



## Wayne Edward Ridout

November 18, 1943 - February 19, 2024

“Those who love don’t go away, they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near; still loved, still missed and very dear!”

Wayne Edward Ridout, founder of Ridout Lumber Companies, passed away February 19, 2024 at his home in Searcy. He was born November 18, 1943, in Prairie County, Arkansas, to Homer Lindley Ridout and Melba Pearl (Hogue) Ridout. He was preceded in death by his father, Homer Lindley Ridout; his mother, Melba Pearl Hogue Ridout Murray, grandson, Crews Allen Smith; his paternal grandparents: Homer W. Ridout and Alma Dell (Uland) Ridout of the Northside Community, Prairie County, Arkansas and his maternal grandparents: Jake Hogue of Dewitt and Pearl Hogue Green of Wichita, Kansas. Wayne married Robbye Norman on August 18, 1963. They celebrated their sixtieth anniversary in 2023.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Robbye Lea Norman Ridout and his children: Kristen (Kirk) Smith and Ross Norman (Betsy) Ridout of Searcy and Kari (Mark) Rockwell of Fayetteville and ten grandchildren: Ezekiel (Bitsy) Ridout, Rivers Ridout, Blakely Adams, Colton (Morgan) Smith, Rees Ridout, Barrett Adams, Brooke Rockwell, Rooke Ridout, Carlyn Smith, Ben Rockwell and two great granddaughters, Sloane and Rowan Ridout. He is also survived by a special daughter, Jennifer Burnes.

Also surviving are, one sister: Joann Ridout of Little Rock, one niece Cynthia Moore Carpenter and one nephew Marvin J. (Cindy) Moore, Jr. and brother in law, James Norman and wife, Cecily, of the Villages, Florida, and their three children as well as numerous other family and friends. The family is thankful for and endlessly grateful to Kelly Hinkle, Deann Piker, and Sarah Money, as well as the nurses and aides with Hospice Home Care who provided faithful and loving care for him in his last days.

Wayne graduated from Des Arc High School in 1962 where he participated in all sports for which he was widely recognized on the Eagle teams. He was all conference several years and all state in football his senior year. Wayne worked in his teen years on the County Bridge Crew and for Clyde Voiles' sawmill.

He was no stranger to hard work. He also worked in his family's restaurant and bait shop, the "Sportsman's One Stop" in Des Arc. He received the BSBA degree from Henderson State University in 1966 and worked briefly as an insurance adjuster for Farm Bureau before going into business with his father, Homer. He was owner and co-founder in Searcy in 1971, with his father, of Ridout Lumber Company of Searcy. This business grew and expanded to have 15 locations with locations that continue today in Searcy, Cabot, Conway, Batesville, Russellville, Benton, Fayetteville, Jonesboro, Rogers, and also Joplin, Missouri. He established Arkansas Wholesale Lumber Company; Ridout Door Manufacturing Company; and Ridout Truck Line. He and his son, Ross Ridout, expanded the business to include a commercial division of Arkansas Wholesale Lumber and grew Ridout into one of the largest independent lumber chains in the U.S.

He was an enthusiastic businessman who never resented hard work and thrived on it, but he could always be found at his children's games or events and he probably cheered more loudly than anyone else. He particularly enjoyed the later years when he had an opportunity to work with his children

who were all also involved in the business and seeing many of his ten grandchildren participate in athletics and seeing every one of them excel in academics and sports! The legacy lives on in a huge way! In 2017, the Ridout family sold the business but Ross Ridout continues to be involved in the business and many loyal employees keep Ridout what it has always been. He considers them his family as well and many still work there. Wayne and Ross have always enjoyed their lively talks about sports and business and those have continued throughout his lifetime. There came a time when he also looked so forward to the grands coming for lively conversation as he caught up on their interesting lives and pursuits living vicariously through them. What joy and blessings!

Mr. Ridout was a dedicated family man, good friend, sportsman and businessman. He participated in and excelled at all sports, enjoying duck hunting, pheasant hunting, fishing, golf, and jogging. He loved to win! He also enjoyed nothing more than watching his children and grandchildren in spelling bees, athletic activities or participating in hunting activities with them. They all inherited his competitive gene to be the best at whatever you do whether hunting, fishing, participating in football, soccer, basketball, tennis, track, volleyball, spelling bees or top scorer on the act. He was quite the enthusiastic fan at their games and delighted in their feats.

His reputation with a shotgun and a duck caller were widely known and his duck hunting trips to Lost Bend and other lodges with his friends were tops on his list. He also enjoyed golfing with his friends and traveling with his wife. The annual golfing trips to Scottsdale, fishing and hunting trips to South Texas and the Dakotas, and poker games with his buddies, were always a highlight. His trips to Alaska were among his frontiersman adventures. All his friends and neighbors would often see him on his regular runs through the neighborhood, which he continued to do even in his aging years. He had quite a reputation

for staying fit. Though he struggled with health issues after his diagnosis in 2016 with Lewy Body Dementia and Parkinson's, he remained a very determined man who was so loved and admired by his family and friends.

Over the years he served in the following capacities: member of Searcy First Methodist Church; Board of Directors, First Security Bank in Searcy; American Heritage Advisory Board, Harding University; Board Member, International Lecture Series, Harding University; Board of Directors, Central Arkansas Hospital; Chamber of Commerce, Board of Directors; Member of "100 for the Future" Committee, Searcy; Henderson State University Alumni Board; Finance Committee Chairman, Searcy FUMC; and Select Business Speaker, Young Professionals Network.

Mr. Ridout worked with his family to build The Ridout Home for Girls at Soaring Wings Ranch. This home provides Christian parents and a Christian home environment for eight girls. He and his wife were Cornerstone supporters for the cancer center of excellence funded by the White County Medical Center Foundation and CARTI. The "Ridout Family Garden of Hope" was endowed by the Ridouts to help encourage the healing of patients in the chemotherapy room at CARTI. Among their philanthropic endeavors were: UAMS, where the family endowed an MRI suite in the breast center; Mayo Clinic where they promoted research on Lewy Body Dementia; MD Anderson Cancer Center for research on Clear Cell Carcinoma; and Arkansas Childrens Hospital are other institutions and causes the Ridout family have supported over the years.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Winthrop P Rockefeller Cancer Center at UAMS; Arkansas Childrens Hospital, or Soaring Wings Ranch, The Ridout Home for Girls, PO Box 1670, Conway, AR 72033. Service will be held at Searcy First Methodist Church on Tuesday, February 27 at 2pm preceded by a visitation at the church at 12:30 pm. There will be a special section in the

sanctuary for all Ridout employees who attend. There will be a private graveside gathering following the service to include family and close friends at White County Memorial Gardens.

Arrangements are entrusted to Powell Funeral Home of Searcy. [www.powellfuneralhome.net](http://www.powellfuneralhome.net)

# Cemetery Details

## White County Memorial Gardens

Eastline Road  
Searcy, AR 72143

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 27. 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

First Methodist Church  
304 North Main Street  
Searcy , AR 72143

## Funeral Service

FEB 27. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Methodist Church  
304 North Main Street  
Searcy , AR 72143

## Interment

FEB 27 (CT)

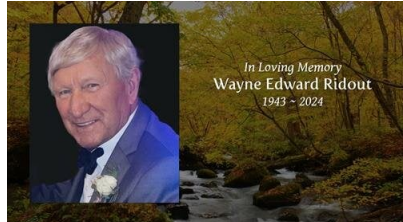
White County Memorial Gardens  
Eastline Road  
Searcy, AR 72143



# Tribute Wall



“ *Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Wayne Edward Ridout*



**Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services** - February 22, 2024 at 11:11 AM

GF

“ *Glen and Tamra Woodruff and family purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Wayne Edward Ridout.*



**Glen and Tamra Woodruff and family** - February 27, 2024 at 09:40 AM

SF

“ *Prayers for the family, Mr. Ridout and his family were always great to our family.... RIP Sir....*



**Stice Family** - February 26, 2024 at 09:03 PM

LF

“ Love, Mary and Dennis Miller and family purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Wayne Edward Ridout.



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**Love, Mary and Dennis Miller and family** - February 25, 2024  
at 12:01 PM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Wayne Edward Ridout.



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February 23, 2024 at 11:18 PM

HS

“ Hixson Lumber Sales planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Wayne Edward Ridout.

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**Hixson Lumber Sales** - February 23, 2024 at 11:48 AM



“ Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Wayne Edward Ridout.



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February 23, 2024 at 11:48 AM

JS

“ *Judy SoutherlandMaddox lit a candle in memory of Wayne Edward Ridout*



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**Judy SoutherlandMaddox** - February 22, 2024 at 08:31 AM

CY

“ *Wayne and Rob ie and their precious children , Kristen Ross and Kerry were wonderful neighbors when I lived In Searcy. They were always the perfect exayof a Christian family. Wayne Rideout was a very successful businessman but always put his family first. Everyone who knew him loved him. Rest in peace sweet Wayne!*

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**csrlyn Yancey** - February 21, 2024 at 09:34 PM

BD

“ *Thank you for being the example of a hard worker and a honest friend to my son Robert. He looked up to you. We will continue to pray for this family daily.*

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**Bonnie Davis** - February 21, 2024 at 12:37 PM

VV

“ *I have loved and prayed for this family for YEARS! He was the most handsome man I ever saw! Thinking of you all! Especially Cari and Joanne.*

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**Vannette VititowNickols** - February 21, 2024 at 11:44 AM

LM

“ Wayne and I first met one morning in August of 1980 when I was running around country club circle having just climbed the hill up Sawmill when this tall man quietly ran up beside me . He said Welcome to Searcy I am Wayne. We raised our families side by side and Kari and Tiffany were constantly together. We had a tough year in 2023 but despite Wayne’s health problems Robbye texted Kay constantly while Tori was in the Hospital for five months. I have laughed for years about the memory of our two family vacations together in Vallarta and Ixtapa/ Zihuatanejo tears 🥹 of laughter today. I have never met a finer man than Wayne or a better family than his family. Wayne may you rest in peace and I will bet you will be gently running up there in the clouds. Our love to your family from the Weathers family. I feel blessed to have known you.  
Sincerely Larry

Larry W Weathers MD - February 21, 2024 at 11:21 AM

SC

“ Sharon Cooley lit a candle in memory of Wayne Edward Ridout



Sharon Cooley - February 21, 2024 at 10:52 AM

DM

“ Deborah Harris McFarlin lit a candle in memory of Wayne Edward Ridout



Deborah Harris McFarlin - February 20, 2024 at 01:49 PM

DM

*One of the Greatest Men I've ever known. May God Bless all of those left behind with Love and Peace beyond understanding. The memories will live on forever! Great memories of a loving Man and Father!*

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**Deborah Harris McFarlin** - February 20, 2024 at 01:52 PM

JY

*Wayne always had a smile on his face and was a wonderful person to work for! Wayne, Robbie, Kristen, Ross and Kari were always very special to me.*

*I have a lot of fond memories working for Wayne specially his 50 birthday.*

*Sending hugs and prayers to Robbie and family.*

*Love*

*Judy Young*

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**JUDY Young** - February 21, 2024 at 04:30 PM