



## David Lee Choate

November 7, 1956 - March 19, 2017

David Lee Choate, of Judsonia, Arkansas was born at Hawkins Clinic in Searcy, November 7, 1956, to James Donald and Alice Marie Webb Choate, and passed away at home March 19, 2017. He was raised near Floyd in White County on the family farm his grandfather established. His family settled in White County shortly after his great-grandfather died in the Civil War as a member of the Mississippi Infantry and his great-grandmother migrated to Arkansas with David's infant grandfather.

David was extremely proud of that family heritage and was especially pleased to maintain ownership of a part of the family farm until his death. In 2013, the state of Arkansas recognized the farm for having been in the family for over one hundred years.

David was predeceased by his father and is survived by his mother. He is also survived by his wife and the love of his life, Penny, of Judsonia, and by his children, Laura Elizabeth Nick and her husband, Chris, and Guy David Choate and his wife, Liz, all of North Little Rock, and Eric Collins and his wife, Brooke, of Judsonia. He is also survived by his granddaughters, Caroline Sidney Nick and Lee Catherine Nick of North Little Rock, and Heagan Faye Collins, of Judsonia. He was very much looking forward to the birth of his grandson in June. He is survived by his sisters, Donna Marie Choate of Searcy and Nancy Lynn Fancyboy of Floyd and her husband, George, and by his brother, James Michael Choate, of Beebe.

He attended Beebe Public Schools where he was class president for five

consecutive years and was named Mr. Beebe High School and Most Valuable Offensive Player of the football team his senior year. He was active in White County 4-H and won the county tractor driving championship as a teenager. He attended Arkansas State University at Beebe and graduated from ASU with a degree in Agricultural Economics. Upon graduation, he went to work for Bruce Oakley, Inc., where he remained until three years later, when he and his brother founded Choate Brothers' Feed, which they operated for 16 years. After selling the business, he returned to Oakley as Vice President of Grain and Barge Operations. During his tenure, the company became one of the largest privately owned companies in Arkansas and expanded both the grain and barge divisions by over five fold.

He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Arkansas-Oklahoma Port Operators Association, The National Waterways Conference and President of the Mid-South Grain Association. He was appointed by the Secretary of Defense to the Inland Waterways Users' Board to advise Congress and The Corps of Engineers on the Inland Waterways Trust Fund.

He was elected to the Arkansas House of Representatives where he represented parts of White and Lonoke counties and held many leadership positions including chairman of the House Education Committee.

He was appointed to numerous education and agriculture boards of the state of Arkansas by three different governors, both Democratic and Republican, including the Early Childhood Commission and the State Board of Agriculture. When his children were young and he lived in Beebe, he was a member of the school board for seven years and was president of both the Chamber of Commerce and the Kiwanis Club.

He was named Outstanding Alumnus by the Arkansas Association of Two Year Colleges, Honorary American Farmer by the National FFA Association and Honorary State Farmer by the Arkansas FFA Association. He was a member of the Arkansas and White County Cattlemen's Associations.

He and Penny raised beef cattle and horses on four hundred acres in the Ozark Foothill country of White County and loved to travel the world,

especially the Caribbean Sea. He enjoyed playing Bluegrass music, having taught himself to play standup bass at the age of fifty.

He was a member of the Judsonia United Methodist Church.

Visitation will be Wednesday from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Powell Funeral Home of Searcy. Funeral services will be at the United Methodist Church of Judsonia on Thursday at 2 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Searcy Humane Society or Judsonia United Methodist Church.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR **22**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services (Searcy)  
2602 W. Beebe-Capps Expy  
Searcy, AR 72143  
(501) 268-7220  
searcy@powellfuneralhome.net  
<https://www.powellfuneralhome.net/>

## Funeral Service

MAR **23**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Judsonia United Methodist Church  
200 Van Buren St.  
Judsonia, AR 72081  
<http://>

## Interment

MAR **23** (CT)

Oaklawn Memorial Gardens  
100 E. Moore Ave.  
Searcy, AR 72143

# Tribute Wall

PH

“ Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of David Lee Choate



Powell Funeral Home - March 22, 2017 at 05:35 PM

FO

“ Fonda lit a candle in memory of David Lee Choate



Fonda - March 23, 2017 at 02:18 PM

FO

Penny,

You and your family are in my thoughts and Prayers. I am truly sorry for your loss.

Fonda - March 23, 2017 at 02:19 PM

CI

“ CGB Enterprises, Inc. purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of David Lee Choate.



CGB Enterprises, Inc. - March 23, 2017 at 11:21 AM

ZC

“ Zen-Noh Grain Corporation purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of David Lee Choate.



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**Zen-Noh Grain Corporation** - March 23, 2017 at 11:18 AM

HS

“ Penny, I was so sorry to hear about your loss. David was swell guy and I always enjoyed visiting with him but there was more to him than just being easy to like. I'm glad our trails crossed over the years and his list of friends that respect him is a very long one. Best of luck to you and the family.

*Sincerely,*

*Harvey Joe Sanner  
Des Arc, AR.*

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**Harvey Joe Sanner** - March 22, 2017 at 06:43 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of David Lee Choate.



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March 22, 2017 at 04:35 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of David Lee Choate.*



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March 22, 2017 at 01:32 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of David Lee Choate.*



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March 22, 2017 at 11:45 AM



“ *PENNY,  
YOU AND DAVID ARE TWO OF THE NICEST PEOPLE ROCKY  
AND I HAVE EVER MET. DAVID WILL BE MISSED BY ALL. BUT I  
KNOW HE IS HAPPY IN THE ARMS AND THE LOVE OF GOD.  
AND I PRAY THAT THE LOVE OF GOD WILL GIVE THE  
STRENGTH YOU NEED TO CONTINUE ON WITH THE LIFE YOU  
AND DAVID HAVE STARTED. PLEASE ALWAYS KNOW THAT WE  
LOVE YOU AND WILL ALWAYS BE THERE IF YOU NEED US.  
ALWAYS WITH LOVE IN OUR HEARTS,  
ROCKY AND JEANIE HILL*

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**JEANIE HILL** - March 22, 2017 at 11:14 AM



*Our hearts ache for your loss. You remain in our prayers. Michael and Ann Roberson*

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**ann Roberson** - March 22, 2017 at 02:32 PM

DK

*Penny, I'm so sorry for the pain and loss you feel now. I thank God for His wonderful plan and for David's choice to follow Him! May the knowledge and peace of God's wisdom in all things comfort your heart now. My prayers continue to be for you and the family. Dianna Kinsey*

Dianna Kinsey - March 23, 2017 at 05:05 AM

EW

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time Penny.*

*Sue and Eddie Wood*

eddie wood - March 22, 2017 at 09:36 AM

AB

“ *ADDIE BANKS lit a candle in memory of David Lee Choate*



ADDIE BANKS - March 22, 2017 at 08:35 AM

ML

“ *Mark Fletcher & Mark Mestemacher-Ceres Barge Line purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of David Lee Choate.*



Mark Fletcher & Mark Mestemacher-Ceres Barge Line -  
March 21, 2017 at 06:07 PM

MF

“ Penny: David was a wonderful inspiration to all those whom got the opportunity to conduct business with him and get to know him. Our thoughts and prayers are with you as you endure this sadness.

Mark Fletcher  
Ceres Barge Line

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Mark Fletcher - March 21, 2017 at 05:12 PM



“ Sapphire Skies Bouquet was purchased for the family of David Lee Choate.



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March 21, 2017 at 01:03 PM

CA

“ Choate family, We are so sorry for you loss, please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you at this most difficult time. Your friends at CartiNlr



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CartiNlr - March 21, 2017 at 10:04 AM

NF

Thank you so much for caring for him!  
His youngest sister, Nancy

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Nancy Fancyboy - April 03, 2017 at 01:33 PM

RH

“ Deepest Condolences to the family! Ruthann Hefner

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Ruthann Hefner - March 21, 2017 at 09:05 AM

KM

“ *It was a pleasure caring for David in his last weeks here on earth. He was a good man and he will be missed. I am so sorry penny, I know you two loved each other so very much! You are in my prayers.*

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**Kali Morgan** - March 20, 2017 at 10:42 PM

PE

“ *Prayers for peace and comfort! Penny i remember meeting David for the first time at a dinner party at your beautiful home. What struck me that night was the way he looked at you, well really the way you looked at each other. When tales of all our various travels and trips were shared, whether he was telling the story or you, even the mention of your name made his eyes twinkle and that small little grin would creep up on his face. He didn't say much but he didn't have to, his love for you was obvious and the love you both shared for each other is to be envied. Love you and may God wrap his arms of comfort around you knowing David is looking down at you smiling. Love you sister, Patty Elmore*

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**Patty Elmore** - March 20, 2017 at 10:14 PM

CS

“ *Charlotte & Navetree, cousins on the Calhoun side purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of David Lee Choate.*



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**Charlotte & Navetree, cousins on the Calhoun side** - March 20, 2017 at 06:34 PM

CF

“ Choate Law Firm Staff and Family purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of David Lee Choate.



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**Choate Law Firm Staff and Family** - March 20, 2017 at 05:48 PM

CC

“ On our annual summer trips to visit our grandparents, Herbert & Lottie Calhoun, we always were excited when the Choate family came to see us. They would bring their ice cream maker so we would have two churns going to feed everyone. We played "washers" and would swing on the old tire swing, catch fire-flies, and play kick the can. So many fun times and memories of being kids together. I wish we could have made more memories together as adults, but the Choate family was always there for all of us at our family funerals at Pleasant Grove, and that meant more than you'll ever know. David will always be in our hearts.

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**Charlotte Cowen** - March 20, 2017 at 05:42 PM

NF

*Thank you for sharing this memory, Charlotte! I'm so glad I was old enough to remember those times!*

*Nancy*

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**Nancy Fancyboy** - April 03, 2017 at 01:35 PM

WE

“ *Walt Wire / Marine freight Exchange purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of David Lee Choate.*



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**Walt Wire / Marine freight Exchange** - March 20, 2017 at 05:40 PM

JF

“ *James Miller and family. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of David Lee Choate.*



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**James Miller and family.** - March 20, 2017 at 05:32 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of David Lee Choate.*



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March 20, 2017 at 05:29 PM

JK

“ *Jimmy Dale King lit a candle in memory of David Lee Choate*



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**jimmy dale king** - March 20, 2017 at 04:26 PM

JK

“ *Sorry to hear this David was a great man prayers penny so sorry*

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**jimmy dale king** - March 20, 2017 at 04:25 PM