



## CJ Cavanaugh Jr.

September 3, 1941 - May 1, 2025

CJ Cavanaugh, Jr. was born Sept.3, 1941 in Mineola New York.

No, he was not a Yankee, since his Father, Charley & Mother Eloise Gill Cavanaugh were both from Leesville, La.

Moving to New Orleans 1943 he remembers walking beside the German Prison Camp near his home by Lake Pontchartrain. His Navy cousin Willie came ashore & gave him an out of style Navy dress cap. In 1944-45 on his grandfather's farm near Camp Polk (at that time) he would draw buckets of water for the soldiers on maneuvers along the dirt road. One soldier gave him an army dress cap as thanks for the water.

Little did CJ know those two caps were a harbinger for he would be in the Army & even stationed at (now called) Fort Polk. Then finish his military time in the Navy at Naval Air Station, Dallas Texas. CJ always said that God was taking good care of him.

In Dallas, CJ met the most beautiful girl in his world, Bonita Davis. They were married in 1966. Bonnie worked as secretary to the chief inspector of the Food & Drug Administration. She put him through his Masters degree in Art. They moved to Tyler & he taught art at TJC for 45 years.

They have a son, Charles Davis Cavanaugh PhD computer science.

CJ and his wife Bonnie have Creative Design, sign & mural business. The welcome to Tyler signs are their creations. Their sign for Rose Capital Bank won 2nd place national 1972 sign design. Their murals are in schools & businesses across Texas.

CJ was the oldest of five brothers in his family. He will be buried in his and his wife's crypt in Bascom Cemetery near Tyler.

# Cemetery Details

## Bascom Cemetery

12055 FM 848  
Bascom Community/Smith County, TX

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

MAY 8. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Bascom Cemetery  
12055 FM 848  
Bascom Community/Smith County, TX

# Tribute Wall



“ *Caudle-Rutledge-Daugherty Funeral Directors created a Tribute Video in memory of CJ Cavanaugh Jr.*



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**Caudle-Rutledge-Daugherty Funeral Home** - May 06, 2025 at 10:35 PM

MR

“ *I worked with CJ on many metal letter projects. He would lay out the letters and I would cut them out and add post on back for mounting. My first project we worked on I smoothed out all the wiggles in the cuts as they were free hand. CJ explained to me that he wanted the wiggles. He would say “Let the metal talk to you Mike” I learned a lot from CJ and always enjoyed working with him. He was truly one of the good guys. Rest in peace CJ.*  
*Mike Rodieck*

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**Mike Rodieck** - June 21, 2025 at 06:21 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of CJ Cavanaugh Jr..*



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May 06, 2025 at 11:24 PM

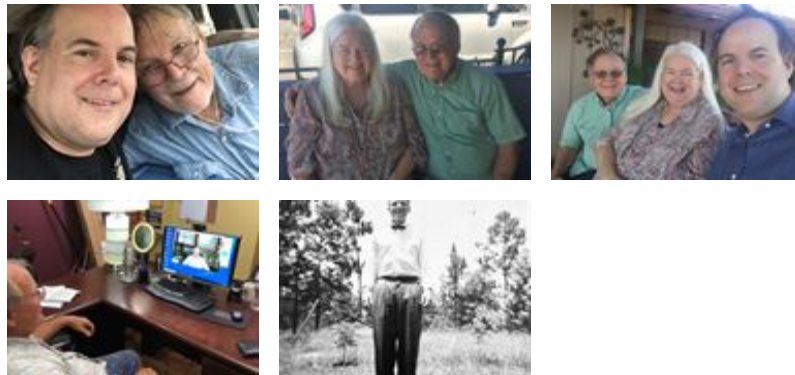


“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of CJ Cavanaugh Jr..

May 06, 2025 at 11:24 PM



“ 16 files added to the album Life Tributes



Caudle-Rutledge-Daugherty Funeral Home - May 06, 2025 at 10:27 PM



“ Robert, Lynn, William and David purchased the Fairest of All for the family of CJ Cavanaugh Jr..



Robert, Lynn, William and David - May 06, 2025 at 06:38 PM



“ So sorry to hear that my cousin CJ has passed away I am an older first cousin that used to stay with him and his younger brothers when Aunt Eloise needed me too my mother and uncle Charlie were brother and sister love Betty Nolen

betty nolen - May 06, 2025 at 01:45 PM

LR

“ *Love. Cousin Rosalie purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of CJ Cavanaugh Jr..*



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**Love. Cousin Rosalie** - May 06, 2025 at 11:58 AM