



Ret. Fire "Chief" Jerry Lee Rust

September 16, 1939 - August 7, 2024

Retired Fire "Chief" Jerry Lee Rust, age 84, passed away on Wednesday, August 7, 2024 while surrounded by his loving family, here in Del Rio. He was born on September 16, 1939 in Quemado, Texas.

A true pioneer in fire service, Jerry began his career in 1957 as an 18-year-old volunteer firefighter, following in his father's footsteps. Alongside his brothers, he served the community until 1970 when he transitioned to a paid position with the Del Rio Fire Department. Renowned for his courage, determination, and selfless spirit, Jerry quickly became a respected leader in the department. His exceptional service was recognized with numerous honors, culminating in the prestigious Fireman of the Year and State Fireman of the Year awards in 1991. Jerry retired from the City of Del Rio as Assistant Chief, leaving an enduring legacy.

Seeking more time with his family, Jerry embarked on a new chapter as a business owner. However, his passion for public service remained ignited. In 1998, at the request of Judge Kirkpatrick, Jerry founded the Val Verde County Rural Volunteer Fire Department. His vision and leadership led to the creation of a department with over 50 members, five fire stations, and coverage of 3,233 square miles.

Jerry's commitment to his profession extended beyond his local duties. He

was an active member of the Wintergarden Garden District Fireman's and Fire Marshal's Association, serving as their secretary-treasurer and organizing training for over 20 fire departments in Southwest Texas.

Jerry, a true icon and legend in the fire service, dedicated countless hours to battling fires, responding to accidents, and providing medical assistance alongside his volunteer wife. A mentor to many, he shaped the careers of countless firefighters. Jerry retired from Val Verde County Fire in October 2023, capping off an impressive 60-year career.

"If it burns it burns- Chief Jerry Rust"

We will miss our stubborn red head.

Preceding him in death was his father, Barney F. Rust; mother, Luella Rust; sisters: Francis Rust, Linda Rust, Lois M. Lightfoot; brothers, Donnie B. Rust and Norman Ray Rust; and son, Carl Lee Rust;

Family members left to cherish his memory include his beloved wife of 58 years, Patricia Rust of Del Rio; son, Michael Ray Rust of Del Rio; Niece, "daughter" Judy Rust Jaime and Husband Carlos Jaime of San Antonio; granddaughters: Casie De Luna and husband Joey De Luna of Del Rio; Ashley Rust of Del Rio, Patricia M. Rust of Del Rio; great grandchildren: Ciera De Luna, Joe Carl De Luna, Alena De Luna, Jake Rust, Logan Johnson, and Jiraiya Rodriguez.

Visitation will be held on Friday, August 16, 2024 from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Trinity Chapel of Faith. A prayer service will begin at 7 p.m.

A chapel service is scheduled for Saturday, August 17, 2024 at 10 a.m. at the funeral home. Officiating will be Pastor Carlos Jaime, of Mission Cristiana

Darby Church. Burial will follow at Westlawn Cemetery. Full Fire Department Honors Tribute will follow. Pallbearers will be: Deputy Chief Joey De Luna, Captain James Howley, and Lt. Clint West of Del Rio Fire Department, Fire Chief Jorge Vargas, Angela Parther, and Joe Wertz of Val Verde Fire Department. Honorary Pallbearer will be Joe Carl De Luna.

Cemetery Details

Westlawn Cemetery

1313 W. 2nd St.
Del Rio, TX 78840

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **16**. 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM (CT)

Trinity Mortuary
206 Kings Way
Del Rio, TX 78840
(830) 775-2230
info@trinitymortuary.com
<https://www.trinitymortuary.com>

Prayer Service

AUG **17**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Trinity Mortuary
206 Kings Way
Del Rio, TX 78840
(830) 775-2230
info@trinitymortuary.com
<https://www.trinitymortuary.com>

Chapel Service

AUG 17. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Trinity Mortuary
206 Kings Way
Del Rio, TX 78840
(830) 775-2230
info@trinitymortuary.com
<https://www.trinitymortuary.com>

Full Fire Department Honors Tribute

AUG 17. 11:05 AM - 11:15 AM (CT)

Westlawn Cemetery
1313 W. 2nd St.
Del Rio, TX 78840

Tribute Wall



“ *Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Ret. Fire "Chief" Jerry Lee Rust.*



August 14, 2024 at 08:58 AM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Ret. Fire "Chief" Jerry Lee Rust.*



August 13, 2024 at 03:56 PM



“ *Tech Con Trenching, Inc. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ret. Fire "Chief" Jerry Lee Rust.*

Tech Con Trenching, Inc. - August 13, 2024 at 03:56 PM



“ Rest Easy Unit# 8101 Chief Jerry Rust! Thank you for your many years of Fire Service protecting the citizens of Del Rio and Val Verde County. It was an honor and privilege serving in the fire department under your leadership as an original member of VVCRVFD! Prayers for Pat and Family! 🙏🙏🙏



John Rubio - August 13, 2024 at 09:39 AM

EC

“ Evan Cottle purchased the Simply Elegant Spathi phyllum for the family of Ret. Fire "Chief" Jerry Lee Rust.



Evan Cottle - August 10, 2024 at 08:18 AM

NV

“ Natalia VFD purchased the Simply Elegant Spathi phyllum for the family of Ret. Fire "Chief" Jerry Lee Rust.



Natalia VFD - August 09, 2024 at 11:20 AM

NV

“ Natalia VFD planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ret. Fire "Chief" Jerry Lee Rust.

Natalia VFD - August 09, 2024 at 11:20 AM

JM

“ *Very sad news. My condolences to the family and his multitude of friends. A life of service is the first thing that comes to mind. Rest in peace sir*

juan Roberto Martinez - August 08, 2024 at 09:54 PM

LW

“ *Big loss for Del Rio and Val Verde County
A fabulous man who was so dedicated to His community. Eternally
be His Memory.* 🕊️🙏🙏

Lee and Najla Weathersbee - August 08, 2024 at 08:07 PM

RK

“ *Ray and Pamela Kallio purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ret. Fire "Chief" Jerry Lee Rust.*



Ray and Pamela Kallio - August 08, 2024 at 07:27 PM