



Mark Edward Holmes was born June 18<sup>th</sup>, 1962 in New Jersey and moved to Texas a few months later, often qualifying his brief time spent up north with “I got to Texas as fast as I could.” In San Antonio, Mark was raised by Charles and Bernice Holmes alongside his sister Deborah, spending summers on the Guadalupe River fishing and swimming. The rest of the year Mark could be found running around the streets of his neighborhood or through the halls of John Jay High School, honing his wrenching skills in shop class and once upsetting the best player on the All-State basketball team in a pick-up game. Evenings were often spent swapping his car for a friend’s motorcycle to impress a girl and take her dancing, while simultaneously disturbing his soon to be father-in-law when he dropped her off at the end of the night. Before his facial hair was fully formed, Mark’s skin was soaked in oil and, a one-time grease-monkey for Keith Black Drag Racing, developed a career as a technician at the Southwest Research Institute for over 35 years.

If he wasn’t in the garage sharing stories bent over the side of a hood, Mark was with the people he loved most. The 1997 Southwest Pony League T-Ball coach turned into a full time Roadie for the Taft Raider Band by 2004 and couldn’t help but form a deep bond with the people he bumped into along the way. Many of whom found that they had met a man who would do anything to help and ask for nothing in return. These people were, after all, not just old pals, new friends, or kind neighbors, they were family. Those who knew him best recognized Mark as a tireless worker with a selfless heart, although, he would gladly accept a new ball cap and another cold one.

Mark was proud of the two children he helped navigate through this world, Kristen and Sean, with the love of his life Laurie, and nothing scuffled his moustache more than the sight of his two granddaughters Amelia and Eloise. Unfortunately, there will never come a day where a

fully bearded man ready for winter snow appears in front of them suddenly clean shaven for the spring (save his signature lip-rug), only to entice tears at the sight of this mystery person who has replaced their grandfather, as he once did with his own daughter. Mark Edward Holmes passed away on Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at the age of 57 after a tough but brief battle with cancer. Mark's life could be best described as a long road, with a short drive. The summer of 2020 will be Mark's final trip to the Guadalupe River, where his ashes will forever ride the breeze under the warm sun and rest beneath a Texas night sky.

