



Billy Ray Watts

September 20, 1955 - October 10, 2023

The world has suffered its greatest loss. The death of one of the most generous, kind-hearted humans that has ever graced this undeserving world with his presence.

Billy Ray Watts, 68 (24,857 days), of Olathe, Kansas peacefully left this world on October 10th, 2023, with his family at his side. Previously, he resided in Goobertown, Arkansas. Billy celebrated his birthday every day, although legends say he was born September 20th, 1955 in Lawrence, Kansas to Doyal Ray Watts & Lois Nell (McKay) Michael , both of whom precede him in death.

As Billy so often told, his greatest adventure began more than 19 blissful years ago, when he settled down with his best friend & wife, Julie (Michael) Watts , who survives him of their home. She cared studiously for her husband in all his times of need- down to his very last minute. Billy was a great provider and a supportive husband.

He was also a proud and nurturing father to his daughters & sons-in-law: Emily & Billy “Willie” Fulbright, of Missouri, Amanda & Daniel Norton, Ashley Jones, & Michelle Boyles, all of Kansas.

One could argue that his favorite days were spent being a grandfather to his

17 grandchildren; all of whom survive him, and mourn with the greatest of sorrow, their Papa's untimely passing: Haelee Fulbright, Hunter (Maddie) Hutchinson, Goose Fulbright, Kaleigh Norton, Henry Fulbright, Dana Lawrenz, , Echo Howard, Elsea Fulbright, Christian Norton, Molly Lawrenz, Zachary (Cheyenne) Norton, Trenton Lawrenz, Jackson Howard, Adayla Lawrenz, Skila Pastella, Tamara Garms, Kira Rhodes; and 4 great-grandchildren: Bennet Norton, Alexis Garms, Avari Garms, & Aiden Garms.

Billy was a loving brother to his late sisters, Kathleen Watts & Telisa Lopez; as well as his surviving sister, Penny (Mike) Gray of Arkansas.

He is survived by his Uncle Charlie (Mary Ann) Watts; Sisters-in-law: Mary (Jerry) McReynolds, Gina Michael, Debbie (Randy) Craig, and brother-in-law, C.E. (Sandy) Michael, all of Kansas.

Billy is the grandson of the late Troy & Dovie (Geary) Watts of Kansas and the late Frank and Irkle (Webb) McKay of Arkansas.

He fulfilled with ease, the roles of beloved nephew, cousin, friend, and uncle. He never met a stranger; as a result he is survived by many who remain unnamed. Despite all his hats, his head never got too big for his King's crown.

In 2019, he retired after 50 years driving an 18-wheeler across the States. Naturally, he was the ultimate atlas navigator, and successfully taught his children to navigate the endless configurations that are the contiguous U.S roadway system. Of all the roads driven, his favorite to drive was an old, country, gravel road. Home was forever his favorite destination.

Billy Ray enjoyed the simple things in life: a back country road, a windy mountain highway, deer grazing in a field, dragonflies darting around a creek, hummingbirds extracting nectar from a flower, changing colors of the autumn leaves, a wild blackberry, a rod and reel, a bologna sandwich from the Goobertown grocery store, sending daily texts from his flip phone, making a

bed or a quick game of basketball (after a friendly round of banter because he is definitely going to beat you).

Fishing was his most favorite hobby. Although, he could be found watching an array of sporting events, his digital photo frame and The Weather Channel. He was known to get a bit overly excited about it too. Rain sure can be exciting!

Although his journey to death was accelerated by illness, it can never overshadow the brightness of which he lived each day and the pleasure he felt of the life he found himself so fortunate to live.

Billy will be remembered for that smile, his kindness, generosity, humor, his boisterous chuckle and the love that seeped from his pores for every person who crossed his path. He was always direct, honest and a little loud (maybe a lot loud). He would feed any person and go out of his way to return a lost wallet on Christmas morning. His last dollar was never his, someone always needed it more. He forever loved you more. Billy was just a genuinely good human being, a rare breed. His sense of humor lives on in those whom he loved most and he will forever remain, as he often claimed to be, "the brightest cookie in the package."

He will be sorely missed by all who knew him. Here's to the man of 5 million miles, who has completed his final journey home.

Billy requests that folks arrive to his visitation wearing their favorite sport shirt or jersey & blue jeans. He also welcomes you to wear his favorite colors, purple or red, to his funeral.

Services will be held at Maple Hill Funeral Home: Visitation services on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, from 5-7 p.m. Funeral services on Wednesday,

October 18, 2023 at 11 a.m.

The family invites you to join them for a dinner after funeral services at the daughters home, 17850 W 182nd Street Olathe ks 66062.

Cemetery Details

Maple Hill Cemetery

2301 S 34th St
Kansas City, KS 66106
(913) 262-6610
info@maplehillfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 17. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Maple Hill Funeral Home
3300 Shawnee Dr
Kansas City, KS 66106
(913) 831-3345
info@maplehillfuneralhome.com
<https://maplehillfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

OCT 18. 11:00 AM (CT)

Maple Hill Funeral Home
3300 Shawnee Dr
Kansas City, KS 66106
(913) 831-3345
info@maplehillfuneralhome.com
<https://maplehillfuneralhome.com>

Graveside Service

OCT 18 (CT)

Maple Hill Cemetery
2301 S 34th St
Kansas City, KS 66106
(913) 262-6610
info@maplehillfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall

GM

“ *Billy, Billy, Billy,
I miss you so much my b'ro. My phone has been silent & my battery lasts alot longer. Lmao jk. I'd give anything for ur texts & calls. So Many memories of you. You've touch our hearts in the short 50 yrs we had you. But the impact you made on everyone of us & even strangers will carry on for hundreds of years. You didn't know how special you were to everyone b'ro. . . I love & miss you Billy. Don't forget to visit. Hugs & Love my Brother ❤️*

Gina Michael - October 24, 2023 at 03:15 PM

Penny Gray

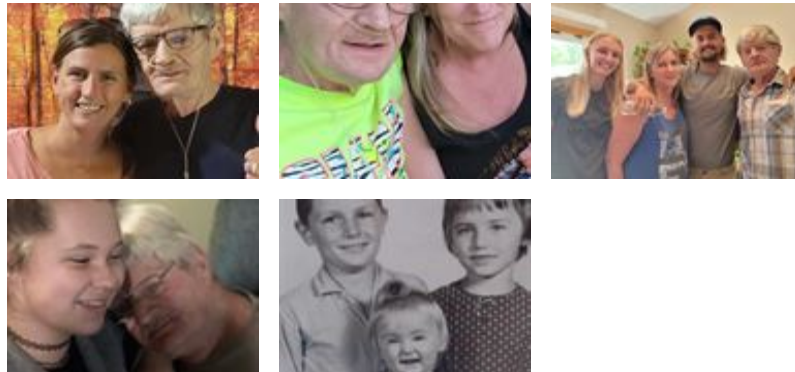
“ *Brother wow what to say except I love you.. hug momma.and dad for me.and tell my sisters they better be waiting g on me.when it's my turn to be called.home*



Penny Gray - October 17, 2023 at 12:10 PM



“ *50 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Maple Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery - October 17, 2023 at 12:00 PM

JT

“ Sorry to hear of your loss. You and your family are in my prayers.



Juanita Totten - October 17, 2023 at 10:12 AM

KM

“ Kathleen Martin lit a candle in memory of Billy Watts



Kathleen Martin - October 16, 2023 at 02:55 PM

KM

“ I am so sorry for your loss Julie and family!!

Kathleen Martin - October 16, 2023 at 02:54 PM

C.

“ Billy, you were the brother I never had. You were always there if I needed you. I will always miss my best friend. We had alot of good times throughout the 50 years I have known you. You were a one in a million! God has a great angel by his side.

C.E. - October 16, 2023 at 02:36 PM

GM

So true ce.

Gina Michael - October 27, 2023 at 01:12 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Billy Ray Watts.*



October 16, 2023 at 02:07 PM



“ *Debbie Craig lit a candle in memory of Billy Watts*



Debbie Craig - October 13, 2023 at 09:36 PM



Give Mom hugs from JoDawn and I. Be happy Billy Ray. You where a good person with a big ❤️. Always remembered, never forgotten. Wished you nothing but happiness. Prayers that you now have that.
CALIFORNIA FRIEND

Cassie - October 16, 2023 at 07:28 PM



“ *Billy was one of a kind that's for sure..... he really did have a heart of gold. He called dad daily, loved him like his own... and oh the laughs you've given us over the years.... never a dull moment with you around... my heart hurting so bad tonight over losing you and dad both so close, but also watching Julie go through losing you... thank you for being such a loving husband to her and an amazing bro in law to us all.... we will miss you so much Billy ray..... love you*

Debbie Craig - October 13, 2023 at 09:35 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Billy Ray Watts.*



October 13, 2023 at 04:19 PM



“ *Billy touched my life in a very real way at a very hard time. My brother (Billy's long time friend) was diagnosed with lung cancer. We were told by the doctors that he should go to a hospice house. My brother wanted to go home, we weren't sure it would be possible. Billy made it happen! He spent everyday at the hospital helping my brother walk and get his strength back. When my brother was able to go home he was there practically everyday helping him and just being a friend. Without Billy I would not have had the last 6 months with my brother. I'm sure they will be getting into a lot of mischief together! ❤️ Pam Boyd*

Pam Boyd - October 12, 2023 at 06:31 PM



My.brother loved yall so much

Penny Gray - October 17, 2023 at 12:19 PM



“ *Billy was the most amazing best friend to my uncle Donnie. He was always there the mow his grass, go to a dr appt, or help however he could in time of need. I cant even begin to express how grateful my family is to Billy and his wife for all the support that was willingly offered. I know Billy and Donnie had a lot of good times over the years, I believe they're laughing together in heaven now.*

Cheryl Boyd - October 12, 2023 at 06:15 PM



Penny Gray

My brother sure loved yall and he considered you all as family

Penny Gray - October 17, 2023 at 12:20 PM

GM

“ *I Miss You My B'ro. You Were The Best. I Love You Much. R.I.P. Brother.*



Gina Michael - October 12, 2023 at 05:13 PM

JW

“ *Love and miss you so much already.*



Julie Watts - October 12, 2023 at 02:20 PM

MR

“ *Billy or BW as Dan called him was my husband's best friend and they drove many miles together and always had each other's back. RIP Billy we love you.*

Martha Rodgers - October 12, 2023 at 01:35 PM



Penny Gray

My.brother talked about all.of yall alot.. he loved yall like family..

Penny Gray - October 17, 2023 at 12:21 PM

EC

“ No matter the holiday Billy always sent me a message telling me he loved me. I'll always treasure those memories.

Evelyn Clark - October 12, 2023 at 01:34 PM

GM

He did me too, all holidays even mothers day lol. He was a gem. Rare find for sure. I'm so glad God gave him to us. We were truly Blessed that's for sure. My heart aches so bad. Not only for me but our entire family & especially Julie. Ughhh 🥹.

We love you Billy, more than you'll ever know ❤️.



Gina Michael - October 16, 2023 at 04:22 PM