



## Fred L Finley

July 15, 1945 - September 20, 2020

Fred Leon Finley, 75, a lifelong Muskogee resident, was born July 15, 1945 in Muskogee, OK to Samuel Arthur and Madge (Bemo) Finley and peacefully passed away on September 20, 2020 in Muskogee.

Fred received his formal education at Muskogee Schools, graduating in 1963 from Muskogee Central High School. He continued his education for two more years at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, OK.

In 1967, he married Linda Lemons in Muskogee, OK and welcomed their daughter, Samantha Lyn. Fred and Linda were married for the next 23 years. After college, Fred went to work for Zachary Construction Company, then moving to the metal piping industry at Wheeler Metals for six years, and then to Grant Prideco, until he retired.

From teenage years on, Fred had a deep love for everything that went fast. Much of his free time was spent building engines to go faster. He started as a teenager modifying his Cushman Eagle Scooter, then moved on to super modified stock cars, to blown gas hydroplane race boats, thus, the nickname "Fast Fred". He was also a member of the Wheeler #88 super modified stock car pit crew for many years.

There were numerous cars, motorcycles, dune buggies, and other toys in between. Deep bonds of friendships were born at this time. After years of high-performance engines, Fred graduated to Baja Boats, becoming one of the original "Baja Boys". Fred always enjoyed coaching or watching his daughter Sammye play softball. From early childhood, Fred has been a

member of Eastern Heights Baptist Church in Muskogee, where he enjoyed serving in many capacities. Fred was a notorious jokester, keeping anyone who saw him coming on their toes.

In 1999, Fred married Diane Adair of Muskogee, OK. They enjoyed taking trips to Florida with their friends. They enjoyed traveling and taking a trip to California and North Dakota. They spent many weekends at the lake, often taking the grandkids boating or playing on the sea-doods. They loved sitting on the back porch watching the wildlife play. Fred was an OKC Thunder fan and spent many evenings watching their games with Diane. In later years, Fred loved watching his grandchildren play sports, especially soccer and basketball. Fred's true passion in life was his family. He will be missed by all that knew him.

Fred was preceded in death by his parents.

Those left to cherish his memory are his wife, Diane of the home; daughter, Samantha French and husband Jimmy of Fort Gibson, OK; step-son, Colby Wilson and wife Jessica of Muskogee, OK; granddaughter, Sunnye French of Fort Gibson, OK; grandson, Tommy French of Fort Gibson, OK; step-granddaughters, Ashton Talley and Brooklynn Wilson both of Muskogee, OK; sisters, Janelle Mercer and husband Jim of Houston, TX; and Aundria Thys and husband J.D. of Ada, OK; step-brother, Frank Morgan of Muskogee, OK; many nieces, nephews, cousins, and many friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family request donations in Fred's name to the Alzheimer's Association, 2448 East 81st Street Suite 3000 Tulsa, Oklahoma 74139. (918) 481-7741 or [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org)

A memorial service celebrating Fred's life will be held 11:00AM Saturday, October 3, 2020 at Eastern Heights Baptist Church in Muskogee with Reverend Darren Wallace officiating.

The family of Fred Leon Finley has entrusted his cremation and service to Clifford D Garrett Family Funeral Home, Fort Gibson. 918-478-2555.

Online condolences may be left at [clifforddgarrettfamilyfh.com](http://clifforddgarrettfamilyfh.com)



# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

OCT 3. 11:00 AM (CT)

Eastern Heights Baptist Church  
2401 Haskell Blvd  
Muskogee, OK 74403

# Tribute Wall



“ *Fred L Finley*

January 29, 2023 at 12:59 PM

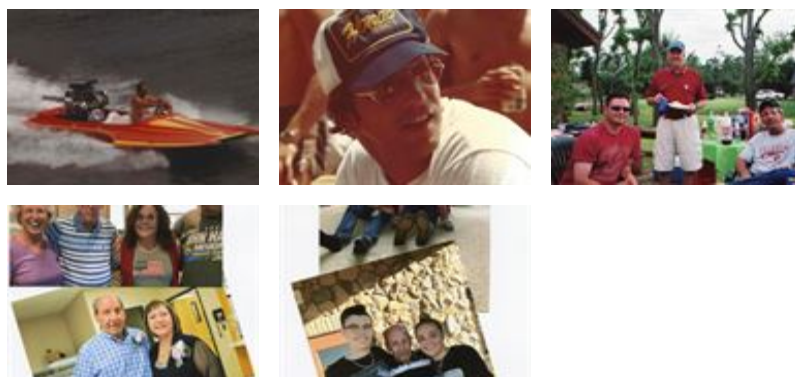


“ *Fred was a '63 Classmate of mine. He was a wonderful person to know and always was of good cheer. So sorry to hear of your loss.*  
*Roger Hilfiger*

**Roger Hilfiger** - October 02, 2020 at 05:11 PM



“ *75 files added to the album Life Tributes*



**Clifford D Garrett Family Funeral Home** - October 02, 2020 at 10:25 AM



“ *I remember my husband meeting him at Wheeler Metals. He knew I was a cousin of Frank's and that made us extended family. Such a sweet guy.*

*Polly Morgan Hatcher*

**Polly Hatcher** - September 30, 2020 at 11:37 AM

AH

“ My prayers for Diane and the family. Fred had a humor side that made anyone feel at ease. He is no doubt enjoying seeing family and friends and keeping the angels entertained.

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**anna heslar** - September 29, 2020 at 10:07 AM

AM

“ Diane, so sorry for your loss.  
For others, Fred and I worked together at Vallourec for more than a decade. We would go to lunch every day. We got kicked out of Taco Bueno for wrestling in the parking lot, while our boss Jerry ran inside and watched us through the window (embarrassed). Or when the roads were icy, pull the emergency brake and make my car do donuts down Chandler. You never knew what he was going to do next. It was an adventure going anywhere with him. I love you Fred, I hope God is ready for your practical jokes. It took me awhile to get use to them.  
Adrian Marks.

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**adrian marks** - September 27, 2020 at 09:40 PM

TN

“ Oh how I remember your dad, Sammy. Funny always joking with us driving around in your cool car. Spending fun times on the lake. Fred was always so kind and sweet to me. I cherish those memories and more. My deepest condolences to you. Much love to you and your family.

Snake eyes

Tammy Nicklas (Lane)

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**Tammy Nicklas** - September 27, 2020 at 09:16 PM

KJ

“ We remember Fred as always joking around and being his usual self. He was a fixture around Eastern Heights and will be missed by all. Our heartfelt sympathy to Diane and all the family. He was one of a kind.

*Kenny & Kathy Jackson*

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**Kenny Jackson** - September 24, 2020 at 09:35 AM

LB

“ Such fun growing up with Fred (Freddy). Our back yard and Mom and Pop Finley’s back yard joined. We played truth or dare, tag your it, and every kid game imaginable. Precious memories. So sorry to hear of his passing.

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**Lila Bell** - September 23, 2020 at 09:32 PM

DH

“ I remember the good times I had while working with Fred during the construction of the OG&E power plants in 1974-77. He was always so much fun to be around. I remember him eating 6 Chet's hotdogs for lunch one time.

*David Hill  
Robinson, TX*

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**David Hill** - September 22, 2020 at 06:35 PM

DS

“ I dearly love Fred and his lovely wife, Diane. I got to know him well when I worked at Eastern Heights. I could always depend on him to give me a hard time in jest every time I saw him. He was a good man and I will miss him! David Smith

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**David Smith** - September 22, 2020 at 02:35 PM



“ *Mark-Durenda McVey lit a candle in memory of Fred L Finley*



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**Mark-Durenda McVey** - September 22, 2020 at 02:11 PM

KK

“ *I'm so sorry to hear about Fred. He was a very nice man. I remember him from being at the ball fields over by AR watching his daughter play ball. My thoughts & prayers are with the family.*

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**Kim Kiser-Robertson** - September 21, 2020 at 02:39 PM

DP

*Fred and I were classmates, band members and fellow employees at Karbe's Piggly Wiggly across the street from his church. Our recently renewed friendship began in the early 60s. My condolences and prayers to his family. I miss Fred.*

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**Don Peters** - September 29, 2020 at 05:33 PM

DW

*One time we was at races in the pit area; my friend and I was sitting on a car hauler and some guys behind us was upset with their car and using a few choice words. Fred got down and told those guys that there two ladies sitting close by and they needed to watch their language. They apologized and nothing else was said. I thought that was so sweet of him, that was just how Fred was. Donna Wood*

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**donna wood** - September 30, 2020 at 09:34 PM