



Wilber Ray Gaines Jr.

September 20, 1951 - August 18, 2025

Wilber Ray Gaines Jr., 73 of Lavaca, Arkansas passed away at his home on Monday, August 18, 2025 in Lavaca. He was born on September 20, 1951, in Altus, Arkansas to Wilber Ray Gaines Sr. and Marcella Gean Foster. Ray was of the Methodist faith. He was a retired microbiologist with Baptist Health-Fort Smith where he dedicated 47 years of service. Ray was an avid Razorback fan and enjoyed hunting and fishing. He was a proud Ozark Hillbilly and a member of the class of 1969.

He is preceded in death by his parents.

Ray is survived by his wife, Linda Shelby Gaines; four children, Rachel Ball and husband Forrest of Van Buren, Arkansas, Krista Brown and husband Jason of Alma, Arkansas, Lindsey Trantham and husband Rayce of Alma and Logan Gaines of Lavaca; one brother, Marshall Gaines and wife Janet of Ozark, Arkansas; and five grandchildren, Kelli and Cori Ball, Trayton and Truett Brown, and Anna Kate Brown.

Visitation will be 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M., Thursday, August 21, 2025 at Shaffer Funeral Home, 2315 West Commercial Street in Ozark, with Henry Pruitt officiating.

A private graveside service for the immediate family will be held at Jackson

Cemetery in Ozark. Cremation arrangements were made under the direction of Shaffer Funeral Home in Ozark.

Serving as honorary pallbearers will be Forrest Ball, Jason Brown, Rayce Trantham, and Marshall Gaines.

*In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Jackson Cemetery Fund, Att: Lucy Sowell, 12627 North Highway 23, Ozark, Arkansas 72949.

Cemetery Details

Jackson Cemetery

Ozark, AR 72949

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 21. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Jackson Cemetery
Ozark, AR 72949

A private graveside will be with immediate family.

Tribute Wall

BV

“ 1 file added to the album slideshow



Byron Lasater V - August 27, 2025 at 09:43 PM

VK

“ Vicki Brown King lit a candle in memory of Wilber Gaines



Vicki Brown King - August 24, 2025 at 06:45 PM

LB

“ Loy & Reba Bailey lit a candle in memory of Wilber Gaines



Loy & Reba Bailey - August 21, 2025 at 03:52 PM

PN

“ I grew up with Ray Jr. His Uncle Guy was married to my cousin Velma and our families spent a lot of time together, usually eating and playing pitch. My parents bought the house he grew up in. Many memories and connections. Ray was a sweet person then and had not changed when we both ended up working at Sparks. Love and prayers to the family.

Phyllis Neidecker - August 20, 2025 at 08:26 PM

BP

“ Becky Penland lit a candle in memory of Wilber Gaines



Becky Penland - August 20, 2025 at 03:11 PM

CC

“ Charles & Linda Carter lit a candle in memory of Wilber Gaines



Charles & Linda Carter - August 20, 2025 at 02:52 PM