



Leonard Ray Bland

August 6, 1945 - December 11, 2016

Leonard Ray Bland, 71, of Ozark, Arkansas, died Sunday, December 11, 2016 in Ozark. He was a minister for over 30 years and worked in Juvenile Services for twenty-five years in the Franklin County Area. He was a member of Rehobeth Missionary Baptist Church; an active member of Arkansas Archeology Society; active Member of the State and Local Trail of Tears Association; a member of the Cherokee Tribe; and served on the Ozark Museum Association. In his later years he fell victim to the terrible disease of dementia and was unable to live with his family. Thankfully in his last few months of life, his family was able to draw near to him again and hear him say he loved them.

Leonard was born August 6, 1945 in Charleston, Arkansas. He was preceded in death by his parents, Hershale and Mildred Nelson Bland and a brother, Lloyd Bland.

He is survived by his wife Shirley Bland of the home; five daughters, Jennifer Bland of Greenwood, Amelia Musgrave of Minot, North Dakota, and Domicia Arnold, Shawna Wilson and Ashley Bland, all of Ozark; one son, Waylon Bland of Ozark; a brother, Bill Bland of Council Bluffs, Iowa; and twelve grandchildren.

Funeral Service will be held at 2:00 PM Wednesday, December 14, 2016 at Shaffer Funeral Home Chapel in Ozark with Brother Jeff Musgrave officiating and burial at New Cemetery in Mulberry under direction of Shaffer Funeral Home.

The family will visit with friends from 6:00 until 8:00 PM Tuesday, December 13th at Shaffer Funeral Home, 2315 West Commercial Street in Ozark. To leave an online condolence visit the website: shafferfuneralhomeweb.com
Serving as pallbearers are Jeremiah and Jonathan Musgrave, Floyd Arnold, Matthew Wilson, Derrick Preziosi, and Jeff Wilson.
Memorials may be made to The Gideons, P.O. Box 304, Ozark, AR 72949.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **13.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Shaffer Funeral Home
2315 West Commercial Street
PO Box 680
Ozark, AR 72949
(479) 667-4147
shafferfuneralhome@gmail.com

Service

DEC **14.** 2:00 PM (CT)

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Ozark, AR 72949
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Tribute Wall



“ *Shaffer Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Leonard Ray Bland*



Shaffer Funeral Home - December 12, 2016 at 08:13 PM



“ *Leonard Ray Bland*

January 30, 2023 at 02:28 AM

DH

“ Leonard was always a good friend and we shared much time in researching the Indian history. The Trail of Tears Memorial next to the Ozark Area Museum is the result of his interest. A sketch from the museum files we did in the 1990's was found the first of 2016 that lead to a up dated plan that was dedicated Sept. 24 , 2016. So even though he was very sick and could not understand this, it is a Memorial to his Historical work when he was at his best ! We also enjoyed his sermon's each Sunday for a number of years. He will be missed by family and friends ! May God Bless his family !

Dusty & Jean Helbling

Dusty & Jean Helbling - December 15, 2016 at 05:55 PM

NV

“ Shirley, I am so sorry for your loss. I pray for God to be with you and your family, provide you with peace and comfort. In the days and months to come I pray for you to draw on your good memories to get you through the day.

Nancy Vitale - December 14, 2016 at 08:48 AM