



## Mr. Merritt Thomas Ranew Obituary

May 7, 1938 - October 18, 2011

Merritt Thomas Ranew, 73, of Leesburg, GA. passed away on Tuesday, October 18, 2011 at Langdale Hospice House in Valdosta, Ga. He was born May 7, 1938 in Albany GA.

The funeral service will be held Saturday 2:00PM at Kimbrell-Stern with interment to follow at Crown Hill Cemetery. Rev. Adam Brant will be officiating. The family will receive friends Friday from 6:00 to 8:00PM at Kimbrell-Stern and also from 12:00 to 2:00PM on Saturday.

Merritt Ranew graduated from Lee Co. High School in 1957 and was a former American & National League professional baseball catcher. He was selected in the 1961 MLB Expansion Draft by the Houston Colt .45s from the Milwaukee Braves. Ranew played for the Colt .45s (1962), Chicago Cubs (1963–1964), Milwaukee Braves (1964), California Angels (1965), and the Seattle Pilots (1969).

After Merritt's MLB baseball career ended he started a 35 yr. career training and showing cutting horses professionally. He was member and respected judge of the NCHA.

Merritt was a Christian who loved the Lord and always wanted to share the gospel with anyone he came in contact with.

Merritt Ranew was a well known and well respected man by all who knew him. He will be remembered by all his friends and family members who loved him. He made an impact in everyone's life and always helped a fellow friend in need with a smile and a joking chuckle

He was preceded in death by his parents; Grover Dudley Ranew and Louise McDonald Ranew, his brothers C.D. Ranew and Richard Ranew and a sister Elizabeth Coxwell.

He is survived by his wife Juanita Ranew of Floral City, FL; his children: Robin Carter of Valdosta, GA, (James), Ryan Ranew of Leesburg, GA. (Angela) and Rebecca Sheltra of Leesburg, GA. (Jay); Steven Lee of Mebane, NC and Monique Denney of Floral City, FL. grandchildren Kayla & Kacy Hancock, Austin Denney, Garrett Denney and Tory Carter. his brother and sisters, Clifford Ranew, Betty Clements, Velma Braswell of Albany, GA. and Janelle Larkin of Smithville, GA. and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Those desiring please make donations to Bible College Scholarship Fund in Honor of Merritt Ranew C/O Believers Christian Fellowship, 7410 Commercial Way, Weeki Wachee, FL.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **21.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Kimbrell-Stern Funeral Directors  
1503 Dawson Rd.  
Albany, GA 31707

## Visitation

OCT **22.** 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Kimbrell-Stern Funeral Directors  
1503 Dawson Rd.  
Albany, GA 31707

## Funeral Service

OCT **22.** 2:00 PM (ET)

Kimbrell-Stern Funeral Directors  
1503 Dawson Rd.  
Albany, GA 31707

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Merritt Thomas Ranew Obituary*

December 24, 2022 at 02:54 AM



“ *I am so sorry to hear this. I knew Merritt from the time I was in the 5th grade. Clifford and I were best friends forever and Merritt was a close friend. I remember a lot of Saturday's and Sunday's that we would chase fly balls for him in the pasture of that big plantation they lived on. He was the best ball player to ever come out of LCHS. My condolence's to the family. I was fortunate to have know him.*

**Bobby Williams - Macon, GA - Long ago friend** - November 22, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *I graduatd from Lee Co. High School in 1961. Merritt and I rode the same school bus to and from school for probably a year or two. His brother Clifford and I were in the same grade. He was always so nice and knew that all the "little girls" thought he was about the best thing ever. Enjoyed watching him play baseball for Lee CO. High and after I married in 1964 I had the opportunity to introduce my husband to him in a little place called "The Peppermint Lounge" in Albany. He was always the same whenever you saw him and I know that he will be missed by all of his family and friends. It has been many years since I last saw Merritt and I know he is in a better place. I was very sorry to hear of his passing.. May God Bless His Family!!*

*Nancy Underwood Cooper*

**Nancy Underwood Cooper - Bremen, GA - Friend** - November 22, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KT

“ So very sorry to hear of your loss. I enjoyed the cuttings Merritt judged in Yoakum, Texas. He kept all of us in the office entertained. What a sweet and kind gentleman he was. My deepest sympathy to the Ranew family. He will be missed.

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**Kimberly Nelson - Georgetown, TX - October 24, 2011 at 12:00 AM**

MF

“ Dear Juanita and Family,  
We are so sorry to hear about your loss. I can remember the first day that I met Merritt ... way back in Ocala, FL. I will always remember his smile from the first day I met him throughout the many years I was blessed to know him. He was always so kind to me and had a special interest and kindness for my daughter, Jessica. Always the gentleman, always time for a smile and kind words. A man of integrity. He will truly be missed here on earth; however, I know Merritt is enjoying himself in the presence of His Saviour. Much love and prayers to all of his family.

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**Mary Kingsbury and family (Dave, Jessica and Samuel) - Taylors, SC - friend - October 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM**

AB

“ Becca, so sorry to hear of the passing of your father. I know it is tough to loose someone we love and was a part of our life. My prayers and thoughts go out to you and your family at this difficult time, hugssssssssss alisa

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**alisa penrod - Atlanta,, GA - friend of Becca - October 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM**

PJ

“ Our heartfelt thoughts and prayers are with you all. We love you. Phoebe, Kim and family

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**Phoebe Cooper-Wright & Kim Dean & Families - Alany, GA - Friends of Becca & Jay - October 22, 2011 at 12:00 AM**

JF

“ With deepest sympathy..I am Praying for the Family at this time.

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**Janice Hancock - Valdosta, GA - Friend** - October 22, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ Charming, gracious, handsome, and generous-- Merritt Ranew touched a lot of lives. I am glad to have grown up with Robin and to have had her daddy as such a big part of my own childhood. I remember his patience when asked to saddle up horses and ponies for little girls who wanted to ride when he finished a training session. I remember him being so sweet but firm about getting back on the horse when you fell off. Other fond memories include him at happy moments, making birthday parties fun, on the couch watching baseball games, climbing up into that big oak tree to help Robin get back down when she got too high and was scared, playing catch with Ryan out by the trampoline. What a rock he and Juanita were, when Robin, Kayla, and Kacy came back from Japan and then soon after I married, and stopped in for a visit, he was so sweet in how he asked if my Augusta born husband could help him get the chance to play at the National Golf Club just once. Mr. Ranew always had a ready smile for most everyone and a charming tone of voice that made you feel like he was genuinely happy to see you. I know he will be missed terribly! Juanita, Robin, Becca, Ryan-- all of you are in my thoughts and prayers. So sad not to be there with you now, but sending my love and wishes for comfort at this sad time. Love, Margaret

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**Margaret Baker Strickland - Augusta, GA - friend** - October 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ So sorry for your loss, Juanita. I surely remember all the shows in Fl. and how much he helped Wayne (deceased). I also remember his asking to show my love, Jose Sport, in the Winter Circuit. That meant a whole lot to me. I have thought of him often, and you too. Take care and know that I am thinking of you now. Bezy

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**BEZY BROWHN - INTERCESSION CITY, FL - FRIEND** - October 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ Robin, Ryan & Rebecca,

So sorry to hear about your father. Will keep you in my prayers.

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**Cindy Cato Drew - Albany, GA - cousin** - October 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ I only met Merritt a few times, but I know his sisters Betty and Janelle well. Also my husband Ed and I lived next door to Richard and Lois when our children were growing up. I have always heard good things about Merritt and am so sorry for your loss., May God comfort you all.

Jonnie

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**Jonnie Stamps - Parrott, GA - husband, Ed Stamps was friend** - October 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ I first met Merritt in the early 1980's , probably the first Augusta Futurity, while I was working for Paxton Quarter Horses.

*Like everyone else, I enjoyed the baseball stories. He was the first professional ball player I ever met.*

*It was his horsemanship, though that cemented our friendship. In my opinion, the greatest compliment one can give a trainer is to call him, "A Horseman."*

*Merritt Ranew "Horseman"*

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**Bill Riddle - Ringling, OK - Cutting Horses** - October 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ How thankful I am that Merritt came into my life! I was a struggling, wanna-be cutter until I started taking lessons from him. He spent hours and hours with me...teaching me how to cut cows and tune my horse. After just a few lessons I started winning money! He was a gifted teacher and just a wonderful person through and through. My life is richer for having known him. So many happy, happy memories. My heartfelt sympathy to Juanita and his family. I'm sure they having cutting horses in heaven!

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**Jeannie Macone - Ocala, FL - student** - October 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CG

“ When I was a very young girl, my brother Tom Carcelli and Clifford and Merritt were playing baseball for the American Legion Post 30. I was the one chasing foul balls for them. And Merrit and Clifford even signed a baseball for me. What wonderful fond memories I have of all of them.

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**Cheryl Carcelli Martin - Albany, GA** - October 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ Merritt was my boss when I worked for him at the Jolly Fox , Lee & I became good friends with Merritt & Sandra. I worked for him several years he was a blessing to work for. I have not seen him in years but he was often in my thoughts. So sorry for your loss. God Bless you all. With Love, Riki

Riki Newell- Weaver - Blakely, GA - Friend - October 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RG

“ My deepest sympathy to the Ranew Family. My late brother Freddie played with Merritt in the Cubs organization and told me many fond stories. My brother had a lot of respect and kind words to say about Merritt .I met Merritt one time in Leesburg when I was younger playing baseball and he treated me like he had known me as a friend even though I barely new him.

Ricky Burdette - Albany, GA - October 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ So sorry to hear of Merritt's passing. Had dinner at the IHOP in Ft. Worth with him during the Futurity year before last. We sat and visited, talked horses and baseball for the longest time, what a great timet with a great guy.  
You're in my thoughts and prayers. God Bless.

Reggie Austin - Kernersville, NC - Friend (Cutting Horses) - October 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ I am so sad to hear that Merritt passed away. I have not seen him in several years, but went all the way through school with him and have known he and his family for a long time. He was always such a nice person and had a beautiful smile. My prayers are with all the family.

Janice Johnson Garey - Albany, GA - Friend - October 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MY

“ I will never forget his smile -he came to see me when my son drowned in 2009 and was so thoughtful and supportive -he was a hero to many younger guys all through the sixties -all his family are super good people and those deceased are truly missed

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**mark slappey - Leesburg , GA - Friend for many years** - October 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ Merritt was a gentleman at it's best. It was an honor being associated with him

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**Stan Hamilton - Maben, MS - Friend** - October 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ My thoughts and prayers go out to all the family, I am sorry for your loss. RIP Merritt, Godspeed

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**Mareese Starrak - Aiken, SC - Friend** - October 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM

GF

“ Juanita,

*Our deepest sympathies to you and the family. Ronnie and I both have such fond memories of our times with you at the cutting horse shows - especially all those Jackson Mississippi and Fort Worth shows. Merritt was never in too much of a hurry to stop and visit and he always had that wonderful smile on his face.*

*The newspaper in which I write about his illness is just coming out. That saddens me. I will have an obituary in the next edition. Facebook is full of sweet comments about him, though. I hope you have read them.*

*Know that we love you and pray that the peace that passes all understanding is enveloping each of you right now.  
Ronnie and Gala*

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**Gala and Ronnie Nettles - Madisonville, TX - friend** - October 19, 2011 at 12:00 AM