



Billie Jene O'Neal

July 21, 1936 - February 9, 2022

Billie Jene O'Neal, a military veteran and longtime resident of Laurel, Mississippi, passed away on February 9, 2022 surrounded by his family. He was born on Tuesday, July 21, 1936 in Columbia, Louisiana and attended school in Chatom, Alabama before enlisting in the United States Air Force. He started his career in Bremerhaven, Germany where his new bride came and joined him.

The US Air Force recognized Billie for his honorable service with numerous medals over his 20-year career. He flew over 100 missions while stationed in Phu Cat Vietnam in addition to being a Radio Morse Code Operator.

After his retirement from the Air Force he went back to college and received a HVAC degree and went to work for Thermo Kool where he installed walk-ins throughout the southeast United States. One of his biggest passions was volunteering to help other veterans and doing private tours at the Veterans Memorial Museum. He was also a member of Freedom Baptist Church in Myrick, Mississippi where he served as the Senior Adult Men's Sunday School Teacher and on several boards. Billie was also a charter member of the M&M Volunteer Fire Department.

Billie was preceded in death by his parents Hezekiah "Bud" O'Neal and Jessie O'Neal; his infant daughter Rebecca; his sisters Louise, Peggy and Mae; and

his brother Tommy.

He is survived by his wife Maggie Isabel "Bell" O'Neal of 64 years; his children Darlene Meadows (Thomas), Richard O'Neal (Angie) and Steven O'Neal (Alex); his grandchildren Shannon Blailock (Ben), Ryan Meadows (Kristen), Hailey Eddy (Josh), Rebecca Scarbrough (Daniel), Carter O'Neal, Haidyn O'Neal and Kinsley O'Neal; and his great grandchildren Caleb and Gracie Blailock, Luke and Olivia Eddy and Sofie, Brennan and Elana Scarbrough.

His family has organized a memorial service to honor Billie's life and military service which will be held at Freedom Baptist Church on Monday, February 14, 2022. Visitation will begin at 1 p.m. and the service will follow at 2 p.m. Interment will follow at Myrick Cemetery. Rev. David Fedele, Rev. Greg Foster, and Rev. Robbie Johnson will officiate.

In lieu of flowers please sent donations to: Veterans Memorial Museum, 920 Hillcrest Drive, Laurel, MS 39440.

Honorary pallbearers will be the Senior Adult Men's Sunday School Class.

To sign the online guest book, visit www.memorychapellaurel.com.

Cemetery Details

Myrick Cemetery

1490 Lower Myrick Road
Laurel, MS 39443

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 14. 1:00 PM (CT)

Freedom Baptist Church
971 Freedom Rd
Laurel, MS 39443

Service

FEB 14. 2:00 PM (CT)

Freedom Baptist Church
971 Freedom Rd
Laurel, MS 39443

Tribute Wall

AG

“ Praying for all of you. Bill was such a sweet soul and a wonderful example to the world of a loving husband, father, brother, son and friend. He was always fun and funny, generous, patriotic and a Christian who lived out his faith. My heart goes out to those he has temporarily left behind and I pray they will take comfort in knowing he is in the Presence of his Savior and Lord where time is always “now”. Alice

Alice O’Neal Grimes - February 14, 2022 at 01:44 PM

SC

“ Richard & Family, We were so sorry to hear of the passing of your loved one...I know you have many wonderful memories of him, & all the many things he accomplished through the years. You all will be in our thoughts & prayers for comfort & peace at this sad time. Love, Shelton & Rhonda Cooley

Shelton & Rhonda Cooley - February 14, 2022 at 11:40 AM

JD

“ I’m so sorry for your loss..Praying for this family during their time of loss.

Jeanne Upton Dempsey - February 13, 2022 at 12:19 AM

BB

“ We are so sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of the family. We are thankful for his service to our country

Bobby and Linda Boyles - February 11, 2022 at 03:01 PM

BO

“ *Love and prayers to a precious family that has lost a precious soul...heaven is much fuller with Mr. Bill and his many stories....he will be missed...*

Bonnie - February 10, 2022 at 09:29 PM