



## Phil Hightower

August 22, 1955 - June 19, 2021

Phil Hightower, age 65 of Purcell, passed away Saturday, June 19, 2021. Phillip Wayne Hightower was born August 22, 1955 in Childress, Texas, the 3rd of 8 children born to Laymon D. Hightower and Chloe Ann (Gresham) Hightower. Growing up on a farm, Phil learned the value of discipline and hard work. His early years were spent in the Groom and Panhandle area, before finishing school in Tularosa, NM. Phil joined the United States Navy and later served in the United States Air Force. He served his country proudly for more than 28 years, serving tours in Rota, Spain, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and Guam. Phil returned to school to study criminology. By this time, he had met a young woman from Tipton, and they were the perfect match. Phil married his best friend and life partner, Debra Buxton, on August 16, 1980 in Tipton. He worked as a security guard for a short time, and also for the Tipton Police Department for a couple of years, before joining the Purcell Police Department in 1985. Phil dedicated his life to serving the citizens of Purcell, retiring in 2008, after more than 23 years of service. Phil stayed busy in retirement, volunteering at the Purcell Hospital, and logged more than 4000 hours as a volunteer there. Phil had a true servant's heart; he believed in service to others, and he was always looking for ways to help others. He cherished Debra, his children and grandchildren, and was proud to always come to the rescue. He will be dearly missed!

He was preceded in death by: his parents, Layman and Chloe Hightower; Brother Randy Hightower, and his parent-in-laws, Richard Buxton and

DeLoyce Williams.

Phil is survived by: his wife, Debra of the home; daughters, Ashley Wescott and husband Josh of Lindsay, Julia Hightower and husband Chris Tyler of Norman and Christy Hightower and fiancé, Donovan Farley of Purcell; son, Samuel Hightower and fiancé Rachel Payne of Purcell; 3 sisters, Linda Gilley and husband Franklin of Amarillo, TX, Wanda Buxton and husband Jim of Wanette and Cheryl Van and husband Wayne; brothers, Tony Hightower and wife Colleen of Odessa, TX, Keith Hightower of Dora, NM and Chris Hightower of Dora, NM; Brothers and Sisters-in-law, Karen Clifton of Marietta, OK, Vickie Daniel of Noble, OK, Mike and Donna Buxton of Marietta, OK and Albert Buxton of OKC; Grandchildren, Kimber Wescott, Kingston Peters, Claire Tyler, Titus Tyler, Kensley Deviney, Myla Payne, Arys Hightower and 2 on the way; several nieces and nephews and a host of other family and friends.

Funeral Services are scheduled for 2:00 P.M. Wednesday, June 23, 2021, at the Emmanuel Baptist Church in Purcell. Burial will follow at the Hillside Cemetery. Send online condolences @ [www.wilsonlittle.com](http://www.wilsonlittle.com).

# Tribute Wall

SR

“ I known Officer Hightowersince i was a young girl. The best memory/ story I have of him is from my highschool senior year. I was running late for class one morning and speeding (only slightly lol) down Green Ave and he stopped me... As he was walking up to my window I hear him say "Sondra Criswell" why are you speeding?! I told him why and the first words after my "excuse" were "Do i need to drive down and let your Dad know you were speeding?" LOL i was shaking in my shoes and responded "O please no can i just have a ticket?" To which he said " Dont let me catch you doing it again young lady." I was relieved to say the least! You see Officer Hightower was so invested in his community that he knew most of us by first name. He was a wonderful man. He will truly be missed and i have and always will remember him. Prayers for the family, friends and community that loved him.

Sondra (Criswell) Ramos - July 04, 2021 at 12:00 AM

SP

“ I met Officer Hightower in the early 80's when as a teenager we could drag main st. In Purcell. Officer Hightower was a great man and super fun if u knew him like some of us did. Officer Hightower tried to treat us with respect and dignity as long as we gave the same back. This man had several friends and fans, he will be greatly missed.

Sharlotte Parish - June 23, 2021 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ Phil was a wonderful man. He had a warm heart, kind spirit and great smile. I will miss my friend. Julia and all the rest of the family Im so sorry for your loss. Rest in peace and fly high Phil!

Lawana colwell - June 23, 2021 at 12:00 AM

RL

“ Phil served Purcell well as a patrolman and a friend to many. I remember our times at Falls Creek with the FBC Youth and the events after the football games when he was not on the beat. He was a great friend and will be sorely missed by many. We are praying for Debbie and the family during the days to come and when the Lord brings you all to our memories.

Rob, Kathy and Christine Lundberg - June 23, 2021 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ Phil was a wonderful man and a friend. It was always pleasant to see his face at church when my kids were younger and quite an amazing person. Always thought the world of Phil and his family.



Matthew Winn - June 23, 2021 at 12:00 AM

KH

“ Phil you will forever be remembered!! A kindhearted person that would do anything for anyone!! May god bless the family as he goes to walk the streets of gold!!

Karen huckaby - June 22, 2021 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ It's been 26 years since we said goodbye in front of the elementary school. Phil always had a smile and a joke as he helped the kiddos start their day. He was a kind soul and an awesome friend. He will always have a special place in our hearts.



Dina peller - June 22, 2021 at 12:00 AM

RJ

“ *To the Family,  
I am truly sorry for y'all's loss of a great man. He will truly be missed  
by many.*

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**Roy Johnson** - June 21, 2021 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ *You will be missed*

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**Kerri Sturdivant** - June 21, 2021 at 12:00 AM

AW

“ *Phil was a great guy! He spent a lot of time at Purcell Elementary,  
walking the halls and visiting with the students. Always willing to  
help in any way  
we needed him. RIP dear friend!!!*

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**Angie Wallace** - June 21, 2021 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ *You will be so missed sir. Thank you for your  
watchful eye and amazing spirit. Purcell won't  
be the same without you. Rest easy.*



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**Jenny (Dodds) Thomas** - June 21, 2021 at 12:00 AM