



Ray Dean Linder

January 30, 1935 - July 15, 2021

Memorial services for Ray Dean Linder will be 1:30 p.m. Monday, July 19, 2021, at the Alva First Christian Church with Pastor Drew Kirtley and Rev. Ron Pingelton officiating. A private family interment will be held prior to the service under the direction of Marshall Funeral Home of Alva.

Ray Dean Linder, son of the late James A. "Bub" and Edna Lorene (Rose) Linder, was born January 30, 1935, in Waynoka, Oklahoma, and passed away peacefully July 15, 2021, at Beadles Nursing Home in Alva, OK surrounded by family.

He graduated from Waynoka High School in 1953 as class valedictorian and lettered all three years in baseball, basketball and football. At Southwestern State College, now SWOSU in Weatherford, OK, he was a four-year letterman in baseball and football. He was in debate and speech. It was in Weatherford that he met the love of his life, Wylodean Berry from Tipton, Oklahoma.

He graduated from OU Law School in 1960, where he was the Secretary of his Senior Law Class and a member of the Delta Theta Phi Legal Fraternity. During his first year, Jana Dean was born. That was the day after OU lost to Notre Dame - ending the Sooners 47 game winning streak.

Once in Alva, Jay Gregory was born in 1960, Jon Berry in 1962 and Julia

Kaye in 1964 - making them the "4 Js" as they were lovingly called by Aunts Tenne and Olive Linder.

Dean began his law career in Alva in 1960 as the County Attorney for Woods County. From 1967-1969, he was elected County Judge, 1969-1982 he was elected Associate District Judge. In 1982, he was elected District Judge, Division 1, Fourth Judicial District of Oklahoma until his retirement, January 2015. He also served as Presiding Judge of N.W. Judicial Administrative District OK. He served as President of Oklahoma Judicial Conference, Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Assembly of Presiding Judges, Chairman of Oklahoma Drug and Violent Crime Grant Board, Secretary-Treasurer and President of Woods County Bar Association. He delivered the address at the Convocation 2002 OU College of Law graduation. His judicial memberships include Judicial Oversight Committee, Trial Division Oklahoma Court on the Judiciary, Oklahoma Drug and Violent Crime Grant Board, Oklahoma Court of Tax Review and Oklahoma, Woods and Woodward County Bar Associations.

Community involvement includes Board of Directors of Kiwanis Club, Board of Deacons and Elders at Alva First Christian Church, Board of Directors Northwest Family Services Center, NWOSU Foundation, BJCC Citizens Advisory Board and Board of Trustees for the Charles Morton Share Trust. For 25+ years, he has served on the statewide planning committee for the Oklahoma Lieutenant Governor's Invitational Turkey Hunt and has served as Co-Chairman of the Oklahoma Legislative Quail Hunt in Woods County.

Outstanding accomplishments include Alva Chamber of Commerce Exemplary Community Service Award, NWOSU Sports Hall of Fame inductee, Oklahoma Trial Judge of the Year 1997, 2000, 2002, 2012 and Oklahoma Bar Association Award of Judicial Excellence.

He is survived by his beautiful wife Wylodean of nearly 65 years, daughter

Jana Pitt, son Jon Linder, daughter Julia (Kelly) Schrock, grandchildren Kelli (Justin) Vinyard, Tyler (Brooke) Crawford, Sean (Payten) Pitt, Kaleb Schrock, great-grandchildren Nolan Dean and Gracyn Vinyard, and sister Carolyn (Bob) Calvery.

He was preceded in death by son, Jay Linder; parents James A. "Bub" and Lorene Linder; in-laws, Clarence and Mary Berry; brother, Jim Linder; and special aunts, Tenne Linder, Olive Linder, and Pearl English Crane.

In lieu of flowers, the family request a memorial contribution to the Dean Linder Broadcast Scholarship, NW Foundation and Alumni Association or the First Christian Church Disciples of Christ, Alva.

Final sign-off "Good night and continue to be real good sports."

Previous Events

Viewing

JUL 17. 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Marshall Funeral Home of Alva
230 Flynn Street. P.O. Box 804
Alva, OK 73717
(580) 327-2311
<https://www.marshallfuneralhomes.com/>

Viewing

JUL 18. 12:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Marshall Funeral Home of Alva
230 Flynn Street. P.O. Box 804
Alva, OK 73717
(580) 327-2311
<https://www.marshallfuneralhomes.com/>

Memorial Service

JUL 19. 1:30 PM (CT)

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
821 College
Alva, OK 73717

Tribute Wall



“ *Ray Dean Linder*

January 30, 2023 at 03:38 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Memorial Service*



Marshall Funeral Homes - July 22, 2021 at 12:49 PM



“ *Dean Linder was an outstanding student at Waynoka High, and made friends easily. It is so very sad that he has departed this life - he will be missed by his family and many friends.. Please accept my sincere condolences. Don't hesitate to call me if I can be of help.*

Sandie Olson - July 22, 2021 at 01:01 AM



“ *Judge Linder was very compassionate with my father when my father was dying with cancer. I will never forget him for that awesome display of compassion, insight, understanding of my father's situation. Jon and I are schoolmates and neighbors and I always had great reverence for him as a father, Judge and voice on the radio. Thank you for your service. A great man.*

Kyle Fisher

Kyle Fisher - July 20, 2021 at 11:07 PM

JB

“ Judge Linder was a great man as well as a great judge. He always had time to come up to me as a young judge and give me his "take" on things. It was 100% correct! I loved hearing his stories about run ins with my father and grand-father. His knowledge about the judiciary was helpful almost as much as his knowledge of bird dogs and hunting! He will be missed.

Judge Robert (Bobby) Bell - July 20, 2021 at 05:20 PM



Thank you, Judge Bell, for your comments about Judge Linder. I admired and appreciated him so much. He and my husband were related.

Sandie Olson - July 22, 2021 at 01:10 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Ray Dean Linder.



July 20, 2021 at 10:57 AM

LJ

“ Dean was very much a friend and a personal friend of my former father in law who respected him very much and thought the world of Dean! I flew Dean and Ben Buckland to Portalis New Mexico to broadcast a Ranger Football Game. He was the best Supporter of Ranger Football and anything Alva! Rest In Peace Dean, you were one of the best!

Les Jacobs - July 19, 2021 at 08:27 PM

DG

“ When you heard his voice on the radio or at the ball game you knew you were at a NWOSU event. A great man who was always nice when I had a chance to visit with him. Rest in peace.....RRR David Glove

David Glover - July 19, 2021 at 12:51 PM

AJ

“ It was my privilege to serve on the State Trial Bench with Ray Dean Linder for 35 years. We got acquainted at the State Judicial Conference and became friends for decades. We hunted quail together near Alva, and he came to Eastern Oklahoma to hunt turkeys with me. He took his hunting very seriously, but he was always fun to be around and we laughed a lot He made a silver bolo tie for me in the shape of an arrowhead, with my cattle brand on it, and it is one of my most treasured possessions. Ray Dean Linder had a brilliant legal mind that was tempered with so much common sense and wisdom that he was considered a giant among judges, and he was truly an asset to the Oklahoma Trial Bench. He was a good judge, a good man, and a good friend who will be missed. His was a life well lived, and this old world is a better place because of Ray Dean Linder.

A.J. Henshaw Jr., Associate District Judge (Retired), Sequoyah County

A.J. Henshaw Jr. - July 19, 2021 at 11:20 AM



Thank you for sharing, Judge. Dean and I were from the same hometown, Waynoka, where he graduated from high school. He was admired and respected, not only in his hometown but in Alva as well. He was outstanding - a role model with many talents and opportunities. His wife and children have my deepest sympathy.

Sandie Olson - July 19, 2021 at 11:23 PM

SI

“ The first time I ever saw Judge Linder was when he and his wife walked into the 'old' VFW. I thought they were the cutest couple I had ever seen. At the time, there was gambling in the back of the building which was not legal in Oklahoma. The buzz that night, 'Is he going to arrest everyone or just those in the gambling room?' What everyone saw that night was a lovely couple who were just interested in visiting and meeting people who would become their neighbors and friends. Everything I ever heard about Judge Linder is confirmed by the comments I read on this site, that he was a good, decent man and knew how to treat other people. I extended my sympathy to you, Will, and children. I am glad you had him in your lives and know how proud you are of him.

Sheryll Ingram - July 19, 2021 at 09:09 AM

SP

Judge Linder was the man. Working as deputy in Major County Court Clerk's office, starting 1981 was honored to work with Judge Linder. One of the nicest & most intelligent men I have had the privilege to know. When I was elected Court Clerk he was so helpful. The many talks about sports & his hunting trips. Especially those down in LeFlore County as I had family living there. Now I am living here in LeFlore County so can be close to family. Have to also remember the beautiful jewelry he made for me when I retired. So wish I could be able to attend the service. Sending prayers of comfort to the family, he will be missed by so many.

Shirley Parsons - July 19, 2021 at 10:54 AM



“ I once served as a young Judge in Blaine County. Judge Linder provided me guidance and served as a role model. At the Boiling Spring Institute with attorneys attending from Northwest Oklahoma, he asked me about my son playing football in Watonga, based upon an article he read in the Enid News and Eagle. His interest in my family and me was greatly appreciated.

Judge Linder also told me a story about going to officiate a football game in Freedom where my father started his career as a FFA instructor. Judge Linder knew that his election as the Judge for Woods County was going to turn out ok when the football players at halftime put on their helmets a bumper sticker - "Linder for Judge."

Judge Linder was a silversmith and made a string tie for me with Watonga placed on an outline of the State of Oklahoma. The tie was actually skewed to show Watonga closer to the center of the State (Alva). He once said that if you drew a line between New Mexico and Missouri, the halfway point would be West of Alva! The panhandle of Oklahoma was a long way!

Judge Linder was a fine man and an excellent jurist. Judge Linder may have set a record as the longest serving Judge in Oklahoma - beating Judge Tom Walker in Carter County.

I will miss him as a mentor and a friend.

Rest in peace, Judge Linder.

Mark Moore

Blaine County Associate District Judge (Retired)

Mark Moore - July 19, 2021 at 12:49 AM



“ Judge Linder graduated from Waynoka High School where he was, of course, a good student and had many friends. He will be missed by his friends and acquaintances in Northwest Oklahoma and those in the State of Oklahoma, and all who knew him. May God be with Judge Linder's family and friends as they cope with this terrible loss.

Sandie Olson - July 19, 2021 at 12:40 AM

DC

“ Will Rogers said "I never met a man I didn't like. The same thing could be said about Dean Linder. He was friends with everyone he knew. Around Dean, you felt as though you were the most important person in his life. He always referred to me as "Doctor" or "Young Lady".....though I was far from that after 50 + years! :) Wylodean knew I loved Dean and have considered him my friend for over 60 years. His "Voice of The Rangers" always made me want to go to the basketball or football games. When he quit broadcasting, no one could ever really take his place! I am sad that he is gone. I send my love and condolences to Wylodean and his children. How proud you must all be to have had a husband and dad like Dean!

Dr Yvonne Carmichael

Dr. Yvonne Carmichael - July 18, 2021 at 06:08 PM

LL

“ Judge Linder was in my eyes the best judge ever to sit behind the Bench I've every know. I stood before him in my young years of doing dumb stuff. He was always fair no matter who you where. I just live a block from the home where he lived for many years. May God comfort this family and the many people he has worked with. I can see him being the judge at the Pearly Gates to Heaven asking you if you think you should enter this holy place.



Lisa Lopshire - July 18, 2021 at 02:52 PM



“ There are no words to accurately describe Dean! He was a true gentleman; loved by many!! My former mother-in-law always looked forward to his sports broadcasting, saying “ Dean puts me to sleep at night, listening to him on the radio”! Surely special memories will warm the hearts of his family! RIP Dean

DaleVaughna Schmidt - July 18, 2021 at 11:46 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ray Dean Linder.



July 17, 2021 at 08:21 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ray Dean Linder.*



July 17, 2021 at 08:20 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Video Tribute*



Marshall Funeral Homes - July 17, 2021 at 05:23 PM

BB

Love the video. Many memories

Bill/Linda Beeler - July 18, 2021 at 03:36 PM

SP

So loved this video, so many precious memories for the family & friends. He was my Judge but most of all my friend. Shirley Parsons.

Shirley Parsons - July 19, 2021 at 09:03 PM

AG

Beautiful video! My father served the Oklahoma Judiciary with Judge Linder, and also spent many turkey hunting days with him. Love and prayers to the Linder Family. Alex Goodpaster

Alex Goodpaster - July 20, 2021 at 04:32 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ray Dean Linder.*



July 17, 2021 at 11:56 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ray Dean Linder.*



July 17, 2021 at 11:14 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ray Dean Linder.*



July 17, 2021 at 09:33 AM



“ *Dean was such a wonderful man who taught me so much. I was privileged to be the "color man" with many of his Alva Goldbug and Northwestern Ranger broadcasts in the early '70's. He was always professional and such an encouragement to those he encountered. I saw him many years later in his professional capacity, and he was still so encouraging and friendly. He was one of a kind and will be truly missed by all of us who knew him.*

G Bill Hull - July 17, 2021 at 08:49 AM

JN

“ One of the best judges Alva has had, Has helped so many.No more pain walking through Those Heavenly Gates. RIP Dean prayers for Wiladean, John and the girls at this hard time.



Jennifer Nixon - July 17, 2021 at 08:26 AM

LK

“ Many a life’s lesson learned from this remarkable man. Heaven has gained a great, well-loved and wise man! Rest In Peace Your Honor. Love to Jana and the entire family. Love, Jim and Lynell Beierschmitt

lkbeierschmitt - July 16, 2021 at 11:58 PM

TI

“ I love this entire family. Wyl and Dean have always been special to me. Love u all so much.

Tisha - July 16, 2021 at 11:05 PM

AL

“ A great man who was always a kind and honorable gentleman to me. So many great childhood memories. Hope it was an easy transition for you Dean. I’ll see you on the Otherside.

Ann Carlson aka Annie Leist - July 16, 2021 at 09:18 PM

LP

“ The greatest compliment I can give Dean is that he was a GOOD man who was well respected by people of all ages.

Linda (Case) Pfeider - July 16, 2021 at 08:11 PM

JS

“ So sorry for your family in these sad times.
God be with you all.



Jim Scribner - July 16, 2021 at 07:27 PM

SO

“ I have so many memories of Dean throughout my life. I loved seeing him smile and getting my hug. But some of my greatest memories are watching him with my kids. We were in red river at the cabin, and he stopped to say hi. Christopher saw him and grabbed his fishing pole and off they went for a day of fishing. I keep looking for the picture, but it's etched in my mind. Dean was a loving and caring man and I was very blessed to have him in my life!



Samantha Oshel - July 16, 2021 at 07:17 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ray Dean Linder.



July 16, 2021 at 07:14 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Ray Dean Linder.*



July 16, 2021 at 06:48 PM



“ *good man. itwas always a pleasure to appear as an attorney in front of judge linder.*

john jameson - July 16, 2021 at 06:39 PM



“ *Dean was a top notch man & judge. Our love, sympathy & prayers sent to the family....Rest well Dean.*



Dudley & Jeanne Winn - July 16, 2021 at 06:36 PM



“ *Dean,Don Campbell,Jon Linder an I were hunting on the selman ranch North of woodward some quail got up an jon shot an missed he had a talkin to him I said Damn Dean I guy ought to be entitled to miss every now an then give him some slack.No more said the rest of the day we had one good hunt u know Dean never missed. Judge may you RIP my friend*

Doug Gourley - July 16, 2021 at 05:53 PM