



Oral Lavern Austin

September 7, 1936 - July 3, 2023

Oral Lavern Austin, 86, of Mt. Vernon, passed away at 8:56 a.m., Monday, July 3, 2023, at Mt. Vernon Countryside Manor.

He was born on September 7, 1936, the son of Berthyl and Edna (Minor) Austin. On July 23, 1955, he married Betty Byars in Kell, Illinois. Lavern was owner of Austin's Restaurants in Salem and Dix. He was a member of Panther Fork Missionary Baptist Church in Texico, where he served as deacon for many years. He also served as song leader for a time. He had fond memories of his red and white Polled Hereford Cattle, and served as a President of the Illinois Polled Hereford Association.

Lavern is survived by two children, Steven Austin and wife Holly of Mt. Vernon, and Sondra Caldwell and husband Mark of Texico; five grandchildren, Jana Mullinax and husband Rodney of Mt. Vernon, Marci Sherwin and husband Dean of Texico, Adam Caldwell and wife Erin of Terre Haute, Indiana, Kane Austin and wife Ashley of Inman, Kansas, and Adrian Austin and friend Quest Newberry of Brenham, Texas; seven great-grandchildren, Quinton Mullinax, Alexia Sherwin, Elias Mullinax, Walker Sherwin, Violet Caldwell, Milo Caldwell, and Asher Caldwell; one brother, Chalon Austin and wife Effie Mae of Dix; one brother-in-law, Edgar Byars of Kell; one sister-in-law, Sheila Byars of Marlow; and many nieces and nephews.

Lavern was preceded in death by his wife, Betty; his parents; three brothers, Berthyl Austin, Jr., Waymon Austin, and Marvie Austin; and two sisters, Velma Ullery and Patricia Connaway.

Funeral services for Mr. Austin will be held at 11:00 a.m., Friday, July 7, 2023, at Panther Fork Baptist Church, with Rev. John Ashby officiating. Burial will follow at Panther Fork Cemetery. Visitation will be held Thursday, July 6, 2023, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., at the Osborn Funeral Home in Dix. Memorial gifts may be made to the Panther Fork Cemetery, and will be accepted at the service, or by mail to Osborn Funeral Home, P.O. Box 130, Dix, Illinois 62830. Online condolences may be made at www.osbornfuneral.com, or on the Osborn Funeral Home Facebook page.

Cemetery Details

Panther Fork Cemetery

Texico, IL 62889

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 6. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Osborn Funeral Home
322 North Main Street
Dix, IL 62830
(618) 266-7231
office@osbornfuneral.com
<https://www.osbornfuneral.com>

Funeral Service

JUL 7. 11:00 AM (CT)

Panther Fork Baptist Church
22224 N Tolle Ln
Texico, IL 62889

Tribute Wall

HK

“ Our sincere sympathy to your family at this sad time. Your dad was such a good man. I knew your dad because my family also had Polled Herefords. My father was Stanley Rosenberger. Then I got to know and love your mother when we both attended a Bible Study at Grace Church in Salem. We cannot forget our trips to Austin's to enjoy their delicious fried chicken.
May many wonderful memories and God's peace be with you.
Don and Harriett (Rosenberger) Koch

Harriett Koch - July 07, 2023 at 02:52 PM

MC

“ My wife and I worked at Austin's in High School and College, Lavern was a role model in so many ways: devoted Christian, great boss, hard worker, and such a kind and caring person with a pleasant and positive personality. I greatly appreciate the opportunities he gave us and all that I learned from him. Deepest sympathies and prayers for his family!

Mark Clark - July 07, 2023 at 08:49 AM

ES

“ My thoughts are with the Austin family, with the passing of Oral. Betty was related to me thru the Branson Family.. when my dad would come into the restaurant, she always made sure he was waited on right away, with a, Hello, Charlie💕💕

Ellen McMackin Spencer - July 06, 2023 at 03:34 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Oral Lavern Austin.* ”



July 05, 2023 at 03:58 PM



“ *102 files added to the album LifeTributes* ”



Osborn Funeral Home - July 05, 2023 at 03:12 PM

MT

“ To the Austin Family: So sorry to see that your Loved One has passed away. I must tell you that I am Marilyn (Shehorn) Tarbutton originally from north of Keenes and south of Orchardville and I know that many of you don't know me. When I would come back to visit my family after moving away one of the places we would at least go once was to Austin's Restaurant in Dix for very good food. I probably met Oral and Betty years ago. I know that all of you will miss him but remember the good times you had with him over the years as the memories are so precious. We know that he has been called home to be with his Heavenly Father and others that have gone on before him. May God bless all of you at this time and keep you in his loving arms. Sent with my deepest sympathy to all. Love and blessings, Marilyn

Marilyn (Shehorn) Tarbutton - July 05, 2023 at 01:00 PM

DC

“ My deepest condolences 🙏 to the Austin family. So many memories of Mr. Austin and Austin's restaurant in Salem, Illinois growing up. 🙏 Prayers going up for comfort for the family. God Bless them.

Dianne Collins - July 04, 2023 at 10:28 PM

DC

My maiden name was Barksdale.

Dianne Barksdale Collins - July 04, 2023 at 10:29 PM

NH

“ Our Deepest Sympathy An Prayers To All of You. I worked for Lavern & Betty at Austin's in Salem for a long time. I have know Both of them for many years. They are both "Very Special", an would help you any way they could. He will be Missed.



Norma (Donoho) & J.R. Hofstetter - July 04, 2023 at 03:06 PM

NH

“ Norma (Donoho) & J.R. Hofstetter lit a candle in memory of Oral Lavern Austin



Norma (Donoho) & J.R. Hofstetter - July 04, 2023 at 03:00 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Oral Lavern Austin.



July 04, 2023 at 02:54 PM

LM

“ Laverne drove Sunday Schoolbus for Panther Fork Church. Picked me and my sisters up. Have great memories of him and Betty. Always loved to go to Austin 's Restaurant. Always took time to speak. A wonderful person ❤️🙏❤️🙏

Lisa McKinney - July 04, 2023 at 01:02 PM

JH

“ I was a neighbor of Betty & Lavern's for over 10 years. My children loved picking flowers in the pasture in the spring for their teachers. And we helped round up cattle when they escaped from the fields. And my children and I attended the same church for a while. I have a lot of fond memories of both of them. Rest in Peace with your Lord.

Joey Hanks - July 04, 2023 at 11:29 AM

JK

“ Lavern Austin was one of the kindest men you could ever meet. He was always there to serve everyone. It meant so much to him to provide an awesome meal or to say hello to his friend, neighbor and to any stranger who came in to eat at Austin's Restaurant. He will always be one of my great role models for his kindness, hard work and dedication to serve others. May he rest in Peace and join God in heaven!

John T. Kabat - July 04, 2023 at 06:49 AM