



Donald "Art" Cowden

OCT 30, 1951 - MAR 20, 2025



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McCALEB &
FUNERAL HOME
SACRED PARK CEMETERY
A Life Celebration Home

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Donald "Art" Cowden

OCT 30, 1951 - MAR 20, 2025

Mercedes- Donald "Art" Cowden, a beloved educator, dedicated family man, and cherished friend, passed away peacefully at his home in Mercedes on March 20, 2025. Born on October 30, 1951, in San Benito, Texas, Art's life was a testament to unconditional love, commitment, and a deep bond with his family and faith. Art met his soulmate on a blind date, expecting to see the girl with long blonde hair he had imagined. Instead, he was surprised to meet Kathy—a stunning woman with short dark hair. But from the moment their eyes met, it was love at first sight. On May 22, 1971, Art and Kathy began their lifelong journey together, a perfect match in every way. They prioritized each other's dreams, first focusing on Art's education and then Kathy's. Through fifty-three years of marriage, their unwavering love remained the foundation of their lives, a beautiful testament to commitment and devotion. Art earned his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Texas A&I in 1973. After several years in the banking industry, he felt a more profound calling to serve his community and inspire young minds. For over twenty-five years, Art dedicated himself to education, shaping the lives of countless students, and mentoring future athletes as an assistant golf coach. His passion for teaching extended far beyond the classroom, leaving a lasting impact on those he guided with wisdom, patience, and encouragement. Art was a gifted athlete. He excelled in football, basketball, and track at Mercedes High School and lettered in all three—a testament to his competitive spirit and love for sports. His commitment to education and athletics extended far beyond the classroom, as he served as a respected high school football official for over thirty years. With his calm and gentle demeanor, Art naturally could diffuse tense situations, earning the admiration of players, coaches, and colleagues. Above all, Art was a devoted father, raising three energetic and spirited sons who brought him immense pride. He found his greatest joy in watching them grow into remarkable men, each a reflection of the values, love, and guidance he instilled in them. In



Obituary

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retirement, Art fully embraced his role as the family's go-to chauffeur, proudly serving as the best "Uber" driver for his beloved wife, Kathy, and their grandchildren. He was always present for family gatherings, not just as a guest but as their heart and organizer-cooking his famous meals and meticulously tending to their expansive yard. His warmth, dedication, and unwavering presence made every moment together truly special. Art was a devoted family man and a faithful member of the First Baptist Church of Weslaco, where his love for Jesus Christ was evident in all he did. He cherished his church family, offering unwavering support and kindness to those around him. Known for his calm and thoughtful demeanor, Art had a quiet yet sharp wit that could effortlessly lighten any moment, bringing warmth and laughter to every gathering. His faith was not just something he professed-it was a guiding light that shaped his character and the way he touched the lives of others. Art's interests were as vast as his heart. He found joy in golfing, fishing, and traveling, enthusiastically embracing new experiences. For over twenty-five years, he created cherished family memories on camping trips to the Frio River, where laughter and adventure filled every moment. Art, a passionate sports fan, brought loved ones together for college football games, his excitement contagious as he cheered on his favorite teams. Whether outdoors or gathered around the television, he had a way of making every experience more meaningful simply by sharing it with those he loved. Art Cowden will be remembered for his accomplishments and the warmth and love he shared with everyone he encountered. His legacy lives on through the many lives he touched throughout his career, the cherished memories with his family, and the faith he shared with his community. Art is preceded in death by his parents, Jack and Carol Cowden. He is survived by his loving wife, Kathy; their sons, Travis Cowden (Rosie), Jason Cowden (Merry), and Nathan Cowden (Nancy); grandchildren, Aaron (Robert), Mariska, Jaxon, Carol Jean, Ziva, and Bryce Cowden; many close lifetime friends that Art considered his brothers (Jimmy, Mark, Pancho) and sister (Joy). Visitation will be held on Thursday, March 27, 2025, from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM at McCaleb Funeral Home in Weslaco, Texas. A celebration of life will be held on Friday, March 22, 2025 at 10:00 AM, at First Baptist Church, 600 S Kansas Ave, Weslaco, Texas.



Tribute Wall

Donald "Art" Cowden

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Anonymous shared a **Video**.



August 7 at 4:23 PM



Estella Pena Loya posted:

Kathy~My heartfelt condolences and prayers to you and your family. May Art rest in eternal peace.

March 30 at 9:22 PM



Rodriguez Family posted:

Rodriguez Family has purchased Eco-Friendly Memorial Trees for Donald "Art" Cowden

March 30 at 9:22 PM



Cindy Banister posted:

Kathy,I remember when you and Art started dating. He was such a nice guy and it sounds like yaâ€™ll shared a wonderful life together. I hope the memories you made along the way will be a source of comfort for you and your loved ones. Rest in eternal peace Art.

March 29 at 10:46 AM



Mccaleb Staff posted:

Eddie & Connie: Today, we will continue welcoming visitors to honor Art's memory. For those unable to come earlier, we will be open all day, with family present from 4:00 to 7:00 PM. Please know that Art's Celebration of Life has been rescheduled for tomorrow at 10:00 AM at First Baptist Church in Weslaco. We appreciate your support during this difficult time.

March 28 at 3:40 PM



Tribute Wall

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MS

Mccaleb Staff posted:

Tony: Today, we will continue welcoming visitors to honor Art's memory. For those unable to come earlier, we will be open all day, with family present from 4:00 to 7:00 PM. Please know that Art's Celebration of Life has been rescheduled for tomorrow at 10:00 AM at First Baptist Church in Weslaco. We appreciate your support during this difficult time.

March 28 at 8:13 AM

MS

Mccaleb Staff posted:

Linda: Today, we will continue welcoming visitors to honor Art's memory. For those unable to come earlier, we will be open all day, with family present from 4:00 to 7:00 PM. Please know that Art's Celebration of Life has been rescheduled for tomorrow at 10:00 AM at First Baptist Church in Weslaco. We appreciate your support during this difficult time.

March 28 at 8:12 AM

MS

Mccaleb Staff posted:

Joni: Today, we will continue welcoming visitors to honor Art's memory. For those unable to come earlier, we will be open all day, with family present from 4:00 to 7:00 PM. Please know that Art's Celebration of Life has been rescheduled for tomorrow at 10:00 AM at First Baptist Church in Weslaco. We appreciate your support during this difficult time.

March 28 at 8:12 AM

MS

Mccaleb Staff posted:

Joe & Mary: Today, we will continue welcoming visitors to honor Art's memory. For those unable to come earlier, we will be open all day, with family present from 4:00 to 7:00 PM. Please know that Art's Celebration of Life has been rescheduled for tomorrow at 10:00 AM at First Baptist Church in Weslaco. We appreciate your support during this difficult time.

March 28 at 8:12 AM



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MS

Mccaleb Staff posted:

Calvin: Today, we will continue welcoming visitors to honor Art's memory. For those unable to come earlier, we will be open all day, with family present from 4:00 to 7:00 PM. Please know that Art's Celebration of Life has been rescheduled for tomorrow at 10:00 AM at First Baptist Church in Weslaco. We appreciate your support during this difficult time.

March 28 at 8:11 AM

MS

Mccaleb Staff posted:

David: Today, we will continue welcoming visitors to honor Art's memory. For those unable to come earlier, we will be open all day, with family present from 4:00 to 7:00 PM. Please know that Art's Celebration of Life has been rescheduled for tomorrow at 10:00 AM at First Baptist Church in Weslaco. We appreciate your support during this difficult time.

March 28 at 8:11 AM

MS

Mccaleb Staff posted:

Diana: Today, we will continue welcoming visitors to honor Art's memory. For those unable to come earlier, we will be open all day, with family present from 4:00 to 7:00 PM. Please know that Art's Celebration of Life has been rescheduled for tomorrow at 10:00 AM at First Baptist Church in Weslaco. We appreciate your support during this difficult time.

March 28 at 8:11 AM

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March 28 at 8:11 AM



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MS

Mccaleb Staff posted:

Frank & Leslie: Today, we will continue welcoming visitors to honor Art's memory. For those unable to come earlier, we will be open all day, with family present from 4:00 to 7:00 PM. Please know that Art's Celebration of Life has been rescheduled for tomorrow at 10:00 AM at First Baptist Church in Weslaco. We appreciate your support during this difficult time.

March 28 at 8:10 AM

MS

Mccaleb Staff posted:

Jim and Sue: Today, we will continue welcoming visitors to honor Art's memory. For those unable to come earlier, we will be open all day, with family present from 4:00 to 7:00 PM. Please know that Art's Celebration of Life has been rescheduled for tomorrow at 10:00 AM at First Baptist Church in Weslaco. We appreciate your support during this difficult time.

March 28 at 8:10 AM

MS

Mccaleb Staff posted:

Chris & Jana: Today, we will continue welcoming visitors to honor Art's memory. For those unable to come earlier, we will be open all day, with family present from 4:00 to 7:00 PM. Please know that Art's Celebration of Life has been rescheduled for tomorrow at 10:00 AM at First Baptist Church in Weslaco. We appreciate your support during this difficult time.

March 28 at 8:10 AM

MS

Mccaleb Staff posted:

Lee: Today, we will continue welcoming visitors to honor Art's memory. For those unable to come earlier, we will be open all day, with family present from 4:00 to 7:00 PM. Please know that Art's Celebration of Life has been rescheduled for tomorrow at 10:00 AM at First Baptist Church in Weslaco. We appreciate your support during this difficult time.

March 28 at 8:09 AM



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MS

Mccaleb Staff posted:

Mary Lou & Emilio, Today, we will continue welcoming visitors to honor Art's memory. For those who were unable to come earlier, we will be open all day, with family present from 4:00 to 7:00 PM. Please know that Art's Celebration of Life has been rescheduled for tomorrow at 10:00 AM at First Baptist Church in Weslaco. We appreciate your support during this difficult time.

March 28 at 8:09 AM

MS

Mccaleb Staff posted:

Jennifer, Today, we will continue welcoming visitors to honor Art's memory. For those who were unable to come earlier, we will be open all day, with family present from 4:00 to 7:00 PM. Please know that Art's Celebration of Life has been rescheduled for tomorrow at 10:00 AM at First Baptist Church in Weslaco. We appreciate your support during this difficult time.

March 28 at 8:05 AM

MS

Mccaleb Staff posted:

Robert, Today, we will continue welcoming visitors to honor Art's memory. For those who were unable to come earlier, we will be open all day, with family present from 4:00 to 7:00 PM. Please know that Art's Celebration of Life has been rescheduled for tomorrow at 10:00 AM at First Baptist Church in Weslaco. We appreciate your support during this difficult time.

March 28 at 8:05 AM

RK

Robert Keen posted:

My Condolences, flooded roads here my thoughts are with youRobert, Today, we will continue welcoming visitors to honor Art's memory. For those who were unable to come earlier, we will be open all day, with family present from 4:00 to 7:00 PM. Please know that Art's Celebration of Life has been rescheduled for tomorrow at 10:00 AM at First Baptist Church in Weslaco. We appreciate your support during this difficult time.

March 28 at 8:04 AM

JA

Jennifer, Shannon & Anaiz posted:

Jennifer, Shannon & Anaiz has purchased Peace Lily for Donald "Art" Cowden

March 28 at 7:48 AM



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MG

Mary Lou & Emilio Garcia posted:

Our deepest condolences Kathy, Nathan, Jason and Travis! Our thoughts and prayers are with you!

March 27 at 11:41 AM

AS

Anna Smith posted:

My sincere condolences to Kathy and the entire Cowden family.

March 26 at 2:23 PM

FG

Fred Gracia, Paul Garza posted:

On behave of Texas Association of Sports Official Mid Valley assigning Rep Paul Farza and Fred Gracia we would like to express our most sincere condolences to the Cowden family. Art was a member of our RGV football chapter for over 20 years and during that time he worked many varsity games and helped mentor many young officials. Thank you Art for all the memories we made on the field. May you Rip and may the perpetual light of Jesus shine on your soul. 🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏

March 26 at 12:00 PM

ME

Mike & Elizabeth England posted:

Mike & Elizabeth England has purchased Treasured Memories Floor Basket - Yellow for Donald "Art" Cowden

March 25 at 8:59 PM

LB

Lee Baucum posted:

This is so sad. Back in the 1960s, my Dad (Truett) and I spent lots of time fishing down at the Arroyo with Art and his Dad (Jack). Such great memories. RIP Art

March 25 at 1:28 PM

CJ

Chris Bedenbaugh & Jana Jones posted:

Chris Bedenbaugh & Jana Jones has purchased Eco-Friendly Memorial Trees for Donald "Art" Cowden

March 25 at 12:49 PM



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JS

Jim And Sue Scheopner posted:

Art was a soft spoken gentleman!..he will be sorely missed.

March 24 at 2:37 PM

FL

Frank And Leslie Lovvorn posted:

Frank and Leslie Lovvorn has purchased Blessed Patriot Spray for Donald "Art" Cowden

March 24 at 11:45 AM

YF

Your Republic Services Family posted:

Your Republic Services Family has purchased Ocean Essence Spray for Donald "Art" Cowden

March 24 at 11:31 AM

DD

Diana Dominguez posted:

Kathy not sure if you remember me, Roy's daughter . I am sorry for your loss . May Art Rest In Enternal Peace . Prayers for you and the family .

March 24 at 11:16 AM

DT

David Tresnicky posted:

To a great friend and fellow official you will be missed rest in peace my friend God bless you and your family

March 23 at 5:17 PM

CB

Calvin Byrd posted:

So sorry to hear about Art's passing.I had lots of fun and so many memories being on a crew with Art.

March 23 at 2:28 PM



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JS

Joe & Mary Salas posted:

May God carry you through this difficult time.

March 23 at 1:12 PM

MG

Manuel & Linda Gautreaux posted:

Art indeed, was a great person, and we count knowing him as one of God's richest blessings to us. Always kind and friendly to everyone. Truly reflected his commitment to the Lord by his actions. We will miss his presence on earth, but we have that eternal hope, we will have fellowship with him again!!! God provide Kathy, the boys and family with all the grace and strength in this time, is our prayer.

March 23 at 11:38 AM

JL

Joni Lovvorn shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

You are a shining light to us all, you always have been and always will be in our hearts. I love you cousin Art.

March 23 at 9:01 AM



LM

Linda Mancillas shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Sorry for your loss my prayers are with you and your family God Bless you all

March 23 at 8:38 AM



EB

Eddie And Connie Belzer posted:

So sorry to hear about ART's passing your Family is in our prayers

March 22 at 11:34 AM

EB

Eddie And Connie Belzer posted:

So sorry to hear about ART's passing your Family is in our prayers

March 21 at 10:27 PM



Media

Donald "Art" Cowden

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Anonymous shared a **Video**.

August 7 at 4:23 PM





Media

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Joni Lovvorn shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

March 23 at 9:01 AM





Media

Donald "Art" Cowden

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Linda Mancillas shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

March 23 at 8:38 AM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Donald "Art" by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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