



Boxer CURTIS COKES

June 15, 1937 - May 29, 2020

Thessalonians 4:13 “But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.”

Curtis (Bevo) Cokes died May 29, 2020, at the age of 82, in Dallas, TX. Curtis was born on June 15, 1937, in Corsicana, TX, to Nathaniel Cokes, Sr., and Emma Cokes. Curtis had various careers in life, but his most fulfilling one was realized on November 28, 1966, when he won the WBA/WBC World Welterweight Title. Curtis was famous for his training regime, which he instilled in the boxers he trained at his gym “The Home of Champions.” Curtis was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 2003, Texas Black Sports Hall of Fame 2001, and the Texas Sports Hall of Fame in 1984. Curtis also made one film appearance in 1972, in the John Huston film, *Fat City*, alongside future Academy Award winner, Jeff Bridges, and Stacy Keach. Curtis is survived by: his two sons, Curtis Cokes, Jr., and Vincent H. Cokes; his four daughters: Sharla (Cokes) Emerson, Vashiti Cokes, Tammi (Cokes) Anderson, and Stephanie (Cokes) Jackson; sister, Mary Helen (Cokes) Thomas; brothers, Joe Cokes and Robert Cokes; along with a host of great-great-grandchildren, great-grandchildren, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and many friends and associates. Curtis was genuinely loved by all. He was preceded in death by his parents; and four brothers, Nathaniel Cokes, Jr., Charles Edward Cokes, Jake Donald Cokes, and Earnest M. Cokes.

Cemetery Details

Laurel Land Memorial Park

6000 S R L Thornton Freeway

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 7. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Sandra Clark Funeral Home
6029 South R.L. Thornton
Dallas, TX 75232
(214) 371-2600
<https://www.sandraclarkfuneralhome.com/>

Service

JUN 8. 11:00 AM (CT)

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6029 South R.L. Thornton
Dallas, TX 75232
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Tribute Wall

AC



Ace - January 06, 2022 at 04:08 PM

JF

“ April 18, 2021 Mr. Curtis Cokes has been an important part of our family for a very long time. My father, Neil Ferguson, had been in his own right, an amateur prizefighter in the golden gloves and always maintained a real love of boxing. One day, he walked into the gym in Dallas, Texas and met Mr. Curtis Cokes and his manager, Cornbread. Mr. Robert Smith AKA, Cornbread, had his photograph taken and my father soon thereafter painted a portrait of him for Curtis. (It would be wonderful to know if the family still has the portrait of Cornbread, after all of these many years.) Later on, Mr. Ferguson took his family to New Orleans to see Curtis in a very important prize fight. We stayed at the glamorous Monteleone Hotel. My father was seated in the auditorium crowd and took a great action photograph that preceded his painting of Curtis, himself. In 1977, my father contacted Curtis to let him know of his terminal fight with cancer. The painting of Mr. Cokes is now in the possession of his brother, Bill Ferguson in Nacogdoches, Texas. My father's leather boxing gloves were also passed onto his brother. As Neil's daughter, I was a RN at Presbyterian Hospital for many years. One day, I was assigned to care for a lady who had the last name of, Cokes. I was thrilled to have met and cared for Curtis's sister! My father, always had a real admiration for Mr. Cokes. His physical talent and his love of boxing inspired so many others. I am glad we had this small but meaningful connection to Curtis. We send the Cokes family our prayers and sincere condolences for the loss of Mr. Cokes.

Janet Ferguson - April 18, 2021 at 02:23 PM

EB

Does anyone know where his surviving family is? I have some memorabilia they may want.

Edward Brown - October 07, 2022 at 05:57 PM

MT

“ *I worked with Curtis at Sewell Cadillac along with Hugh, I got a copy of their book about 20 years ago and send to Curtis to sign-- I asked him to sign it real --"big"-- Mark, Keep Punching! I had forgotten he nick named me "Big Mark" , He signed BIG MARK- Keep Punching ! I bought a good jump rope one day and took it back to me and asked if he could show me how it worked? What a lesson. At the Texas Boxing he promoted I knew I was seeing greatness when Angelo Dundee came to assist! I Great Man to know and Miss.*

Blessing to the Family, Mark Tilton, Tucson Az.

MARK TILTON - January 15, 2021 at 11:39 AM

KC

I Saw The Legendary Mr. Cokes GrandDaddy Cokes! Cause He's Old Enough To My Generation GrandDaddy! My Uncle Rickey Askew Fought Under Mr. Cokes When He Had A Gym On 2nd Avenue! My Homie The Late Great Tyrone ShowBoat Cotton Fought Under Mr. Cokes!They Said! Mr. Cokes Taught More Than Boxing! They Said! He Taught Responsibility!There Was Other Guys I Know! Said That About Mr. Cokes! I Saw Him At Tyrone ShowBoat Cotton Funeral! That Was The Only Time I'd Seen Him! Other Than That! I Would Hear Other People Speak About Him!Mr.Cokes Made A Lot Of Legends! DALLAS FIRST WORLD BOXING CHAMPION!He Paved The Way For All Dallas Boxers! KE-MONEY Dallas, Texas

Keenan Cloud - May 27 at 07:10 PM

MQ

“ *Mr. Cokes was my neighbor when I first moved to East Dallas. Although we did not know him well, and only found out after the family moved away that he was a renowned champion, we always felt that he provided strength, calm, wisdom and peace to our neighborhood. We are very sorry that he has passed away.*

Martha Quigley - June 14, 2020 at 11:28 AM

GB

“ *My condolences to the Cokes family. Thank you for sharing his legacy.
Genois Brabson (grand daughter of Mc Kinley Cokes}*



Genois Brabson - June 14, 2020 at 09:42 AM

TT

“ *Tammy & Gabrielle Thomas purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Boxer CURTIS COKES.*



Tammy & Gabrielle Thomas - June 08, 2020 at 05:52 PM

QT

“ *Sending my condolences to the champ who made me a champion.
RIP Curtis*

Quincy Taylor

Quincy Taylor - June 07, 2020 at 06:05 PM

Kevin
Cribbin

“ *To the Cokes Family*

Our deepest condolences, thoughts and prayers to the entire Cokes family. Although we never met Mr. Cokes, we learned about him from Sharla. Her generosity and grace are a tribute to him, and he will always be remembered through all of you.

The Cribbin Family

Kevin Cribbin - June 06, 2020 at 02:04 PM

MP

“ *Military Circle Family & PRCP purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Boxer CURTIS COKES.*



Military Circle Family & PRCP - June 05, 2020 at 06:18 PM

EA

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Ex Alba - June 05, 2020 at 05:22 PM

EA

I hope this isn't inappropriate, but this is my favorite Curtis Cokes photo... four Legends.

Ex Alba - June 05, 2020 at 05:24 PM

VF

“ *viola cokes and family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Boxer CURTIS COKES.*



viola cokes and family - June 05, 2020 at 04:49 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Boxer CURTIS COKES.*



June 05, 2020 at 04:28 PM

OC

“ *Opal Lord and children purchased the A New Sunrise Spray for the family of Boxer CURTIS COKES.*



Opal Lord and children - June 05, 2020 at 11:39 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Boxer CURTIS COKES.*



June 03, 2020 at 09:10 PM

SO

“ *Southwestern LBC 026 purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Boxer CURTIS COKES.*



Southwestern LBC 026 - June 03, 2020 at 07:37 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Boxer CURTIS COKES.*



June 03, 2020 at 02:40 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Boxer CURTIS COKES.*



June 03, 2020 at 12:26 PM

6C

“ *In the 600 block of Calcutta Dr. as quiet as it's kept, we have had the pleasure of having the Cokes family as part of our neighborhood family for many years. We would like to send our heartfelt condolences to the entire Cokes family. Please know that we love you and are here for you.*

600 Block of Calcutta - June 03, 2020 at 10:02 AM

BC

The Cokes family lived across Street on Spence St South Dallas before Hwy took property for I45 Curtis was a very nice young man and family of good people. Curtis served his community well. RIP Champ you will remain in our heart.

Betty Culbreath - June 03, 2020 at 12:41 PM

NR

Being a best friend to Vee, she says to "Knock Them Out"! As of right now, I couldn't agree more with those words for 2020! RIP Sir!...Much Love, Nena Rhynes

Nena Rhynes - June 03, 2020 at 03:46 PM

FR

To my Godfather Curtis Cokes & Family. He was my mentor, friend and father-like to me and my communities (Oak Cliff, Highland Hills, Redbird, Singing Hills, and Lancaster). Curtis gentleness, love, compassion and knowledge effected all of us from -Adults, Teens & Children's including South Dallas, East Dallas, North Dallas & West Dallas. Curtis has made a huge impact on my life that I will never forget, always remember also appreciate. He fought a good fight, he kept the fight. Rest in God's Arm's Curtis... we'll meet again in Heaven!



Ms. Freda Robinson

Freda Robinson - June 04, 2020 at 04:27 PM

FR

...he kept the Faith.

Freda Robinson - June 04, 2020 at 04:30 PM

MR

*... To the Cokes Family
My prayers are for you all through this moment in your lives. Curtis will live forever in your hearts and ours too. Thank you for you for sharing Curtis with us, the whole wide world, especially Oak Cliff.*

Be Blessed

Ms. Freda Robinson

Ms. Freda Robinson - June 04, 2020 at 04:45 PM

DJ

I am sorry i never got to meet my cousin Curtis my Children's move to Dallas from Chicago, as I was there visiting had plan to find CURTIS after learning of him threw face book from other relative an finding he had dated my son-law sister years ago things got in the way I said I would find and meet him next time when I would come to Dallas sorry he pass before I met him, pray will meet family at next reunion we are coming as soon as this covie and other restricting allow. Rest Curtis in Hevenly Peace.

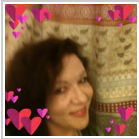
DORENE JORDAN - January 05, 2022 at 07:52 PM

PP

“ Paul Percifield purchased the Lavender Reflectio
ns Spray for the family of Boxer CURTIS COKES.



Paul Percifield - June 02, 2020 at 05:29 PM



“ RIP the one and only “CHAMP” !



Kat Hunter - June 01, 2020 at 10:14 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Sandra Clark Funeral Home - June 01, 2020 at 04:31 PM

DH

“Curtis was a good friend of my Father, such a good friend that they collaborated and wrote a book together! Curtis has been a great example to me all my life; when I was 10, Curtis picnicked with 100s of children at Flagpole Hill through the Police Athletic League. What a moving site to look out over that sea of happy kiddos and hear Curtis say, “Those are my kids.” When I was 13, he and his wife ate Thanksgiving Dinner at our house. I had a friend over and Curtis called him “champ”! Curtis had a way of letting people know they were cared for. To his family, thank you for sharing your precious Curtis with us- he made Dallas a better place. We all need to be a “Curtis” to this hurting and broken world. God’s comfort to you all.
Most sincerely,
Diane Kayser Herrmann

Diane Kayser Herrmann - June 01, 2020 at 11:13 AM

JH

“JAMES HELWIG purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Boxer CURTIS COKES.



JAMES HELWIG - May 31, 2020 at 09:53 PM

JH

“Who would have known my 1st day in the gym when I was 15 years old that I would be i the same gym as the CHAMPION OF THE WORLD -- Curtis Cokes. That was 1965. I never had anything but the utmost respect for you Champ. God Bless
James Helwig

james helwig - May 31, 2020 at 09:46 PM

CC

“ I am now 74 years old and can look back at the positive influence Curtis had on my life. I met him at the old ‘Cornbread’ Jones gym on Deep Ellum in the ‘60s during Golden Gloves. Both Curtis and his brothers were so special to all the others around them. Curtis has always been a champion and will continue to be so in my heart. A class gentleman in every respect! My prayers, thanks, and love to this fine family.

~Carl ‘Buzz’ Cathey

carl cathey - May 31, 2020 at 05:44 PM