



Ronnie Gilliam

December 31, 1946 - April 10, 2025

Ronnie Gilliam peacefully passed away April 10, 2025, at home with his loving wife by his side. He lived a life full of grit and perseverance.

Ronnie was born on Dec 31, 1946, the 4th of nine children, and 1st son of Frank and Dorothy Gilliam. He grew up on a farm, which taught him about hard work and his love for the outdoors.

Ronnie married his high school sweetheart, Joanne Bradley, and together they raised their daughter, Jenny Rainbolt.

Ronnie always enjoyed horses; his friends would say he was born horseback. Some of his favorite memories from his earlier life were traveling to rodeos for steer wrestling with Jimmy Bradley and other friends. He built a quarter horse racing stable and had success with many of his own racehorses.

Ronnie worked for Fort Howard (now Georgia Pacific) for over 30 years. He started as a backhoe operator for Daniels Construction Company, as they built Fort Howard, and was promoted many times due to his unique ability to analyze operations and make them more efficient. Ronnie's belief in "doing it right the first time" was instrumental to his successful career. He retired as Maintenance Superintendent in 2006.

Ronnie married the love of his life, Linda Finley, on October 29, 1990. They enjoyed working side by side for over 30 years. They found their dream property where together they built a home, cattle ranch, and rodeo arena. He was happiest when he could share his knowledge with others, and it filled his heart to teach Linda the ranching way of life: from working and doctoring cattle

to driving a tractor, baling hay, and fixing fence. He loved Linda the way a rancher loves the land: deeply, patiently, and without end.

Ronnie is preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Dorothy Gilliam; sisters, Bobbie Dause and Pat Stewart; and brother, Bill Gilliam.

Ronnie leaves behind his cherished wife, Linda; daughters, Jenny Rainbolt & husband Kevin and Sammye French & husband Jimmy; grandchildren Sunnye French, Thomas French, and Brody Rainbolt; great granddaughter Finley Kindle; sisters, Peggy McClellan, Frankie Sue Gilliam, Linda Kae Norfolk, Donna Lennon, and June Box; extended family; and many friends.

A celebration of Ronnie's life will be 2PM, Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at First Baptist Church in Fort Gibson with Karl Meyers eulogizing and Brother Butch Cook officiating. Greg Cullum, Laray Ross, Karl Meyers, Brad Schell, Justin Cole, and Frank Randall will serve as honorary urn bearers.

The family of Ronald Glenn Gilliam has entrusted his care, cremation, and service to Clifford D Garrett Family Funeral Home, Fort Gibson. 918-478-2555

Online condolences may be left for the Gilliam family at clifforddgarrettfamilyfh.com

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

APR **16**. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church
304 E Hickory
Fort Gibson, OK 74434

Tribute Wall

BF

“ *My deepest sympathy for Jennifer and her family. May God Bless you through your time of grief. ICTC Friend - Beth Fritts*

Beth Fritts - April 16, 2025 at 03:14 PM

PB

“ *Peggy Lemons Boothe lit a candle in memory of Ronnie Gilliam*



Peggy Lemons Boothe - April 15, 2025 at 11:48 PM

DQ

“ *I had the pleasure of working with Ronnie at Fort Howard and the pleasure of helping maintain his vehicles after retirement. Sorry for your loss Linda and family, prayers for peace and comfort*

Danny Quinton - April 15, 2025 at 02:53 PM

LG

Thank you so very much Danny for your kindness and always being there for us!!

Linda Gilliam - April 21, 2025 at 04:15 AM

BC

“ *I too, had the honor and pleasure to work with Ronnie. I always loved talking racehorses with him. Of course, he knew way more than I did. Linda, I am truly sorry for your loss. Prayers for comfort and peace during this difficult time.*

Billie Cox - April 15, 2025 at 11:48 AM

LG

Billie I know he would have enjoyed those conversations. He loved talking race horses. He also spoke very highly of you, your work ethics and handling of people at GP. Thank you Billie for being there for Ronnie💜

Linda Gilliam - April 21, 2025 at 04:24 AM

BC

“ I had the honor and pleasure of working with Ronnie. Strong leader and one that could be counted on when needed. My deepest condolences Linda, to you and your family.

Billie Cox - April 15, 2025 at 11:32 AM

MS

“ Mildred, Tom and Allen Schuster purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Ronnie Gilliam.



Mildred, Tom and Allen Schuster - April 14, 2025 at 05:11 PM

DT

*“ I had the honor of working with Ronnie. I could always count on Ronnie for guidance and direction. Prayers for strength, peace and comfort for Linda and family during this challenging time.
Debbie Thornbrugh*

Debbie Thornbrugh - April 14, 2025 at 11:18 AM

LG

Thank you Debbie my sweet friend. Ronnie had much respect for you as a coworker and friend.

Linda Gilliam - April 15, 2025 at 03:09 AM

JB

“ *Jeanie beavers lit a candle in memory of Ronnie Gilliam*



Jeanie beavers - April 12, 2025 at 08:17 PM

SE

“ *Deepest condolences and prayers of comfort for Ms Linda and the entire family. Enjoyed the opportunity to work with Ronnie for a few years at the Fort Howard Mill.*

Stan Epperson - April 12, 2025 at 08:41 AM

LG

Stan, Ronnie would be honored by your kind thoughts and prayers. Thank you from the bottom of my heart my old friend, Linda

Linda Gilliam - April 21, 2025 at 04:32 AM

RH

“ *I worked with Ronnie in my early career. He was a solid leader and everyone knew he would take care of his people. I learned a lot from Ron. Thoughts and prayers for peace and healing are with Linda and the family.*



Rhonda Hansen - April 11, 2025 at 05:39 PM

LG

Thank you Rhonda for your kindness always and all your thoughts and prayers. I know Ronnie respected and enjoyed working with you. Thank you again, Linda

Linda Gilliam - April 21, 2025 at 04:41 AM

PR

“ Pam Reganall lit a candle in memory of Ronnie Gilliam



Pam Reganall - April 11, 2025 at 11:25 AM

PR

“ Worked with Ronnie for a long time at the mill. He was always such a sweet man. What a pleasure it was to work with him. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Jeff and Pam Reganall

Pam Reganall - April 11, 2025 at 11:24 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ronnie Gilliam.



April 11, 2025 at 08:16 AM



“ Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Ronnie Gilliam.



April 11, 2025 at 08:16 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ronnie Gilliam.

April 11, 2025 at 08:16 AM



“ James Harris lit a candle in memory of Ronnie Gilliam



James Harris - April 10, 2025 at 09:26 PM



I was so sorry to hear that Ronnie had passed away. He and my Ronnie Gilliam worked together for many years. Ronnie G was my husbands boss so to speak. They both started there while Fort Howard was being built, Ronnie C worked for HB Zachary. Hard to believe that they both are gone now. My deepest sympathies to all of Ronnie G's family and friends. Peggy Clark Gilliam

Peggy Clark Gilliam - June 20, 2025 at 04:36 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ronnie Gilliam.



April 10, 2025 at 07:43 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ronnie Gilliam.

April 10, 2025 at 07:43 PM