



Obituary

Mr. Jim Ligon

Jim Ligon, Sr., was born in 1929 to the parentage of Jim Ligon, Sr. and Estella Patton Ligon. His siblings were Vester, Oscar, Johnnie, Ernest, Albert, Della, Joy Mae and Virgie Lee. Jim was a member of the basketball team and the first football team at H.G. Temple High School, where he graduated in 1949. Jim Ligon married Irma Jean Henderson in 1951, to this union five children were born, four girls and one boy. Jim loved taking the family on vacation to Texas, going to the beach, Disneyland, Knox Berry Farms, Santa's Village and to the movies.

He was highly educated, in 1952 he attended Fort Belvoir, Virginia School of Engineering, Surveying and Drafting. In 1950, he was drafted into the United States Army, where he served in the Korean War. In 1953, he attended Washington School of Drafting, Washington, D.C. where he studied Mechanical and Architectural Drafting. In 1953, he also completed a course of Cartography. In 1955, he attended Howard University in Washington, D.C., School of Engineering where he completed his four year degree in two years. degree in two years, In 1960, he attended Woodberry College in Los, Angeles, California. In 1960, he worked for the National Cash Register Company in the Engineering Department as a product design supervisor in printed circuit board design. In 1963, he attended West Coast University in Los Angeles, California. In 1986, he attended Angelina College where he studied Computer Aid Drafting. In 1970, he was employed at Rockwell International Corporation, Downey, California, where he created most significant contribution of his career. His work at NASA Space Shuttle at Johnson Space Center, where he solved a critical compression problem by designing a contact ring bus cable inter connector compressor. Without his design, the Space Shuttle Endeavor would not have been able to be launched. Back then he was only compensated a \$25.00 bonus from NASA, because they owned the design, even though it was his invention.

In 1973, he married Johnnie Mae Clark, they raised a beautiful grandson together, Ronald A. Webb. In the 1980's, he returned to Diboll, Texas. In 1983, he worked at Temple Associates doing drafting in the electrical department. In 1985, he was employed at Roach Kelley Frazier Engineers, applying his CAD drafting skills. In 1987 Lufkin Industries held the honor of having him as an employee in their Engineering Department. Jim formed his own Engineering Firm, "Ligon Engineering." He designed many homes, churches, and family cemeteries throughout the surrounding counties. He was a man of many talents. He enjoyed photography, covering many weddings and other events and was also known to be a great video-grapher. He was an avid fisherman, enjoyed hunting and once made the front page of the Diboll Free Press when he shot the first deer of the season. He like photography, was a self taught musician, songwriter, story teller, family historian and all around friend. He received a letter of recommendation in 1993 from the House of Representatives asking that he be considered for a career recommendation. Jim shared his talents with many people in the community. He did paintings, sculptures and other art work. His work can be seen at the T.L.L. Temple Library, The Diboll History Center and at: [the history center on line.com](http://thehistorycenteronline.com).

His children, Mary Ligon Gardner (Terry), Estella Gail Ligon, Diana Lynn Ligon and Michael Ligon. His grandchildren, Terry Gardner II, Terrisa Gardner, Renee Gardner, Michelle White, Marcus White, Keenan Kelsey and Ronald Webb; Great-grandchildren, Zander Gardner, Jacob Noonan, Alani Stinson, Marcus White II, Harley Kelsey and Reina A. Webb; Nieces, Phyllis Williams and Lisa (J.T.) Taylor; Nephews, Marcellus Jones, Larry Williams and Roosevelt Jones. A wealth of other nieces, nephews, cousins, and extended family.

Jim was preceded in death by two daughters, Chris Ligon and Maxine Ligon; A grandson, Casey Davis.