



## Wendell Lamar Merritt

November 9, 1938 - December 4, 2025

On December 4, 2025, Wendell Merritt, of Clinton, Mississippi rejoices in Glory.

Wendell was preceded in death by his parents, Lamar Merritt and Grace Beatrice Goss Merritt of Moselle, Mississippi, his sister Esther Ruth Moore (Charles) of Ridgeland, Mississippi, and brother Thomas Ray Merritt (Jeannette) of Ellisville, Mississippi.

He is survived by his wife, Jo Merritt, daughter Nicole Bailey (Clinton), grandchildren, Jack Bailey, Glenn Bailey, Grace Bailey, and Ella Bailey, all of Clinton, Mississippi.

Wendell was born in Moselle, Mississippi where he graduated from Moselle High School. Soon after graduation, he joined the United States Marine Corps where he served four years in the Philippine Islands. When returning to Jones County, he met the love of his life, Jo Merritt and lived in Laurel, Mississippi for a short time prior to moving to Jackson, Mississippi. Wendell and Jo have one daughter and four grandchildren.

Wendell worked for RLI Insurance Company where he was lead sales representative. While at RLI, he worked in numerous capacities, sales coach, mentor, teacher, and sales. Those who worked for Wendell loved him and his

capabilities to lay out a plan for success. He would have been known as a “transformational” leader because he was able to draw a diverse team together to ultimately build a very successful business while also encouraging others to professionally grow. As he traveled many states to work with individuals to coach and mentor, the team grew stronger.

Wendell also served as a lay pastor to several small rural churches because he felt a call to preach the gospel. His Christian faith was strong and, like his co-workers, friends and family were instinctively drawn to him. He never turned someone away if they needed advice, prayer, or just a listening ear. When they moved to Clinton from Jackson, he joined the men’s breakfast group, meeting at local restaurants. He had a smile and sense of humor that drew people in and made them feel at ease.

Wendell, above all else was a strong Christian husband, father, and grandfather. He loved his family and worked hard to provide for them. When family needed him, he was there. His 65 year marriage to the woman of his dreams was as solid as it was when he first married her. His legacy is God, faith, family, friends. No one could have a better legacy than that.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you please make a donation to Toys for Tots.

To view or sign the online guest book, visit [www.memorychapellaurel.com](http://www.memorychapellaurel.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Memorial Gardens Cemetery

2151 US-184  
Laurel, MS 39443

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 11. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Memory Chapel Funeral Home  
3100 Audubon Drive  
P. O. Box 674  
Laurel, MS 39440  
(601) 428-5235  
memorychapel@comcast.net  
<https://www.memorychapellaurel.com/>

## Service

DEC 11. 11:00 AM (CT)

Memory Chapel Funeral Home  
3100 Audubon Drive  
P. O. Box 674  
Laurel, MS 39440  
(601) 428-5235  
memorychapel@comcast.net  
<https://www.memorychapellaurel.com/>

# Tribute Wall

VT

“ I worked with Wendell several years @ in processing unit of RLI. Super giant gentle person. Always kind to all of us ladies in the unit & super friendly on the call ins to us. Truly an Angel has enter Heaven for all us to share. Thank you Wendell for coming into our lives & to know you



Vicki Tucker

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vicki tucker - December 11, 2025 at 01:16 PM

KT

“ We were so sorry to hear about the passing of Mr. Merritt. He was such a kind man who loved his family. He is at peace now resting in the arms of Jesus. I know you all will miss him so much, but he is fine now and it is time for you all to take care of yourselves. Love Kathy

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Kathy Thornton - December 10, 2025 at 06:25 PM

CC

“ You can't say enough good things about Wendell. When I joined RLI, Wendell was the first to welcome me. He had great stories to tell, entertaining us at the annual Sales Meetings. He gave us great insights on how to build our territories and was happy with each Sales Rep success. He will be missed. Cliff Clark

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Cliff Clark - December 10, 2025 at 06:05 PM

RS

“ RLI Surety purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Wendell Lamar Merritt.



RLI Surety - December 10, 2025 at 10:27 AM

RS

“ RLI Surety planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Wendell Lamar Merritt.

RLI Surety - December 10, 2025 at 10:27 AM

DS

“ Dave Sandoz purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Wendell Lamar Merritt.



Dave Sandoz - December 09, 2025 at 03:11 PM

AM

“ I worked with Wendell at RLI for several years. He was one of the greatest. We all loved him here at RLI. He had such a kind soul, always willing to help all of us here at RLI. So many great memories I have of Wendell. He will be truly missed.  
Anita Michels  
RLI

Anita Michels - December 09, 2025 at 08:08 AM