

## Bill Blythe

April 4, 1930 - February 5, 2026

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We will never forget someone who gave us so much to remember—

Billy Gene Blythe, age 95, was born April 4, 1930, in Monticello, Arkansas to E.M. (Elijah) and Gladys Blythe. On the morn of February 5, 2026, when Bill arrived at the pearly gates, St. Peter said, “there are a lot of folks up here because of you—want to meet them”? Bill was saved at age 11 and spent his dash giving his heart, his time, his testimony to everyone he met—stranger or friend alike. If you were a stranger, you weren’t for long. Bill’s enthusiasm for life was contagious and will send ripples forever.

Growing up during the Great Depression and WWII, in a home with no electricity or running water, a wood stove for heat, and a coal-oil lamp for studies, Bill considered himself blessed. He often reminisced about how great life was back then. Baseball was his favorite pastime, namely 2nd base, as a young boy and throughout life.

The Korean War borrowed Bill from 1950-1954 where he served, with the US Air Force, at Forward Radar Outpost, in Korea, relaying last minute bombing targets to incoming bombers. He was so happy to be able to go back and visit S. Korea much later in life with a group of veterans, where he saw the country

with new eyes. His radar training certainly prepared him to seek out lost and hurting souls throughout life, readily giving them direction and hope. Upon return from the war, Bill became a bricklayer, a trade he learned from his father, then a salesman for Robin Hood Flour Co., and later a supper club manager/owner. Bill met and married his angel, Joyce Clarke, who passed from cancer when their children, Tammy and Tommy, were 2 and 3 years old. Years later, Bill married Mary Watkins, and Wendy was born two years later. After 11 years the marriage dissolved.

Since he knew no strangers, Bill's multi-directional path led to cherished encounters with the likes of Rocky Marciano, Conway Twitty, General Tom Stafford, Gene Hackman, Randy Travis, Zig Ziglar, Kenneth Cooper and so many more. He loved adventure on any scale, even taking up skydiving in his 80's. In 1976, Bill became the owner of the Baton Rouge Cougars, with the encouragement of Bobby Bragan, in the newly formed National Baseball Gulf Coast League—he was in baseball heaven until the league folded. Bill moved to Dallas, adopted his 2 year old granddaughter, Amanda, who gave him renewed drive and purpose. He started Blythe Asphalt Co., with his son Tommy, and had it into his 90's. He became a member of First Baptist Dallas and met Zig, who advised him to write a children's book—so he wrote 'Percy The Perch'—teaching sweet life principles to children. Bill moved to Plano, TX, served as a door greeter at his local church for 39 years and 'the oldest known batboy' for the Prestonwood Christian Academy varsity baseball team, at 85—the team loved him and the example he set. Bible Studies with Tommy Nelson, at Denton Bible Church, every Thursday were a weekly highlight in his later years.

In 1998, God's true calling for his life was revealed on a missions trip, with three other men from church, to the jungles of the Amazon, to complete 3 unfinished churches. Bill was bricklaying again. He returned several times a year, for the next 24 years, until the age of 92, to build churches, sports fields,

community centers, water purifiers, and the knowledge of Jesus Christ in the hearts of thousands throughout the jungles of Brazil. Even when he wasn't physically able to navigate the treacherous Amazon River to visit the people he loved, Bill continued his fundraising efforts until his death. It was his work of heart and his daily motivation.

Bill Blythe will be remembered as the 'Fruits of the Spirit' in living color...love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. He taught without preaching, loved without condition, and gave without question. His witty jokes, entertaining stories, powerful testimony, work ethic, infectious smile, and helping hand will be sorely missed—call him at 2:00 am and he would tell you he was already up! Bill's passion and hobby was collecting friendships.

A.A. Milne wrote, "how lucky we've been to have someone that makes saying goodbye so hard". Bill enriched our lives at every turn. He made us laugh often saying in his waning years that he wasn't old and worn out, but makes sure he's nowhere near the curb on trash days! Our greatest tribute to him is gratitude, not grief. It is so fitting that the last item on Bill's Bucket List of January 2016, was 'Go To Heaven: Thank You, Jesus'. No doubt, Bill Blythe will be met with open arms and the much anticipated sound of the Lord's voice saying, "well done my good and faithful servant".

Bill is predeceased by his wife, Joyce, his father and mother, his brother, Elijah J. Blythe, and his grandson Preston. He is survived by his children: Tommy Blythe, Tammy Blythe (Don Kirkwood), Wendy Blythe-Hudgins, Amanda Blythe (Anuj Sheth), and step-daughter Chris Scanlon. Also, he is survived by his grandchildren: Brandon, Ciera, Christian, Devin, Sean, Graceson, Landry, and Finlee.

Graveside service will be at 10:30am, Monday, Feb. 23, 2026 at Restland

Memorial Park where Bill will be laid to rest next to his grandson, Preston.  
Funeral service will be at 1:00pm, Monday, Feb. 23, 2026 at the Chapel of the  
Denton Bible Church, 2300 E University Dr, Denton, TX 76209.  
His family will receive friends 2:00pm to 4:00pm, Sunday, Feb. 22, at Max  
Slayton Funeral Chapel in Terrell.

# Cemetery Details

## Restland Memorial Park

13005 Restland Road  
Dallas, TX 75243

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **22**. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Max Slayton Funeral Chapel  
642 N. Rockwall Ave.  
Terrell, TX 75160

## Graveside Service

FEB **23**. 10:30 AM (CT)

Restland Memorial Park  
13005 Restland Road  
Dallas, TX 75243

## Funeral Service

FEB **23**. 1:00 PM (CT)

The Chapel at Denton Bible Church  
2300 E University Dr,  
Denton, TX 76209



# Tribute Wall

YH

“ *Your Friends at Arbor Hills purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Bill Blythe.*



**Your Friends at Arbor Hills** - February 20 at 03:40 PM

CB

“ *Chicago 7 and Roy Bergold purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Bill Blythe.*



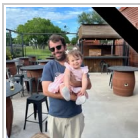
**Chicago 7 and Roy Bergold** - February 19 at 10:02 AM

KF

“ *Bill was one of the most interesting people in the room! He was so much fun on the field with our team. So many memories and he had so many life stories. Loved the Lord for sure.*

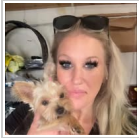


**Karen Frasier** - February 11 at 11:47 PM

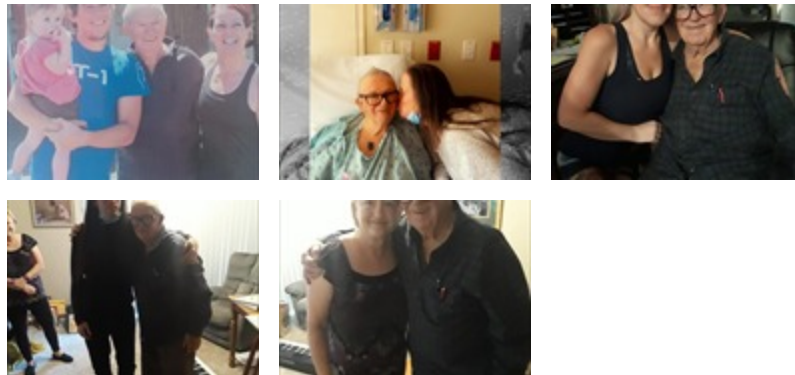


“ *Making good money as a very young man working for bill Blythe asphaltting with Preston during the summer. Seems like forever ago but will never forget the experience!*

**Taylor Hart** - February 11 at 08:19 PM



“ *Some more memories of our papa and great grandfather* 🙏



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**Ciera Cass** - February 10 at 11:24 PM

GG

“ *To the real most interesting man in the world! From Conway Twitty, Elvis, Gene Hackman, nightclubs, minor and major league baseball to changing lives across the world. A life well lived! Well done good and faithful servant!!*

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**Grant Gocke** - February 10 at 04:08 PM

BC

“ *To me he was Papa.  
He was always so active in his in his childrens and grandchildren life.  
He was always so happy to hang out with us and that really made me feel important.  
He always wanted to go do something fun and eat junk food.  
As a kid growing up with him you know he was our world. I can't share one memory because I have so many and they were all just as important as the other. Thank you to everyone who's been so kind to him over the years!*

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**Brandon Cass** - February 10 at 03:29 PM

RL

“ Amanda the almost 15 years I knew Bill and his family was indeed one of the greatest joys of my life, what a trip. I hope you and the family are at peace with his passing as I am. He told me on many occasions that I knew more about him than his own family did. We shared many stories together he had a lot more to tell than me. I can say without a doubt Bill lived life to the fullest measure of devotion to his fellow man. I will miss him as I know you and the family will. A quote from Bill God Bless.

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**Ron Lewis** - February 10 at 02:59 PM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Bill Blythe.



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February 10 at 12:22 PM



“ I've known Bill Blythe for many years, I live in Oklahoma City right now and I went to school with Bill's son Tom Blythe. Going up Tom and myself used to ride dirt bikes and had a lot in common Tom was one of my best friends growing up, I used to help Tom throw his Sunday paper route from time to time. I met Conway Twitty a few times at Tom's house, Conway would have me and Tom wash his car for him. I lost touch with Tom after graduating high school and joining the military when I got out of the military I worked for a Oilfield parts company and ended up moving to the Dallas area I later ended up working with Bill Blythe and his son Tom doing asphalt. I met a few friends of Bills over the years one being Peter Piper and Brent Barry who actually worked with Bill and Tom at the time. Bill was such a great guy he would give anybody his shirt off his back if you asked for it he had many many friends and he will be missed by many

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**Philip Bennett** - February 10 at 12:11 PM

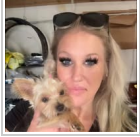


“ Heavenly Grace Spray was purchased for the family of Bill Blythe.



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February 10 at 12:06 PM



“ To the best grandpa a girl could ask for. I miss you. I love you so much. RIP papa. Give Preston a hug for me. Until we meet again 😊



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**Ciera Cass** - February 10 at 02:08 AM

SR

“ The Rodgers family has fond memories of Bill as the “oldest bat boy” at PCA. Bill was a friend who loved at all times. We are eternally grateful for his investment in the positive development of young men, including our son Ryan. We pray you can grieve with hope as you celebrate a life well lived.

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**Sally Rodgers** - February 09 at 09:20 PM

SW

“ I always remember when the family talked about Billy when I was little and as I got older I thought he was the funniest person. I will say this he loved family big or friends and he loved Jesus for sure and he would share with you. When those cousins got together it was something else to listen too. It's sad the younger generations miss out. When he called he would ask about everyone and tell me about his. Rest easy now my crazy cousin haha go play golf with daddy and Conway. Sherry Lynn Crook Walker. Love you all the kids.

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**Sherry Lynn Crook Walker** - February 09 at 08:38 PM

TJ

“What a blessing to have known Bill and serve with him (vicariously and financially) over the years. Karen and I were honored to be included in his Amazon ministry via drilling water wells at the churches he constructed and later in support of his bucket ministry. I always told him “They’ll come to get a drink of clean water and find the Living Water!” It was a plan!

*I was honored to be invited by Bill to attend one of the Bible Studies that was mention in his memorial. There I met Randy Travis and his wife and several other folks of note. Bill ran in interesting circles to say the least! He will be sorely missed! Love you brother. Can’t wait to see you again!*

*Tom & Karen Jacobs*

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**Thomas W Jacobs** - February 09 at 03:59 PM

PH

“Billy had Conway Twitty come to the restaurant that I worked at. I was so in love with Conway. And can't believe he did that. Jimmy and I will always love and praise that man. He helped us at the café with catering all the time. Knowing he had his own work but was so giving.

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**Pam Hemje(Alloway)** - February 09 at 03:41 PM

GN

“In memory of and in gratitude for his honorable military service in the Korean War. May God bless him and welcome him home. Peace be with his family and friends at this time.

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**Grateful Nation** - February 08 at 11:57 PM