



William H. "Billy" Collison

July 28, 1935 - October 24, 2018

Mr. William "Billy" Howard Collison, Jr. went to be with the Lord on Wednesday, October 24, 2018, at his home and surrounded by his beloved family. He was born on July 28, 1935, in Searcy, Arkansas, to the late Willie Mae and William Howard Collison.

Billy has been a lifelong resident of Bald Knob and has always committed himself to the betterment of the city and his church (First Christian Church). After Billy graduated from the University of Mississippi with a BA degree, he received additional training by completing his U.S. Army basic training. After returning home, he became active in many projects and community activities over the years: Chairman of the Board of the First Christian Church; President and past treasurer of the Bald Knob Volunteer Ambulance service; member of the Bald Knob City Council; served as interim mayor; member of the Bald Knob Industrial Development Corporation, past President of the Bald Knob School Public Education Foundation; Lions Club; Citizen of the Year 1990; executive member of Save Our School committee.

Billy has been in the business community for 61 years as President of J. Collison Co. Inc. and the Collison Cotton Gin and Grain Company. During this time he also expanded the business and built the fertilizer plant in Griffithville. He worked closely with many business associates and local farmers.

Billy is survived by his loving wife for over 59 years, Sue Collison; and two children Bill and wife Terie Collison; Marla and husband Kyle Brown; five grandchildren Kristy Ulekowski (Jared); Leah Zils (Ben); Eric Collison; Cody

and Michele Brown; and five great-grandchildren; Ava, Logan, and Lexi Ulekowski, and McKinley and Luke Zils. He is also survived by his sister Franchelle Mullin (Jim); sister-in-law Donna Hammett (Bill) and many other loving family and friends.

A special thank you to the people at Arkansas Hospice, especially Renea Neal, his caregivers, Jana Covington, Amanda Peacock, and friend Denia Rusinowski for their care and support during his time of need.

Visitation will be Saturday, October 27, at Powell Funeral Home, Bald Knob, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Funeral service will be Sunday, October 28, 2018 at 2:00 pm at the First Christian Church in Bald Knob. Burial, with military honors, will follow in the Shady Grove Cemetery. Arrangements are entrusted to Powell Funeral Home, Bald Knob – Judsonia. www.powellfuneralhome.net.

Cemetery Details

Shady Grove Cemetery

Bald Knob Lake Road
Bald Knob, AR 72010

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **27**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 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

OCT **28**. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Christian Church of Bald Knob
501 Victory Street
Bald Knob, AR 72010

Tribute Wall



“ Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of William H. "Billy" Collison



Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services - October 26, 2018 at 04:46 PM

SW

“ I grew up on the Walker Farm which was owned by Billy's grandparents, Allie and John Walker. Mrs. Walker once took me with her to visit Billy and his mother. Billy had a Shetland pony which he rode in the street to show me - the pony ran away and his mother and his grandmother ran shouting down the street to catch him. He and I were the same age and were about 6 at the time. I smile at the memory.

Sylvia Hambrick Wilson - October 29, 2018 at 11:52 PM

CC

“ I live in Pennsylvania so I just now got the news about Billy, so sad to hear of his passing, I pray that God will comfort his family and help them cope with this ordeal. The Collision family has been a great help to the Coombe's as I grew up on the farm, they were a great service to the farmers of that day

Charles Coombe - October 29, 2018 at 06:34 PM

AL

“ Wonderful man, whom will be forever missed for all that knew him.
Prayers for all family and friends.

Autumn Duncan Lindsey - October 28, 2018 at 02:23 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of
William H. "Billy" Collison.



October 26, 2018 at 10:23 PM

SJ

“ Dear Sue and family, I am so sorry to hear of
Billys passing.He will be missed in Bald
Knob so much.



sue johnson - October 26, 2018 at 07:28 PM

JS

“ Sue and Kids so sorry to here this , will be Billy missed He was
more like a Dad to me than my Boss , I started working for them
when I was 19 teen I will truly Miss Him , But He is with Jesus an He
don't hurt anymore .

Jay Sisk - October 26, 2018 at 03:46 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of William H. "Billy" Collison.*



October 26, 2018 at 03:20 PM

AC

“ I am the oldest daughter of Margaret, the youngest daughter of Hilles and Mae Brooks. When I was little Grandpa and Grandma would take me to the store, especially in the spring for the seeds needed to grow in the garden.

I loved going there! My shoes on the wooden floors made "music" as I walked! The smells of a farm inside a store was the delight of my nose. I can smell it now and I have never smelled it in any other place who tried to imitate Collison's.

I was a avid Laura Ingalls Wilder fan and watched westerns with Grandpa. I always felt like I stepped back in time when we stopped there. There was so much to look at and imagine using with the covered wagon, camp fires and Indian fights in my mind.

I can see the men gathered around talking, sharing and making me laugh as they picked on me. Then, there is Mr. Billy. He was so nice to me, told me I was pretty and his smile lit up the room. I watched as he and Grandpa found all Grandpa needed from nails to seeds and much in between.

I moved out of Bald Knob before returning in 1998. One day I was looking for a rubber ring to replace mine on my pressure cooker. I looked everywhere. Someone said to go to Collison's. I parked right in front just like Grandpa.

I walked in the door and I felt so small again. It was all I could do to not dance on the floors so I could hear the "music" of old. I still enjoyed the sounds of walking on the floors. Knowing me, if I caught a moment of not being seen, I probably danced a few steps, too. The sights and smells had me looking around to see if my Grandparents were near.

Even still, I could see chairs where men had sat and told stories over the years. The things I would need in my homestead, my covered wagon, my garden and so much more. The trip was the

most nostalgic trip to a store I think I have ever made. I wish I had gone in more often.

I finally made it to the cash register with my pressure cooker lid in hand. There stood Mr. Billy with that same smile. It was my delight to follow him to the rings so we could find the perfect size. They even had a ring and jiggle to replace the one on the lid of the pressure cooker which had belonged to my Mom!

I walked out of there that day warm in the blanket of good, sweet memories from my youth. It made even driving by the store a sweet moment in each day my journey took me close by. My heart, soul, mind and day are always flooded with the sights, smells and sounds of Collison's store.

Thank you, Mr. Billy, for being part of a very good memory in my childhood. I still love the "music" my feet make on the floor of your store even though now it is only in my mind.

Alyzah Nagar ne' Lisa Carpenter - October 26, 2018 at 08:51 AM



*that is a special memory, it too brought me back to my childhood visiting bald knob and the store with my uncle billy and my grandpa.
Andy Mullin son of Franchelle Collison*

Andy Mullin - October 26, 2018 at 11:32 AM

SB

“ *Mr. Billy was one of my favorites at Clark drug store for many years. We shared stories and laughs along the way. I'm sending my love and prayers for comfort for all of the family* ❤️

sherrie barrentine - October 26, 2018 at 06:22 AM

JL

“ You are all in my thoughts and prayers. I was in his store within the past few years and he shared with me that my Daddy brought me to the store to introduce me to everyone there not long after I was born and he he said my Daddy was so proud of his baby. What a sweet story to tell me. Billy was a wonderful man and will be greatly missed by everyone. My love and sympathy to family and friends.
Jeannie Richards Locke

Jeannie Richards Locke - October 26, 2018 at 06:18 AM

LB

“ Condolences from the families of the late Floyd Brooks.



Leah Brooks - October 25, 2018 at 11:06 PM

PW

“ Sue I am so sorry for your loss. Condolences to the family.

Phyllis Crowder Werley - October 25, 2018 at 09:28 PM

GR

“ RIP from the Ross Family, I am Glenda Reince, granddaughter of Stella Ross, fond memories of growing up in Bald Knob.

Glenda Reince - October 25, 2018 at 03:27 PM