



Norman Hunter

March 12, 1920 - August 7, 2012

HUNTER, NORMAN F.

Age 92, a resident of Albuquerque since 1992, died on August 7, 2012. He is survived by his spouse, Patrice Dawson Hunter; and his five children: Norman F. Hunter, Jr., James Shores Hunter, Alice Hunter LaCelle, Joseph Alexander Hunter and John Dawson Hunter; six grandchildren; one great-grandchild; many nieces and nephews; and his beloved sister, Julia Hunter Flowers. Mr. Hunter was born in Shreveport, Louisiana as the youngest of seven children. He spent a happy childhood there, growing up in a small southern town with kind, loving parents. After attending St. John's High School, he went to Centenary College in Shreveport. He learned to fly single engine cub planes as part of the Civilian Air Corp prior to WWII and also had some flight training during the War. In 1942 he married Mary Alice Shores, also of Shreveport. They had four children before her untimely death in 1961. He went on to serve during the Second World War aboard a Liberty Ship that was part of a top secret air craft repair operation in the Pacific. His ship survived a major typhoon as well as being hunted by Japanese planes and submarines; he had many entertaining stories to tell about his war days. After the war he returned to college, graduated with a degree in Geology and went on to have an extensive career as a Petroleum Landman with Tenneco Oil Co. and Sanchez-O'Brien Oil Co. in Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas. In 1965 he married Patrice Dawson Hunter, with whom he had one child, John. He was an avid fisherman, hunter and golfer and he always took a vigorous daily walk.

One of his great adventures was running a large oil and gas operation in Houma, Louisiana, which is southwest of New Orleans, where he had exciting encounters with alligators, swamp boats, Cajuns, and politicians. Mr. Hunter loved his work and always said he would have continued to work forever if his vision had allowed. In his later years, Mr. Hunter suffered from macular degeneration, but compensated so well he was able to continue his walks and also handle his own paperwork, with the aid of magnifying devices and an incredible amount of patience. His memory was excellent and he could recite phone numbers, account numbers, exact dollar amounts, and other details on demand. His sense of humor was original and legendary. In his last few days, while bedridden and extremely weak, plagued with bizarre dreams, he was still able to joke. When his son asked, Are you in pain, he whispered, No - I'm in mischief. A Visitation will be held at French - Lomas location on Sunday, August 12, 2012 from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. with a Graveside Service at Santa Fe National Cemetery in Santa Fe on Monday, August 13, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. In addition to his four sons, pallbearers will include two of his grandsons, Patrick Hunter and James Hunter, and his good friend Ben Abeyta of Albuquerque. A Memorial Service will also be held in Shreveport, Louisiana at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The New Mexico Library for the Blind and Handicapped, 1209 Camino Carlos Rey, Santa Fe, New Mexico, or the Hospice De La Luz, 3812 Academy Parkway North, NE Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109. Please visit our online guestbook for Norman Hunter at www.remembertheirstory.com <http://www.remembertheirstory.com>.

FRENCH

10500 Lomas Blvd NE

505-275-3500

Tribute Wall

EM

“ *My families thoughts and prayers are with your family during this time of loss. Know that Norman had a full life and leaves a wonderful legacy through his many friends and family members. God Bless*

Eric Martin - August 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with all the Hunter Family. Jim & Linda Logan Bastrop, Texas*

Jim & Linda Logan - August 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JH

“Tribute from Norman Hunter's son John Hunter, remembering an adventure he had with his Dad: Rescue When I was probably 11 or 12 years old, Mom, Dad and I were at the house in Diamondhead Mississippi when Dad decided we would go fishing on the Atchafalaya. We left from Diamondhead and went to the boat ramp at probably the eastern end of the Atchafalaya Basin Bridge on Interstate 10. (This is an area of the swamp that I seem to remember as being called Lake Henderson, but I can't find any reference to that on Google Earth.) We put the bass boat (Skeeter) in the water and started out down the main channel of water between the freeway bridges. We must have been heading toward a particular fishing spot in the swamp that Dad knew about. It was clear going between the freeway bridges and the trees and banks of the swamp didn't start until the outer edge of the bridges on each side. There was almost no other boat traffic and plenty of room so Dad let me drive. As we reached an area where there were large gaps between the bridge pylons, a fishing boat passed us on the right. It was moving pretty fast considering the fact that it was just a medium sized wooden utility boat with a half open cabin and probably dual inboard-outboard motors. To my recollection there were 6 people in the boat, the driver of the boat who I think was named Farmer, plus his 3 kids and his parents. As they passed us the boat began to weave in and out of some of the bridge pylons. (I remember Dad saying "Idiot"). This maneuvering looked dangerous because the boat was obviously very top heavy due to it's fishing nets and gear which were folded up in the middle of the boat on four poles, creating a high center of gravity. The people in the boat were whooping and hollering and the consensus of opinion was they had been drinking. The boat passed us and continued down the channel, alternating between driving in the channel and sometimes dipping to the outside to weave between the pylons. I was putt-putting along at a slow speed and mostly staring off into the swamp on our right. Dad remained standing and kept watching the other boat even after it had gotten a good distance ahead of us. I was daydreaming about something when Dad said "Get up, let me drive." I looked forward in time to see what looked like an explosion

of water far ahead. Dad had seen the boat actually capsize and he jumped in the driver's seat and cranked our boat up to full speed. The fishing boat had turned sharply into the main channel and rolled to the outside of it's turn, throwing the occupants all directions. As we approached it I saw the hull of the boat bobbing for 2 or 3 seconds before it disappeared. Dad did something he used to call his "007 maneuver", approaching the people at high speed then reversing the prop in the last few seconds before cutting off the motor. There was all kinds of junk (A cooler, flip flops, etc..) floating around the spot where the boat sank. People were yelling, and Farmer was in the water with no life jacket trying to hold up two of his kids who were also not wearing life vests. As Dad paddled toward him, we passed by the grandmother who was wearing a life jacket and had luckily kept her grip on the infant who had been on her lap. Mom leaned out the right side of our boat and snatched the baby and gave it to me. Then she and the grandmother wrestled for a while as the grandmother tried to get into the boat. I believe I had to get up at some point to help because I remember mom sitting in the back seat holding the baby. Dad had pulled Farmer's kids in and I tried to help Farmer climb in over the side but I had to get out of the way because he came scrambling into the boat completely panicked. He had been trying to tread water and hold the kids up while wearing cowboy boots. As he climbed in he managed to tear our depth finder halfway off it's mounting and with one of his boots he kicked the live-well plug out of the side of our boat, taking a small section of fiberglass hull with it. (We didn't know that at the time but it would become

John Hunter - August 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ I have very special memories of working with Norman Hunter at Tenneco Oil in Shreveport, LA. He was a wonderful boss and always a good friend. Several years ago my husband and I visited with him and Pat on our way to Colorado. It was a very special evening. His family will be in my thoughts and prayers. Jeanette Williams, Houston, TX

Jeanette Duchesne Williams - August 11, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ We will always remember Hunter as a great friend. He will be surely missed. Will keep your family in our thoughts and prayers through this difficult time.

The Cassard Family - August 11, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RK

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the entire Hunter Family. I know Mr. Hunter will be greatly missed. Rosette Knipp Granbury, Texas

Rosette Knipp - August 11, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AM

“ On behalf of the French Family of Companies, we express our deepest condolences.

Apollo Miller - August 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM