



Dennis Rodney Gillam

September 12, 1949 - February 6, 2018

Dennis Rodney Gillam, age 68 of Judsonia, died Tuesday, February 6. He was born September 12, 1949 in Judsonia, AR, to Sam and Estel Gillam. He was of Baptist faith. Dennis served in the United States Air Force (1967 – 1971, Technical Sergeant) and was a Vietnam Veteran. He served as Craighead County Judge from 1977 to 1981. Dennis was the retired owner of Gillam Railroad Services and Gillam Farms. He is survived by his wife, Eva Gillam; two sons, Jeremy Gillam and wife Carissa, Doug Gillam and wife Marcene; two grandsons, Alexander and Jaxon; one brother, James Gillam (Lisa); two sisters, Alta Coombe, Margaret Justus; and numerous extended family members. He was preceded in death by his parents and ten siblings. He was loved and respected by many. Visitation will be Friday from 6:00 until 8:00 pm at Trinity Baptist Church, 1601 East Moore St, in Searcy. Funeral services will be Saturday at 2:00 pm at White County Central School Auditorium, 3259 Highway 157, Judsonia. Burial following at Providence Cemetery with military honors. Arrangements by Powell Funeral Home of Searcy. In lieu of flowers the family requests that memorials be made to the Dennis Gillam Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o First Community Bank , 159 US 167, Bald Knob, AR 72010. www.powellfuneralhome.net

Cemetery Details

Providence Cemetery

Providence Cemetery Rd.
Providence, AR 72020
powellbk@cablelynx.com

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 9. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Trinity Baptist Church
1601 E. Moore Ave.
Searcy, AR 72143

Funeral Service

FEB 10. 2:00 PM (CT)

White County Central School Auditorium
3259 Highway 157
Judsonia, AR 72081

Tribute Wall

BM

“ James, I am so sorry for your loss. Dennis was a great guy! Me & my husband stopped by his place one time & he had to give us some fruit before we left!

Brenda Wood McGruder - March 02, 2018 at 12:35 AM

OJ

“ Sympathy to you all in your loss. Dennis came to El Paso (with doughnuts) several years ago and we appreciated that. We hope and pray your hearts will be comforted in this hard time.
Oscar and Marisue Jones

Oscar Jones - February 10, 2018 at 07:37 PM

SG

“ Thoughts and prayers with for the family Dennis was a good one of a kind man with a heart of gold loved him very much he will be greatly missed

sara gannon - February 10, 2018 at 01:12 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Dennis Rodney Gillam.



February 10, 2018 at 11:34 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dennis Rodney Gillam.* ”



February 10, 2018 at 11:15 AM



“ *"Our thoughts and prayers are with the Family"
It has certainly been my pleasure to have known him and to call him my friend.* ”

Rick Pruitt

Rick Pruitt - February 10, 2018 at 10:01 AM



“ *What a presence! And what a loss. Dennis was a force with which to reckon. He loved his family and served his community. A great friend and a better man. Peggy and I send our deepest sympathies.* ”

walter roettger - February 09, 2018 at 10:52 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dennis Rodney Gillam.* ”



February 09, 2018 at 06:58 PM

BH

“ Dennis was a mentor and a friend to so many. Kindness grew in others when he was around. Thanks, Dennis, for the kindness to me and my family I could never repay - I will try to follow your example in treating others with kindness as repayment! There will be an empty place at our auctions from now on without you there. Peace and Prayers to the entire family - Thanks for sharing Dennis with all of us. - Billy Hartnedy/Blackmon Auctions

Bill Hartnedy - February 09, 2018 at 05:16 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Dennis Rodney Gillam.



February 09, 2018 at 04:20 PM

RM

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. Dennis was a great guy with a heart of gold. He will be missed by many.

Roy & Shirley Marple

Roy & Shirley Marple - February 09, 2018 at 03:57 PM

WW

“ Eva, Jeremy, Doug and your family, you are in our thoughts and prayers, we considered you all very dear friends, God bless you. Windell and Ruby Wish I had another chance to make him a sugar free raisin pie.

Windell Wiggs - February 09, 2018 at 03:35 PM

SP

“ I first meet Dennis when he moved to Brookland, Arkansas. My dad gave him his first job, We were the same age and in the same class. Dennis was a good man and a friend. I will miss him very much.
Shirley McCamey Parker

Shirley Parker - February 09, 2018 at 02:51 PM

JW

“ I will forever cherish the conversations with Dennis at baseball games.

Jeff Williams

Jeff Williams - February 09, 2018 at 02:12 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dennis Rodney Gillam.



February 09, 2018 at 01:51 PM

JS

“ Love and Prayers for a wonderful family that has lost a wonderful dad, husband, brother, gran and faithful servant. God bless each of you 🙏❤️



jackie Speak - February 09, 2018 at 12:13 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Dennis Rodney Gillam.*



February 09, 2018 at 09:27 AM



“ *Dennis was a good guy and raised 2 good sons. He will be truly missed.*



Joe Lercher - February 09, 2018 at 09:00 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dennis Rodney Gillam.*



February 09, 2018 at 08:41 AM

GM

“ I never knew anybody who touched so many lives in a positive and loving way as Dennis Gillam. He would give anyone the shirt off his back if they needed it.

It was always a positive and rewarding experience being with Dennis regardless of where we were, the farm, Elk Cove, Who Dats or watching TV in his living room.

Right now there are many friends and family members in need of that Peace that Exceeds all Understanding. I pray that God will grant us that Peace as He welcomes Dennis home.

Gene McVay - February 09, 2018 at 08:14 AM



“ A New Sunrise Spray was purchased for the family of Dennis Rodney Gillam.



February 09, 2018 at 06:51 AM

RF

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Ralph, Willadene & Ralphalene Forbis

Ralphalene Forbis - February 08, 2018 at 11:15 PM

WP

“ May God bless your family with peace during this great time of great loss.

Wanda Prince

Wanda Prince - February 08, 2018 at 10:55 PM

EF

“ I met Dennis and James almost 54 years ago. I remember about 50 years ago my office was a fish bowl. I felt that someone was watching me. I looked outside and there was Dennis and James watching me. I worked in Florida and they were supposed to be in Arkansas. I mouth do I know you and they just laughed. I know that Eva will remember this. They were suppose to be at work in Mississippi. They laughed about this many times. The two were like being conjoined twins. When you saw one the other one was near.

The last twenty years, Dennis always loaded our car down with fresh fruit when we stopped by to see them. There is just 2 of us, but he would give us enough for about 20.

When I remarked that we didn't need so much, he would say "share with your neidhbors"

That is what Dennis did. He shared. He will always be remembered as a generous man.

Eva, Jeremy,Doug, James, Margaret, Alta and families, you are in our prayers.

We love you! Elizabeth and George Forbis

Elizabeth Forbis - February 08, 2018 at 07:51 PM

TM

“ Speaker Gillam & Family,

Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.

Terry M. McNatt
Craighead County Treasurer

Terry McNatt - February 08, 2018 at 04:03 PM

PH

“ I am sad to hear of the passing of our old friend and neighbor! Our condolences to Eva and the rest of the family; they are in our thoughts and prayers. Pat & Jack Hambrick, formerly of Opie Rd., Bald Knob.

Pat Hambrick - February 08, 2018 at 03:39 PM

BS

“ Speaker Gillam, Carissa and family, Jeanne and I send you all our best wishes, prayers and thoughts in this challenging time.

Be well,
Bill and Jeanne Stovall

Bill Stovall - February 08, 2018 at 03:33 PM

DC

“ Very sweet man will miss him

donna crouch - February 08, 2018 at 03:13 PM

HS

“ I was so saddened to hear of your loss. Thoughts and prayers to you all.

Love, Heather Stogner

Heather Stogner - February 08, 2018 at 02:16 PM

BS

“ *Mr. Dennis Gilliam was one of the most generous people with whom I've ever been associated! He made his mark on the hearts of many! If anyone at the school district mentioned a need for the Beebe School District, he would make it happen! We have Gilliam Field, among many other things, as an example of his kindness and generosity. My heart hurts for his family and I will definitely miss seeing him in our bleachers and visiting with him at ballgames and events. He was a special, one-of-a-kind person and my thoughts/prayers are with his family during this very sad time.*

*Belinda Shook
Superintendent, Beebe School District*

Belinda Shook - February 08, 2018 at 12:30 PM

T(

“ *I remember my Cowboy (Perry Patterson) getting a flat of yellow Vidalia onions from Dennis. Dennis said go ahead and eat one they are very good. I looked at my Cowboy and he looked at me and said just eat it. So Dennis took one of the onions (a big one) cut it in half and told me to eat it like an apple. I didn't want to hurt his feelings so I ate three big bites of that onion. I couldn't wait until we got out of the drive way so I could spit it out lol. Dennis was always a very generous man. He and my Cowboy would do some trading with vegetables and fruit. When they were in season, Dennis would always bring a bucket of berries to the Country Kitchen and leave them with us. He will be missed very much. Prayers for comfort and healing during this difficult time.*

Twany (Shy) - February 08, 2018 at 11:40 AM

RJ

“ One of my first meetings with Dennis was 17 years ago when my family and I moved here from Texas. We had gone to his farm to check it out and get a few items from his store. Before we left I think he had given us more than we bought. In the past couple of years we got to be good friends, trading barbeque for fresh black berries and peaches. I will truly miss my friend.

Ronnie Jacobs

Ronnie Jacobs - February 08, 2018 at 11:22 AM

GB

“ So saddened to hear of Dennis passing from this life. He will surely be missed by all who knew him. He was the best County Judge we ever had in Craighead and I had the pleasure of work with him on several projects. I loved stopping by the farm and visiting with him and always getting jar of blackberry butter. Rest in Peace my friend.

Gene Barnett - February 08, 2018 at 11:22 AM



“ Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Dennis Rodney Gillam.



February 08, 2018 at 11:00 AM

TM

“ Sorry to hear this, will be praying for you and your family
Tony Moss

Tony Moss - February 08, 2018 at 10:01 AM



“ Dennis was one of the most generous men I have ever known, and he had a quick wit. One day my dad and I had been trout fishing on the Little Red River, and we had a few fish that we had cleaned and were looking to give away to someone. We were going to drive by his farm on the way home so we called him and asked him if he wanted some fish. He immediately responded, "Well it depends. Is it by the pound or by the barrel?" He always had a way of making us laugh and we will miss him.

-Bill Pendergist

Bill Pendergist - February 08, 2018 at 09:55 AM

LB

“ So sorry for your loss. My late parents, Thomas & Polly Brown of Beebe were neighbors and were recipient's of many baskets of fruits and vegetables.

Linda C. Brown

Linda C. Brown - February 08, 2018 at 06:08 AM

LM

“ When we were kids, as cousins, Dennis, James, and my aunt would come to Clinton to see us or Loquita and I and my parents would go to Judsonia to see them a few times a year. So I have known him a long time. I was so proud of Dennis and James for doing so well with their lives. They had very little when growing up except a lot of love. That love, especially from their mom, encouraged them to do the best they could and to be kind and humble. They both did that. Dennis married his true love and succeeded with her by his side. Dennis and I didn't see much of each other, he would sometimes stop by on his way to see James, but I always knew if I needed his help, he would give it gladly. I will miss him.-----Laudell

Laudell Massengill - February 08, 2018 at 01:43 AM

DG

“ I will truly miss Dennis. He was always helping me with advice I took to heart. To Evie and the family there’s nothing I can say to take the pain and hurt away. Just know we are praying for God to wrap His arms around each of you. Love Debbie and Donny



Donny and Debbie Gatewood - February 08, 2018 at 01:13 AM

 Matt Cleveland

“ My Uncle Dennis joined the great cloud of witnesses yesterday. He was a force to be reckoned with on this Earth, and I can only imagine the full impact his life has had on humanity. He was as wise and generous and hardworking and kind a man as I’ve ever known. He was a true advocate for common sense and justice for all. He was a great cook and a master of hospitality. He was better than anyone I know at bringing together a diverse group of people to the Thanksgiving table. They may not have known each other before they got to his home, but they were family by the time they left. And they probably left with a bucket of muscadines or blackberries, because he always shared the fruits of his labor with everyone, whether they asked for it or not. His loss is certain to leave a hole in our family and in our community. But his legacy is strong within his sons and grandsons who he poured into constantly. Every person he ever came in contact with is a better human for having known him. I will miss him, and wish I had more time with him. Lots of love to all those who feel the same right now.



Matt Cleveland - February 08, 2018 at 12:12 AM

TL

“ Tracy Lightfoot lit a candle in memory of
Dennis Rodney Gillam



Tracy Lightfoot - February 07, 2018 at 11:01 PM

TL

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you. Dennis was one of the most
kindest and generous man I knew. He will be greatly missed

Tracy Lightfoot - February 07, 2018 at 11:00 PM

SS

“ To Eva, Jeremy, Doug and the rest of the family....please accept my
condolences on the loss of Dennis. I enjoyed the conversations I
had with him. He was always so super nice to me. I still have the hat
that he threw to me at the Beebe/Bald Knob football game in 1996.
Please let me know if there's anything I can do for the family.

Shane Smith

Shane Smith - February 07, 2018 at 10:59 PM

TP

“ So sad. Such a wonderful & giving man. He gave to so many people
& loved by all. I was blessed to have known him & am thankful for
what he did for my son. My deepest condolences to his family.
Continued prayers to them all.

TJ Palese - February 07, 2018 at 10:59 PM

GC

“ *Dennis will be missed by many. One of the best, he was part of us the 1967 class of Brookland High School. Eva and Boys will be in our prayers. Love all of you. Gelenda Richardson Cope class of 1967*



Gelenda Cope - February 07, 2018 at 10:34 PM

 Debbie Lykens

“ *Sending prayers to the Gillam family. Dennis will be remembered as a man who loved his family and community. Rest in Peace.*



Debbie Lykens - February 07, 2018 at 09:58 PM



“ *Dennis was always friendly and would talk to you, even if he didn't know you well; we will miss seeing him at Farmhouse Cafe and the Redwolves games. RIP*



Leah Brooks - February 07, 2018 at 09:26 PM

WH

“ *Dennis was always helpful and knowledgeable whenever I had dealings with him. He will be missed on the farm and in the community.*

Wayne Holden - February 07, 2018 at 08:31 PM

 Debbie Joslin

“ Sending our prayers to Eva and sons during this difficult time. We are very sorry to hear this news. God bless. Debbie and Jerry Joslin

Debbie Joslin - February 07, 2018 at 08:27 PM

TP

“ Mr .Gillam was such a great man. He is truly going to be missed . No matter what school,he was always willing bring food and cheer on the kids. He helped us so much last year at Bald Knob ,when we hosted the state tournament. He brought so much great food and always asked.." What else do you need"? We have lost a Great a man. Prayers for the family.

Terri Pate - February 07, 2018 at 07:49 PM



“ Prayers for the Gillam family as they have lost a good man, Mr. Gillam ur truly gna b missed at the Farmhouse. May u rest in peace ❤️



Sammi Del Thomason - February 07, 2018 at 07:20 PM

GL

“ Gary & Mary Little lit a candle in memory of Dennis Rodney Gillam



Gary & Mary Little - February 07, 2018 at 06:16 PM

AB

“ Addie Banks lit a candle in memory of Dennis Rodney Gillam



Addie Banks - February 07, 2018 at 05:53 PM

PD

“ Patsy Odom Duffield lit a candle in memory of Dennis Rodney Gillam



Patsy Odom Duffield - February 07, 2018 at 05:48 PM

JM

“ John And Joanie McAnally lit a candle in memory of Dennis Rodney Gillam



John and Joanie McAnally - February 07, 2018 at 05:38 PM

KM

“ Kevin And Connie Miller lit a candle in memory of Dennis Rodney Gillam



Kevin and Connie Miller - February 07, 2018 at 05:30 PM