

Funeral Mass today | Longtime Anthony alderman dies

Cancer takes popular bar owner Hall, 71

By Adriana Gómez Licón

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EL PASO — Jerry Hall, an alderman for more than 30 years and owner of a popular bar in Anthony, Texas, died Tuesday of prostate cancer. He was 71.

Hall owned Jerry's Bull & Beer Bar from the 1960s to 2006. In the same place, now leveled land, people left flowers and American flags this week after they learned that the man of the mustache and the brown cowboy boots had died.

An infection detected in 2006 caused Hall and his wife of 33 years, Sylvia Hall, to move to the Upper Valley to be closer to medical services. Jerry Hall had been fighting different cancers since the late 1990s. He underwent several bypass surgeries and an open-heart surgery.

"His doctor told him one time, 'I had a cat that has nine lives — how many do you have?'" Sylvia Hall said.

And even after he moved to El Paso, Jerry Hall continued to hold his position on the town council until late 2006, when he resigned because he could not attend meetings. Jerry Hall had been an alderman since 1974 and left for only one year in the 1980s, when he lost a mayoral race.

What few people know about Hall is that he lived almost all his life in the same 400 block of South Main Street.

He was born on Nov. 19, 1938, and grew up selling popcorn and tickets at the first movie theater in Anthony. His father, John F. Hall, owned it.

Jerry Hall graduated from high school in 1958 and received an associate degree from New Mexico Military Institute. He then left in the early 1960s to attend the University of Arizona.

John F. Hall suffered a heart attack in 1962, so Jerry Hall abandoned his dream to become a pharmacist to go back to Anthony and take care of the family business. John F.

Hall later died of another heart attack. Jerry Hall attended Texas Western College, now the University of Texas at El Paso, but dropped out in 1965.

Jerry Hall sponsored a community baseball team and traveled with the players to South El Monte, Calif., where he met his wife.

Because of the proximity to New Mexico, Jerry Hall's bar flourished in the 1970s when New Mexicans could not drink alcohol on Sundays.

"He threw the best Super Bowl parties," Sylvia Hall said.

As the Place 2 alderman, Jerry Hall fought to stretch law enforcement efforts to Anthony, N.M. If police began a pursuit in Anthony, Texas, when the suspect crossed the New Mexico line, there was nothing they could do.

"He wanted Anthony (Texas) to be better," Sylvia Hall said. "He always saw

things in a broader scope."

Jerry Hall was mayor pro tem under Art Franco, the town mayor, since the early 1990s.

Franco said Jerry Hall was well known and liked, which helped him gain a stable political ground.

"He hardly ever campaigned for office," he said. "He kept winning re-election all this time."

The Halls raised four children: Joshua; Jacob and Marisa Hall and Gina Guzman. Two of them live in El Paso. Jerry Hall also is survived by a granddaughter, Cassandra Guzman.

Visitation will begin at 4 p.m. today in St. Anthony's Catholic Church, 224 Lincoln Ave. A prayer vigil, funeral Mass and cremation will follow at 5 p.m.