



Lonnie Ray Rowan

September 11, 1952 - April 30, 2026

Lonnie Ray Rowan, 73, of Fort Gibson, Oklahoma was born September 11, 1952, in Muskogee, Oklahoma to Alvis and Ella Mae (Byfield) Rowan and peacefully passed away Thursday, April 30, 2026, at his home with his family by his bedside.

Lonnie grew up in Fort Gibson, lived briefly in Vinita, Oklahoma, before returning to Fort Gibson, where he spent the rest of his life. He furthered his education at Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology, earning an associate degree in heating and air. On August 26, 1972, he married the love of his life, Brenda Wakefield, in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, and their enduring marriage lasted 53 years, 8 months, and 4 days until his passing. Lonnie worked for Fort Gibson Schools in the maintenance department specializing in heating and air for 28 years before retiring in 2015, while also operating his own business, Rowan Heating and Air. He was a devoted member of his church. He served as a deacon at First Baptist Church in Fort Gibson, actively participated in the nursing home ministry, taught Sunday School for 36 years, and lead a Wednesday night class for 17 years. He also served with the Oklahoma Baptist Disaster Relief team. Lonnie was selfless and giving, always ready to help others and deeply committed to those he loved.

Lonnie enjoyed attending Fort Gibson High School football, basketball, and soccer games, where he faithfully supported the kids. He also liked watching NASCAR and keeping up with the excitement. Most of all, he cherished his family, treasuring every moment spent with his children and grandchildren.

Lonnie's faith was extremely important in his life, truly living out the example of a Godly man.

He is now reunited with his parents, Alvis Carl and Ella Mae Rowan; his brothers, Carl Junior Rowan, and Jimmy Dale Rowan; and his sisters, Linda Wilson, and Virginia (Ginger) Lee Whitehead.

Lonnie is lovingly survived by his wife, Brenda Rowan of the home; his daughter, Sandra Marshall and husband Robert of Fort Gibson, OK; his son, William Rowan and wife Jayne of Fort Gibson, OK; his grandsons, Logan Marshall of Fort Gibson OK, and Seth Rowan of Fort Gibson, OK; his granddaughters, Nicole Grootenboer of Muskogee, OK, Kassie Rowan of Arkansas, and Laurel Stonebarger of Fort Gibson, OK; his great-grandson, Knox Lane Riddle of Arkansas; extended family and many friends. He will be missed by all.

A visitation will be held Thursday, May 7, 2026, at Clifford D Garrett Family Funeral Home in Fort Gibson with family receiving friends from 5PM - 7PM. Lonnie's life will be celebrated 11AM, Friday, May 8, 2026, at New Hope Baptist Church with Pastor Don Blankenship officiating. Committal prayers and interment will follow at Citizens Cemetery in Fort Gibson with Will Rowan, Robert Marshall, Billy Whitehead, Jim Whitehead, Ricky Whitehead, and Logan Marshall serving as casket bearers.

Rick Thompson, Butch Cook, James Mosteller, Seth Rowan, Aron Grootenboer, AB Clark, and Herman Leatherman will serve as honorary casket bearers.

In lieu of flowers, Lonnie wanted memorial contributions be made to Oklahoma Firefighters Burn Camp at PO Box 287 Owasso, OK 74055 or Oklahoma Baptist Disaster Relief at 300 Johnny Bench Dr Suite 300 Oklahoma City, OK 73104 or Gideons of Muskogee at 6005 S 1st St West Muskogee, OK 74401.

The family of Lonnie Ray Rowan has entrusted his care, service, and burial to Clifford D Garrett Family Funeral Home in Fort Gibson. 918-478-2555.

Online condolences may be left for the Rowan family at

clifforddgarrettfamilyfh.com

Cemetery Details

Citizens Cemetery

Fort Gibson, OK 74434

Previous Events

Visitation with Family to Greet Friends

MAY 7. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Clifford D Garrett Family Funeral Home (Fort Gibson)
1224 E Poplar St
Fort Gibson, OK 74434
(918) 478-2555

Celebration of Life

MAY 8. 11:00 AM (CT)

New Hope Baptist Church
1501 North 43rd Street East
Muskogee, OK 74403

Tribute Wall

CW

“ I feel deeply saddened to learn that this incredibly kind, generous and humble man has passed away. It was always such a pleasure to be anywhere close in his company, for he had that special gift of always making you feel warm and wonderful. Just an all around good and decent man, that I feel fortunate to have shared my earlier school and community life with so many years ago. I recall fondly a friendly, helpful and fun loving guy who always managed to smile and scatter joy around him. Not one to complain, he seemed well suited to make the most and best of any situation. Just weeks ago, by chance, I discovered he was in rehab so found myself blessed to have a few cherished hours visiting and reminiscing and “catching up”with him and his beloved Brenda. What a cherished gift of time with a lovely couple who easily shared and displayed their devotion to each other, their children and grands. Wishing his family and friends to find many reasons to smile while thinking of him during these difficult times ahead. With heartfelt sympathies. Carolyn Cahoon Watts

Carolyn Watts - May 08 at 09:34 AM

MP

“ Brenda, I am so sorry for your loss. Love and prayers for you and the family.

Marsha Presson - May 07 at 07:58 PM

EB

“ Eunice Brown lit a candle in memory of Lonnie Rowan



Eunice Brown - May 05 at 11:15 PM

CD

“ So sorry for your loss prayers for Brenda ,
Saundra and Will . Lonnie was my 1st cousin.
He will be missed by all . Hugs and lots of
love



Connie Dobson - May 05 at 08:43 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of
Lonnie Ray Rowan.



May 05 at 04:43 PM

VD

“ We had the blessing of knowing Lonnie at First Baptist Church Fort
Gibson. He had a powerful testimony by encouraging others and
helping them get through their hardships.
Wendell and Vicki Davis

Vicki Davis - May 05 at 12:24 PM

BH

“ What a great outstanding person a true friend and most of all a true
Christian you would never have to be told or ask his actions spoke
for him.

Berry and Beverly Harris - May 01 at 10:21 PM