



# Herbert Franklin Freeman

MAR 12, 2011



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FUNERAL HOME AND CREMATORY

# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 5



# Herbert Franklin Freeman

MAR 12, 2011

## H erbert Franklin Freeman

May 27, 1930 - March 12, 2011

Herbert Franklin Freeman, 80, of La Porte passed away Saturday, March 12, 2011. He was born May 27, 1930 in Friday, Texas to Herbert Franklin Freeman, Sr. and Bertie Lee Bagwell Freeman.

Herby began dreaming of becoming a policeman during his freshman year at Robert E. Lee High School. After graduation he worked as a gas station attendant until age 21, when he was able to join the Baytown Police Department. According to Herby, there wasn't any training available back then – “you just put on your uniform and went to work” – and work he did. During his time as patrolman, Herby attended training at Texas A&M University, and through his hard work and dedication, was promoted to the rank of Sergeant, and then to Assistant Chief a year later. During his time as Assistant Chief, Herby was 1 of 52 officers in the state of Texas selected and given a scholarship to attend training at the Institute of Law Enforcement in Dallas, TX.

In December 1959, Herby resigned from the Baytown Police Department and in January 1960, owned and operated a Gulf service station on Hwy 146. Because of his love for law enforcement, he sold out in September 1960 to join the Harris County Deputy Sheriff's Department. He worked for Harris County until July 1961 when he accepted the job as Chief of the La Porte Police Department, a small force consisting of only 5 employees.

By the end of 1963, the department had grown and was moved to new quarters on South 2nd Street. A sign soon appeared naming the new jail “Herby's Hilton” because prisoners “could bask in air-conditioned comfort”.



## Obituary

## Herbert Franklin Freeman

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In December 1965, Herby received a gold badge with a diamond in the center, “as a token of appreciation for all that he and the department had done for the merchants, businessmen, and citizens of La Porte”.

Over the next years, the department continued to grow, and a new Police Administration building was constructed at 915 South 8th. Before retiring in July 1985, Herby heard a resolution read during a special La Porte City Council Meeting naming the police administration building the Herbert F. Freeman Jr. Police Administration Building in honor of his years of dedication and service.

Herby was a 40-year Master Mason of the La Porte Masonic Lodge #857, and also a lifetime member of the Texas Municipal Police Association.

Herby is preceded in death by his parents, and wife of 60 years, Nelda Ann Shannon Freeman. He is survived by sons Terry Freeman and wife Suzzi of Baytown, Wayne Freeman and wife Becky of La Porte, grandchildren Bryan Freeman, Steven Freeman and wife Sherry, Jason Freeman and wife Holly, Kevin Freeman and wife Kim, Schaun Freeman and wife Courtney, Joshua Freeman, Wade Greathouse and wife Kim, Paula Inman, Christian Greathouse, 18 great-grandchildren and numerous nephews, nieces, and cousins.

Visitation will be held Tuesday, March 15, 2011 from 6-8PM at Paul U. Lee La Porte Funeral Home Chapel. Services will be held Wednesday, March 16, 2011 at 1 PM at the First Baptist Church in La Porte.



## Tribute Wall

## Herbert Franklin Freeman

BT

**Brenda Fouche' Garrett Of La Porte, Texas** posted:

Wayne & family, my thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. Your dad was truly a very sweet and special man.

March 20 at 7:00 PM

FR

**Frank And Debbie Klein Of Rosharon, Tx** posted:

So sorry to just learn of the Chief's passing. He and Nelda were very special people to us and we are so saddened by the loss. LaPorte was a better place for having them here. We will cherish all our fun times with them. Our prayers are with you.

March 17 at 7:00 PM

CT

**Carl Crisp Of Elkhart, Texas** posted:

Although prevented from attending the service by illness, I will be there in spirit for the family of the man who gave me my start in my career as an officer for the City and people of La Porte. Chief Freeman hired me as a Patrolman in October of 1976 and I retired as a Lieutenant in June of 2007. I will be forever thankful for his help and guidance and friendship.

March 15 at 7:00 PM

BP

**Brenda Porter Harper Of La Porte** posted:

my deepest sympathy to the family

March 14 at 7:00 PM

JT

**Jerome Mckown Of La Porte, Tx** posted:

IN JANUARY 1975, I BECAME A RESERVE OFFICER FOR CHIEF FREEMAN. FOUR YEARS LATER, HE HIRED ME AS A FULL TIME OFFICER. WE HAD 3 PATROL CARS FOR THE CITY OF LA PORTE WHEN I STARTED, THOSE WERE THE DAYS. HE WAS A GREAT BOSS, A GOOD FRIEND, AND SOMEONE THAT I WILL NEVER FORGET. 31 YEARS 5 MONTHS LATER I AM STILL WORKING FOR LA PORTE P.D BECAUSE HE GAVE ME A CHANCE TO BE ONE OF LA PORTE FINEST. THANKS AGAIN CHIEF - I WILL MISS YOU...

March 14 at 7:00 PM



## Tribute Wall

**Herbert Franklin Freeman**

JP

**Judy Cain Oates Of La Porte** posted:

I'm so very sorry to hear this. Herb was a wonderful man and will be missed by so many. I had the pleasure of working with him for 5 years and always enjoyed his wonderful sense of humor. My heart goes out to the entire family and all the friends that loved him so much.

March 13 at 7:00 PM

BD

**Barry & Stacy Evans Of Dayton, Tx** posted:

Herby will be missed, but he his home with Nelda now. Our deepest sympathy and prayers go out to the Freeman Family in your time of sorrow. Love, Barry & Stacy Evans

March 13 at 7:00 PM

RP

**Ron Parker Of La Porte, Tx** posted:

Herb Freeman was serving as La Porte's Chief of Police in January, 1984 when he gave me my chance to enter the law enforcement profession. He pinned my badge on me as a snot nosed rookie and said, "go get the bad guys out there." I always looked up to him and he was always the "CHIEF" to me. A great man, who will be sorely missed in my book. My condolences to the family.

March 12 at 7:00 PM

RB

**Rilene Purvis-Burgess Of Baytown, Tx** posted:

You are all in our prayers during this time of grief. I am sure Nelda welcomed Herbie with open arms. Mike and Rilene

March 12 at 7:00 PM

EC

**Elizabeth(Becky)Arthurwatson Of Proudnano@Aol.Com** posted:

My prayers and thoughts are with all of you.

March 12 at 7:00 PM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Herbert by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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