

## JOE PAUL NICHOLS SR.

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**1941-2011**

**JACKSBORO:** Joe Paul Nichols Sr. passed away Wednesday, July 27, 2011, in Jacksboro. He was 69 years old.

Joe Paul was the middle child born September 13, 1941, in Cundiff, Texas to O.W. "Jack" and Myrtle Iva Riggs Nichols. Joe Paul attended Jacksboro schools from the first grade through high school. He was keenly interested in music from a young age. He grew up listening to the Grand Ole Opry; Louisiana Hayride and the Big D Jamboree.

His father taught him to play guitar when he was nine years old. In 1957, Joe Paul auditioned for the "Cowtown Hoedown" a weekly country western show held at the Majestic Theatre when he was 16 years old. His audition landed him a job performing every other week, which he did for three years.

His dream came true when he began performing weekly at the Big D Jamboree in Dallas, Texas. He performed there for 7 years. He and Carolyn Martin, who has supported his quest for a life in country/western music, met in high school. They married in Jacksboro June 28, 1963. In 1970 he formed his own band, The Five Pennies a band known for their traditional country music. Joe Paul's dream has allowed him the opportunity to share the stage with such stars as Mel Tillis, George Jones, Charlie Pride, Hank Thompson, Faron Young, Ernest Tubb, and Kitty Wells.

He has received many awards and accolades over the years from various associations. The International Country Gospel Music Association inducted him into the Hall of Fame in 1991 and then in 2009 presented him the Lifetime Achievement Award. The Local CMA awards gave him the 1998 Living Legend Award; the Pioneer Award in 2003; He was inducted into the Texas International Music Association Hall of Fame in 2007, as well as countless others.

He was a devoted member of Cundiff Baptist Church for 56 years, where he served as Music Director; a member of International Country Gospel Music Association and the Texas International Music Association. He and Carolyn ran the Nichols and Beene Tours for 18 years. Joe Paul served as Jack County Commissioner of Precinct 1 from 1998-2008.

Survivors: Wife Carolyn Nichols; daughter Jennifer Gasca and husband Chris; son, Joe Paul Nichols Jr. and wife, Shauna; sister, JoAnn Hull and husband, Don; grandchildren, Allison Cox; Christin, Payton, Tanner Gasca; Erin, Taylor and Jordan Nichols.

Memorials may be made to: ALS Association Development Dept.; 27001 Agoura Road, Suite 250; Calabasas, CA 91301; or to Heart of Texas Museum, 1701 S Bridge Street; Brady, TX. 76825

Funeral service was held at 10am Saturday, July 30, 2011, at the First Baptist Church in Jacksboro with burial at Cundiff Cemetery.

*Coker Funeral Home  
152 State Hwy 148 • Jacksboro, Tx*