

Van Zandt County



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Van Zandt County Press Release Death of Precinct 2 County Commissioner Virgil Melton, Jr June 6, 2024

In a tragic accident on Monday night, June 3rd, Van Zandt County Commissioner Virgil Melton, Jr., died from a tree falling on his vehicle while he was traveling home from his grandson's baseball game. The accident occurred on Farm to Market Road 279 in Edom. Virgil's wife Janice was also in the vehicle and taken by ambulance to the hospital where she currently is in Intensive Care Unit with serious injuries.

Virgil was sworn into the office of Precinct 2 Commissioner on January 1st, 2007, serving Van Zandt County for over 17 years. He was respected by his constituents for his responsiveness to their needs, working to maintain the roads and bridges in his precinct as well as surrounding areas. He served on the Commissioners Court with the responsibilities for Van Zandt County business and administration.

Prior to serving as Commissioner for Van Zandt County, Virgil was the Criminal District Courts' Manager for Dallas County for 29 years, managing 17 Criminal District Courts.

Virgil was involved with the creation of the Van Zandt County Veterans Memorial in 2005 and has served on the board of directors ever since. Virgil served in the U.S. Marine Corps in the Vietnam War as a tank commander from 1968 to 1969, earning a Purple Heart and Navy Commendation Medal for valor.

Virgil has been involved in many community organizations including the Canton Lions Club and the Van Zandt County Republican Club where he served as a delegate to the Texas Republican Party Convention for many years.

Virgil and Janice were part of the founding members of Lakeside Baptist Church, and he served in the church as a deacon and member of the choir.

Van Zandt County has lost a true icon of the community He inspired many in the county and has been a mentor and roll model to many who have served with him. His legacy will live on with the people he has served throughout his years in Van Zandt County.

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