



Billy J. Hattabaugh

November 9, 1930 - January 27, 2026

Billy J Hattabaugh, age 95, of Bald Knob, Arkansas, passed away on January 27, 2026. He was born on November 9, 1930 to Bill Hattabaugh and Druscilla Bolding-Hattabaugh.

He is survived by his daughters, Rita (Steve) Southerland and Debbie (Troy) Roberts; his daughter-in-law, Vivian Hattabaugh; a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren; as well as numerous nieces and nephews who loved him dearly.

He was preceded in death by his first wife of 48 years, Florene Hattabaugh, and his second wife of 14 years, Carolyn Hattabaugh; his son, Gaylon Hattabaugh; and his daughter Dianna Thomason; great-grandson Keegan Bock; his parents, brothers Charles and Johnny Lee Hattabaugh and sister, Betty Pickens

Billy was a devoted father and grandfather whose greatest joy was his family. He took pride in each generation and cherished the time spent together whether through stories shared, trips taken, or quiet moments filled with laughter and love. When he married Carolyn, his heart grew even larger as he lovingly embraced her children and grandchildren as his own, creating a blended family rooted in care, respect, and togetherness.

He had a deep love for fishing and traveling, always eager for the next adventure or a peaceful day outdoors. Those moments reflected his appreciation for life's simple pleasures and his desire to share experiences with the people he loved most.

Billy also lived life in the fast lane for many years and was well known in local racing circles. Old newspaper articles chronicled the success of his race car, "White Lightnin'" driven by Larry Carson, capturing a time when Billy's determination, mechanical skill, and competitive spirit came alive at the track. Racing was more than a pastime-it reflected his drive, grit, and love for the thrill of the sport.

Above all else, Billy will be remembered for his kind heart, strong work ethic, and unwavering devotion to his family. He leaves behind not only generations of loved ones, but also a legacy of love, stories, and memories that will be carried on for years to come.

Funeral services will be held on Sunday, February 1, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.at the Powell Funeral Home Chapel in Bald Knob with Steve Southerland officiating. Visitation will be held prior, beginning at 1:00 p.m. Interment will follow in Oak Grove Cemetery in Searcy. Arrangements are entrusted to Powell Funeral Home, Bald Knob – Judsonia. www.powellfuneralhome.net.

Cemetery Details

Oak Grove Cemetery

Moore St.
Searcy, AR 72143

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 1. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services (Bald Knob)
1272 Highway 367 North
Bald Knob, AR 72010
(501) 724-3201
baldknob@powellfuneralhome.net
<https://www.powellfuneralhome.net/>

Funeral Service

FEB 1. 2:00 PM (CT)

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Tribute Wall



“ Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Webcast in memory of Billy J. Hattabaugh



Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services - February 01 at 11:10 AM



“ Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Billy J. Hattabaugh



Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services - January 31 at 06:04 PM

TR

What a beautiful video in memory of Uncle Billy... some of my best childhood memories were when I lived in Arkansas growing up next-door to Aunt Florine and Uncle Billy.

I remember one time Fuzzy and I were playing in the backyard and came across a big ole rattlesnake, and Uncle Billy came to the rescue! He killed that ole snake and then proceeded to cut him up in multiple pieces! That was the first time that I learned that a snake could still bite you even after it was dead! Each little piece was moving around like it was still alive! I'm not sure if I was relieved or horrified! Lol

I remember growing up camping, fishing and racing like it was yesterday! So many times we would end up at Heber Springs for the races, then camping, fishing, sitting around the campfire and some time on Uncle Billy's party barge. Those were the best weekends!

Us cousins loved going over to the salvage yard to see what we could find in those old cars! Uncle Billy was always working on a vehicle at the garage, but usually it was on his beloved 'white lightning'.

He had a pop machine right outside the shop, and oh how I loved getting those ice cold glass bottle pops! If it was cream soda, orange, Dr Pepper, or a root beer, they were always better from Uncle Billy's pop machine! His only request was to return the bottles! 😊

I remember on the weekends when we would all gather around as a family and watch Hee Haw!... he always had a smile on his face and a baby on his knee. RIH sweet Uncle Billy...you will be so missed by your loved ones & friends. 💙

Terri L Roberts - January 31 at 10:47 PM

KR

My thoughts and prayers are with this sweet family.

Kaidy R. - February 01 at 01:56 PM

MD

“ I just saw that your Dad had passed and I send my sincere condolences and love to your family.



Margaret Davis - February 13 at 07:24 AM

RG

“ Rita Glass lit a candle in memory of Billy J. Hattabaugh



Rita Glass - February 08 at 01:39 PM

HC

“ Hunter collins planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Billy J. Hattabaugh.

Hunter collins - February 01 at 12:00 PM


HC

“ Hunter collins purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Billy J. Hattabaugh.



Hunter collins - February 01 at 12:00 PM

TR

“ Together again~ you will be so missed Uncle Billy, 



Terri Roberts - February 01 at 10:54 AM

GH

“ Condolences to Debbie and Rita, and the rest of the family.. I know you will all miss him very much!.. He was always such a sweetie when I was around him, always gave me a hug, like I was part of the family... We look forward to seeing him again in the resurrection.

Gina Holden

Gina Holden - January 31 at 02:19 PM

RM

“ Thank you Uncle Bill for all the bananas you gave me growing up as a kid... I enjoyed all the fishing and racing memories. You will be remembered and missed. 💔



Russell McAnally - January 30 at 11:48 AM

LJ

“ Love, Nixon and Jordon! purchased the Simply El egant Spathiphyllum for the family of Billy J. Hattabaugh.



Love, Nixon and Jordon! - January 30 at 11:19 AM

TT

“ Tammy Thacker lit a candle in memory of Billy J. Hattabaugh



Tammy Thacker - January 30 at 10:24 AM

MJ

“ *MikeAndConnie Johnston lit a candle in memory of Billy J. Hattabaugh*



MikeAndConnie Johnston - January 29 at 06:29 PM

JH

“ *Family; Mr Bill was a true believer in whatever he attempted. he will long remembered for his personality and his persistence. Forever a true part of Bald Knob history. We all remember he was the driving force of WHITE Lightning. Johnny Hodges*

Johnny Hodges - January 29 at 03:21 PM