

Obituaries

Kevan Edward Fincher

February 8, 1959 - June 17, 2009

Kevan Edward Fincher was born February 8, 1959 in Henderson, Texas to L.E. and Ann Nell Boman Fincher. He was a graduate of Athens High School.

On May 5, 1990 he and Gelenda Doss were married in Rockdale.

Kevan worked as office manager with Fluor Daniel in Rockdale. He was a member of San Gabriel Christian Church.

Surviving: his wife of 19 years, Gelenda of Rockdale. His parents, Eddie and Ann Nell Fincher of New York, Texas. Brothers, Noel Scott Fincher and wife Teresa of Easley, South Carolina, Allen Clark Fincher and wife Cathy of Athens, Vance Lee Fincher and wife Kristy of Athens. Grandmother, Lola Goodwin of Athens. Mother-in-law, Lillie Doss of Austin. Sister-in-law, Gloria Hooper of Austin. Brother-in-law, Timothy Doss of Austin.

Kevan passed away Wednesday, June 17, 2009 in Scott & White Hospital in Temple, reaching the age of 50.

Services for Kevan were held Friday, June 19, 2009 at Phillips & Luckey Chapel in Rockdale. Burial followed at Oaklawn Memorial Park Cemetery in Athens.

Pallbearers were Wesley Fincher, Roy White, Mikey Bailey, Austin Fincher, Grant Fincher, Nick Fincher, Andy Faust, Ruben Perez.

Honorary pallbearers, Lanny Worley, Kit Worley, Jason Worley, Bradley Worley, Raymond Worley, Jim Prater, Blane Boman, Taylor Fincher, Michael Bailey, Sr., Ricky Harris, Al Simank, Josh Simank.



Cancer survivors from around Lee County participated in the annual Relay for Life held at Giddings Buffalo Stadium recently. Some of those survivors are pictured here.

Legislation Expected to Bring Up to 900 New Doctors to Rural, Border and Urban Areas

Governor Rick Perry has signed House Bill 2154 into law, historic legislation that strengthens the state's Physician Education Loan Repayment Program and improves incentives to bring up to 900 new doctors into medically underserved areas of Texas.

In addition to addressing the physician shortage statewide, the revenue generated by HB 2154 also provides the state with the opportunity to cut the franchise tax for at least 40,000 small businesses in Texas. By providing funding for both of those measures, the legislation emerged as one of the centerpiece bills of the 2009 legislative session. HB 2154 was authored by Houston State Rep. Al Edwards and the Senate sponsor was Sen. Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa of McAllen.

"Physicians and health centers consider House Bill 2154 to be one of the most significant pieces of legislation to pass in decades because of its potential to bring basic medical care to millions of Texans in the inner cities and border and rural areas of our state," said Tom Banning, chief executive officer of the Texas Academy of Family Physicians (TAFP). "We are grateful to Governor Perry for signing this vital measure into law. And we appreciate the tireless work of state Rep. Al Edwards, Sen. Hinojosa and all our champions that have improved access to health care."

Rep. Al Edwards, Reps. Warren Chisum, Sylvester Turner and Veronica Gonzales also played instrumental roles in the passage of HB 2154 by submitting critical amendments to the legislation.

HB 2154 will fund a loan repayment program for doctors who practice in medically underserved areas across Texas. The repayment program will attract more than 225 physicians annually to the state's Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs), including many in urban centers.

"The legislation was carefully crafted to solve a very real problem in Texas," said Texas Association of Community Health Centers (TACHC) Executive Director Jose Camacho. "This is an incredibly important measure, and our health centers throughout Texas are deeply indebted to all the legislative supporters of the bill for their outstanding work on behalf of the people of this state."

"Governor Perry's signature on this bill means a great deal to all Texans," Camacho added. "Our centers desperately need and are counting on this legislation to provide us with primary care physicians to serve in our centers, located in Health Professional Shortage Areas. The impact of this legislation will be seen from our border and rural communities to our urban core."

The Texas House approved the measure by an overwhelming 122-21, after the Senate had approved it on a 29-2 vote.

"Within four years, Texas will have 900 new physicians serving communities in need," Banning said. "Texas established the nation's first physician loan repayment program and will once again serve as a national model for recruiting and retaining physicians to serve in our medically underserved communities."

HB 2154 revamps the Texas Physician Education Loan Repayment Program that was first established in 1985. Currently, the state forgives up to \$45,000 of a medical graduate's loans for practicing in a shortage area. However, most physicians graduate with more than \$160,000 in school loans.

Forest Grove News

by Lu Spence

Happy Father's Day to all you Dads! A little late, but we hope your Father's Day was happy and a day spent in your favorite way.

Frank and Shirley Rogers, Jerry and Lanna Caldwell; Cody, Zena, Christian and Tyler Caldwell; Chris, Arielle, Jayden and Austin Caldwell enjoyed Father's Day dinner in Taylor.

Please mark your calendars and come to Forest Grove for a fun July 4th. There will be plenty of food, fun, games and fellowship to enjoy beginning around ten o'clock in the morning.

Hollins, Denyce and Lanell Spence traveled to Fairfield on Saturday for a visit with Erick, Kayla, Kaitlyn, Evan and Ely Gilbert and to attend a birthday swim party for Kaitlyn and Evan. Kaitlyn and Evan returned to Forest Grove for a visit with "Papa and Mema".

Claude and Lanell Spence enjoyed having sixteen family members at their home on Father's Day.

Eric Fiedler enjoyed spending Father's Day on the golf course with his Dad and brothers.

Traci, Destiny and Sierra Fiedler enjoyed spending several days visiting the beach and sites in Galveston.

Bill Mann of San Marcos enjoyed Father's Day with Morris, Tracy, Kaylie and Belle Kyle.

Several from the community attended graveside services at Forest Grove on June 13 for Minnie Ola Curry Devine. We send our sincere sympathy to her family and friends during this time of sadness.

Zach, Dalton, Noah Smith; Josh

and Jared Skrhak are enjoying a week of camp at Mt. Zion near Boerne.

Bro. Brandon and Lisa, Madeline and Abbi Navarre enjoyed an overnight visit with Lisa's grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Waverly Drinkard in Fairfield.

We are happy to report that Ida Hatcher is at home following a stay in a Temple hospital.

A large crowd was present to honor all the Dads at morning worship on Sunday. Honored as the oldest father was Marvin Sides at the young age of 96. Honored as the youngest father present was Chris Caldwell.

Visiting Woody and Mary Beth Burgess on Saturday were Bobby and JoAnn Coldiron of Milano. Spending Father's Day with the Burgess' was the Stan Burgess family of Milano. Visiting on Monday were Ron and Alice Owens of Troy.

Bill and Florene McDaniel; Jayne, Sierra and Wyatt Rhodes of San Perlita have returned home following a vacation visit with Dr. Alan, Lisa, Kendall and Lathan McDaniel in Indianola, Iowa.

Rod and Lu enjoyed attending a graduation/birthday party in Meyersville for Lu's great-nephews Clifford Caddell and Zachary DeLeon.

On Saturday Rod and Lu traveled to Nacogdoches to attend funeral services for Mrs. Shirley Clifton, mother of Marcie Spence of College Station. Following the services Rod and Lu went to Tomball to attend a graduation party for granddaughter Heather Rahm.

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