



Dean Carter

November 2, 1933 - February 4, 2025

Dean Carter, 91, passed away February 4, 2025, in Houston. He was born November 2, 1933, in Enid, Oklahoma to Orville and Lucille Carter.

Dean spent the first decade of his life in Enid and then Los Angeles. In the 1940s his family moved back to Oklahoma, where he graduated from Enid High and entered college. From an early age he worked alongside his father and grandfather in their family woodworking business, shaping a lifelong love of the craft. Over the years he built beautiful furniture for his family.

He married his high school sweetheart, Rita, in November 1952. She was the love of his life and his devotion to her was unwavering. Their love story spanned over seven decades, and they remained each other's greatest support.

Rita, Dean, and their sons Mike and Denny left Enid for Cleveland in 1957, where Dean accepted a position with Arthur G. McKee, marking the beginning of a successful career in engineering and construction that included positions in San Francisco, Buenos Aires, St. Louis, Tulsa, and Houston.

In addition to his love for woodworking, Dean's affinity for aviation was a defining passion in his life and he spent many years as an avid pilot. Over those years he owned a series of small planes and logged more than 1,500 hours flying all over the U.S. For 30+ years Dean, Mike, Denny, son-in-law

Chris, and brother-in-law Mark (a former Air Force F-86 pilot) made it a tradition to attend EAA AirVenture Oshkosh, an air show held each summer in Wisconsin. His enthusiasm for learning and trying new things continued throughout his life, particularly during the challenging years of the pandemic, when he joined his wife in exploring quilting—Rita's passion that Dean soon came to love.

He is preceded in death by his parents; sister, Jeanne; brother, Jerry; and daughter-in-law Bonnie. He is survived by his wife of 72 years, Rita, and children Mike and Lisa Carter, Denny Carter, and Marilyn and Chris Munson. He is also survived by his grandchildren Mary Tupa (Michael), Teresa Manacci (Mario), Annie Carter, and Camille Carter as well as his great grandchildren Matthew, Gabriel, and Joseph.

The Carter family will receive friends for visitation and rosary Monday, February 17, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at St. John Vianney Catholic Church, 625 Nottingham Oaks Trail, Houston, TX 77079 with Mass of Christian Burial immediately following at 10:30 a.m. A reception on church grounds will follow Mass; all guests are invited to attend it as well as burial services at 1:00 p.m. at Memorial Oaks Funeral Home & Cemetery, 13001 Katy Fwy., Houston, TX 77079. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Catholic Charities or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Previous Events

Rosary

FEB 17. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. John Vianney Catholic Church
625 Nottingham Oaks Trail
Houston, TX 77079
(281) 497-1500

Funeral Mass

FEB 17. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

St. John Vianney Catholic Church
625 Nottingham Oaks Trail
Houston, TX 77079
(281) 497-1500

Reception to Follow Service

FEB 17. 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM (CT)

St. John Vianney Catholic Church
625 Nottingham Oaks Trail
Houston, TX 77079
(281) 497-1500

Graveside Service

FEB 17. 1:00 PM (CT)

Memorial Oaks Cemetery
13001 Katy Freeway
Houston, TX 77079

Tribute Wall

DT

“ My husband Fred & I were stunned to learn belatedly of Dean’s passing. He & Rita took part in our wedding, but unfortunately we had lost continuing touch after they moved into Eagle’s Trace. Retrospectively, we greatly regret not having had more time with Dean—and don’t plan on making the same mistake with our “sister” Rita. We are praying for her daily, and know that Dean, who loves her passionately, is continuing to watch over her from his new vantage point in heaven.

Diane Trees-Clay - July 11, 2025 at 12:29 AM

WG

“ Rita and family,
My wife and I met Dean and Rita, our next door neighbors, the day we moved into Eagle's Trace. We quickly became very good friends; sharing memories, dining together, and watching each other's apartment when the other was gone. This friendship continues with Rita now that Dean has left us. Our deepest sympathy goes out now to Rita and her family. May God bless them as they go forward.

Walt & Ruthy Gale - February 18, 2025 at 03:59 PM

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Diane Trees-Clay - July 07, 2025 at 04:47 PM

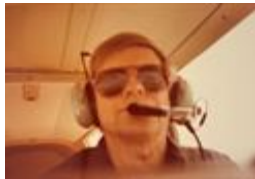
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Diane Trees-Clay - July 11, 2025 at 12:28 AM



“ 284 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Dettling Funeral Home - February 16, 2025 at 11:39 PM



“ 3 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Dettling Funeral Home - February 16, 2025 at 03:54 PM

DT

Fred & I were stunned to hear that Dean is no longer with us. We should have stayed in better touch. Our hearts go out to Rita, who is always in our morning prayers. Love never fails, and surely Dean is in heaven, still watching over his beloved Rita.

Diane & Fred Clay

Diane Trees-Clay - May 07, 2025 at 01:03 AM

KH

“ *So sorry to hear about Dean. Always loved to sit and talk with him. My prayers go out to all of you*

Kevin Hundley - February 14, 2025 at 04:12 PM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dean Carter.*



February 14, 2025 at 02:30 PM



“ *Heavenly Heights Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dean Carter.*



February 12, 2025 at 11:44 AM

YF

“ *Your Hargrove C&A Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Dean Carter.*



Your Hargrove C&A Family - February 10, 2025 at 09:27 AM