, Robert A. Lopez (Sylvia) of San Angelo and Brenda L. Izaguirre (Edgar) of Austin; grandchildren Alyson Garcia, Kristopher Lopez, Caleb Garcia, Anyssa and Alex Moya-Lopez; sister Lupe Benitez Cureno of Mexico City, D.F. Mexico; and several nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life was held at 8 pm Tuesday, October 4, 2011, at River City Baptist Church in San Angelo, Texas. Funeral service was at 11 am Wednesday, October 5, 2011, at Johnson's Funeral Home chapel. Rev. Edward A. Lopez, Pastor of River City Baptist Church, officiated.

*Come as you are . . .*



Sunday Mornings • 10 am



**FORGIVEN MINISTRIES**  
 Downtown Bronte • Across from Grocery Store  
 Russ Frasier, Preacher

**FEAR OF THE LORD**

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do His commandments; His praise endureth forever. • *Psalms 111:10*

In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence: And His children shall have a place of refuge. The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death. • *Proverbs 14:26-27*

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: And the knowledge of the holy is understanding. • *Proverbs 9:10*

The fear of the Lord prolongeth days: But the years of the wicked shall be shortened. • *Proverbs 10:27*

The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the perverse mouth, do I hate • *Proverbs 8:13*

Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. • *II Corinthians 7:1*

**Victory Assembly of God**  
 Corner of 6th & Houston • Robert Lee  
 Pastor Irving Smith

**Service Schedule:**

Sunday morning  
 Sunday School 9:45 • Worship & Childrens Church 10:45  
 Sunday evening: Bible Study & Power Kids 6 pm  
 Wednesday evening: Bible Study & Power Kids 6 pm

**Area Churches**  
 Invite You to Worship

**Bronte**  
**Bronte Church of Christ**  
 PO Box 346 • 118 S. Jefferson • Bronte  
 (325) 473-3291  
 Preacher John V. Driggers  
 Sun. 10 am & 6 pm, Wed. 7 pm  
**Central Baptist Church**  
 324 S. Franklin • Bronte  
 (325) 473-4811  
 Dale Patterson, Pastor  
 Sun. 10 am Sunday School  
 11 am & 6 pm Worship  
 Wed. 6 pm  
**First Baptist Church**  
 424 S. Washington • Bronte  
 (325) 473-2331  
 Bro. Corey Cornutt, Pastor  
 Sunday 9:45 am Sunday School,  
 10:55 am Worship,  
 5 pm Worship  
 6 pm Youth  
 Wednesday 7 pm Prayer Meeting  
**First United Methodist Church**  
 Corner of Washington & Holmes  
 Bronte  
 (325) 473-3281  
 Rev. Matt Pennington, Pastor  
 Sun. 9:30 am Sunday School  
 11:00 am Worship  
**Forgiven Ministries**  
 117 W. Main, Bronte  
 Russ Frasier, Pastor  
 Sun. 10 am  
**St. James Catholic Church**  
 215 N. Washington, Bronte  
 (325) 365-2687  
 Rev. Hubert Wade, Jr., Pastor  
 Sun. 5 pm

**Coke County**  
**Pecan Baptist**  
 PO Box 542 • 12 miles West of  
 Robert Lee on Sterling City Hwy  
 (325) 453-2482  
 www.pecanbaptist.org  
 Sun. 10 am, Sunday School  
 11 am & 7 pm, Worship

**Robert Lee**  
**Emmanuel Pentecostal**  
 PO Box 683 • 1019 Colorado City Hwy  
 Robert Lee  
 (325) 453-2360  
 Rev. Ray Aldridge, Pastor  
 Sun. 10 am & 6 pm, Wed. 7 pm

**First United Methodist Church**  
 PO Box 144 • 9th & Chadbourne  
 Robert Lee • (325) 453-2417  
 Steve Peyton, Pastor  
 Sun. 10 am Sunday School  
 11 am Worship  
 5:00 pm Choir Practice  
**Iglesia Bautista Bethel**  
 101 Houston • Robert Lee  
 Sun. 10 am • Worship  
 11 am & 6 pm • Service  
 Wed. 7 pm  
**Southside Church of Christ**  
 PO Box 698 • 8th & Houston  
 Robert Lee  
 (325) 453-2176  
 Jordan Arnold, Preacher  
 Sun. 10 am, Sunday School  
 11 am & 6 pm, Worship  
 Wed. 6 pm, Worship  
**Northside Church of Christ**  
 PO Box 508  
 9th & Chadbourne • Robert Lee  
 (325) 655-9784 or 453-2685  
 Services: Sun. 10 am & 1:30 pm;  
 Wed. 6 pm  
**Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church**  
 601 W. 10th, Robert Lee  
 (325) 365-2687  
 Rev. Hubert Wade, Jr., Pastor  
 Sat. 6 pm  
**Robert Lee Baptist Church**  
 PO Box 493 • 22 W. 11th  
 (325) 453-2724  
 Danny White, Pastor  
 Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School  
 11 am & 7 pm, Worship  
 Wed. 7 pm, Prayer Meeting  
**Victory Assembly of God**  
 PO Box 638  
 6th & Houston, Robert Lee  
 (325) 453-2208  
 Rev. Irving Smith, Pastor  
 Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School  
 10:45 am & 6 pm, Worship  
 Wed. 6 pm, Bible Study  
**Tennyson**  
**Tennyson Baptist Church**  
 Hwy 277 • Tennyson  
 (325) 473-2040  
 Sun. 9:45 am, Sunday School  
 11:00 am & 6 pm, Worship  
 Wed. 6:00 pm Prayer Meeting