



## Willie 'Billy' Auverne Ferguson Jr.

February 13, 1950 - February 5, 2021

Mr. Willie 'Billy' Auverne Ferguson, Jr., age 70, of Colt, Arkansas, lost his two-year battle with cancer at home, Friday, February, 5, 2021, with family by his side.

Billy was born February 13, 1950, to Willie Auverne Sr. and Rita Mullin Ferguson. He married Mona Lisa Austin, July 5, 1969, at the Colt United Methodist Church.

He enlisted in the United States Air Force in April 1969. He served as an Aerospace Ground Equipment Repair Technician at Chanute Air Force Base in Rantoul, Illinois, McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita, Kansas, and Kirkland Air Force Base, near Albuquerque, New Mexico. He was also deployed for a year to handle ground support for F-105 and C-130 aircraft at Udorn Royal Thai Air Force Base in Thailand during the Vietnam War.

After his honorable discharge from the military in 1975, he went into law enforcement at the Forrest City Police Department. He continued his secondary education at East Arkansas Community College while serving as Chief of Security. Later he completed his schooling at Arkansas State University, where he attained his Bachelors, and Masters in Education

Mr. Ferguson significantly impacted the community of Forrest City and

Marianna during his tenure in education as a teacher, Assistant Principal, Principal, and Headmaster of several generations of students in St. Francis and Lee Counties. During his time as Principal at Forrest City Middle School, he was an integral part of Systemic Education Reform. Forrest City Middle School was enacted as a host school for the Arkansas Network of Systemic Change of Schools, which was a part of the National Carnegie Middle Grade School State Policy Initiative.

Billy was a Charter Member of the Arkansas Association of Middle Level Education, Arkansas Education Association, Forrest City Education Association, the Mississippi Private School Association, and was also elected as Council member for the city of Colt, Arkansas.

Billy is survived by his wife, Lisa Ferguson of Colt, three sons; William Tyler Ferguson, and wife, Bridget, of Maud, Oklahoma, Andrew Wesley Ferguson, and wife, Jennifer, of Mechanicsville, Maryland, and Phillip Edward Ferguson, and wife, Kathleen, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, a bonus daughter, Charla Huff, and husband Tony, of Elizabeth City, North Carolina, one sister, Sandra McCormick, and husband, David, of Colt, grandchildren; William Tyler Ferguson Jr., and wife, Amber, Jessica Wolfe, and husband, Arron, Kalee Starkey, and husband, Clint, Kelsey Ferguson, Makenzie Tharp, Sunnee Dumas, Halson Sisk, Havianna Huff, Malakai Ferguson, Rowan Ferguson, Cameron Ferguson, great-grandchildren; Corbin Starkey and Emmeryn Wolfe, a Goddaughter, Brittany Baucom, and husband, Caleb, of Rockwall, Texas, and a host of nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father, Willie Auverne Sr., his mother, Rita, and his sister, Winnifred Ruth Ferguson.

A memorial service will be held at Stevens Funeral Home Chapel, 5:00 P.M., Friday, February 12, 2021. Visitation will be Friday, 4:00 P.M., until the time of the service, with Stevens Funeral Home in charge of arrangements. The memorial service will be zoomed. You may access the zoom service by

clicking on the link under the "Photos and Videos" tab, or by entering Meeting ID: 780 1265 6314 and Passcode: 6vAD7u at Zoom.com. Memorials are to be made to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, Tennessee, 38105-9959. You may log on to [stevensfuneralhome.net](http://stevensfuneralhome.net) for the online registry.

# Cemetery Details

## Arkansas State Veterans Cemetery

hwy 163  
Birdeye, AR

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 12. 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Stevens Funeral Home  
220 North Washington  
Forrest City, AR 72335  
(870) 633-5400  
info@stevensfuneralhome.net  
<https://www.stevensfuneralhome.net/>

## Memorial Service

FEB 12. 5:00 PM (CT)

Stevens Funeral Home  
220 North Washington  
Forrest City, AR 72335  
(870) 633-5400  
info@stevensfuneralhome.net  
<https://www.stevensfuneralhome.net/>

# Tribute Wall



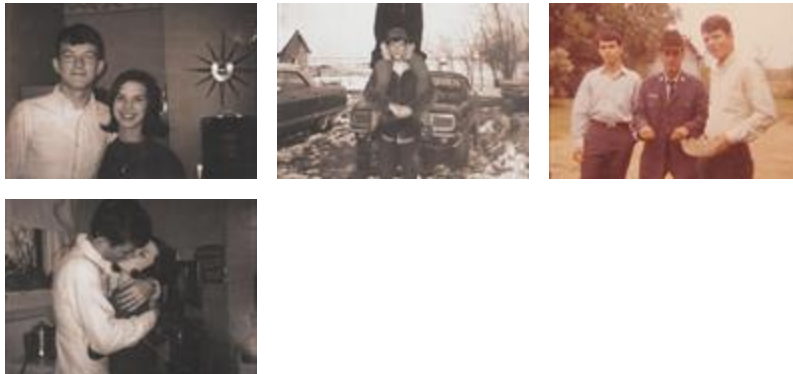
“ *Stevens Funeral Home created a Zoom Mr. Ferguson's Service in memory of Willie 'Billy' Auverne Ferguson Jr.* ”



Stevens Funeral Home - February 09, 2021 at 02:11 PM

JF

“ *4 files added to the album Billy* ”



Jennifer Ferguson - February 12, 2021 at 10:42 AM

CC

“ *Claudette Clay lit a candle in memory of Willie 'Billy' Auverne Ferguson Jr.* ”



Claudette Clay - February 11, 2021 at 09:05 PM

JB

“ Jennifer Jo & Drew  
Wishing you comfort and peace in the days ahead. I will keep you  
and your family in my prayers. Love you, Jodie Bowden

Jodie Bowden - February 11, 2021 at 12:43 PM



“ Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was  
purchased for the family of Willie 'Billy' Auverne  
Ferguson Jr..



February 11, 2021 at 10:34 AM

JF

“ 1 file added to the album Billy



Jennifer Ferguson - February 10, 2021 at 05:24 PM

JF

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Jennifer Ferguson - February 10, 2021 at 05:23 PM

JE

“ *Jacky and Pam England purchased the Plants-A-Plenty for the family of Willie 'Billy' Auverne Ferguson Jr..*



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**Jacky and Pam England** - February 10, 2021 at 05:19 PM

JV

“ *Lisa, we are so sorry for your loss. Billy was such a special man loved by many. Our thoughts and prayers are with and your family. Jeanie & Thomas Van Vranken*

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**Jeanie & Thomas Van Vranken** - February 09, 2021 at 06:08 PM



“ *Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Willie 'Billy' Auverne Ferguson Jr..*



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February 09, 2021 at 12:15 PM

ST

“ *Lisa, Billy T. ,Drew, Phillip and Sandy, and family, I am sorry for the passing of Billy. Your family go back many years started in 1970 with Mrs. Rita Ferguson at Caldwell school . All of you were so caring and kind. May memories of Billy shared, words of encouragement spoken and smiles of joy, love, given, be forever in your hearts. My thoughts and prayers are with you today and the days ahead.*



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**Shirley Williams Thorn** - February 09, 2021 at 11:56 AM



“ *Multicolor Bright Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Willie 'Billy' Auverne Ferguson Jr..*



February 09, 2021 at 09:47 AM



“ *Debt and I extend our sincere condolences, a mentor and professional, Rest in Peace my Friend*

*Frank Shaw*



**Frank L. Shae** - February 08, 2021 at 11:06 PM



“ *Clay & Sheryl Morrow lit a candle in memory of Willie 'Billy' Auverne Ferguson Jr.*



**Clay & Sheryl Morrow** - February 08, 2021 at 10:35 PM



“ *Butch and Judy Archer purchased the Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of Willie 'Billy' Auverne Ferguson Jr..*



**Butch and Judy Archer** - February 08, 2021 at 09:45 PM

BC

“ *Mr. Billy was an inspiration to me thru my early childhood days as a baseball coach to my early teen years of working in his office. He was a good mentor and will be missed by many.*

**Brent Clarkson** - February 08, 2021 at 07:58 PM

PG

“ *Patricia Graves lit a candle in memory of Willie 'Billy' Auverne Ferguson Jr.*



**Patricia Graves** - February 08, 2021 at 06:22 PM



“ *Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- Lavender and White was purchased for the family of Willie 'Billy' Auverne Ferguson Jr..*



February 08, 2021 at 05:42 PM

AM

“ *Mr. Ferguson was such a wonderful person. He could just make a student feel very at ease, yet he did discipline. But sometimes in a funny way. I recall (and this was the 80s) getting out in afternoon detention bc I talked way too much. He needed to step out for a bit and he stuck me in the front desk and said “you’re in charge.” Little did I know he stepped across the hall and was watching. Evidently I was supposed to learn about responsibility. My prayers and condolences to his family and friends. I have very fond memories of him.*

**Andrea Wade Milam** - February 08, 2021 at 05:26 PM

GW

“ *Lisa and Family:*

*Your in ours prayers as you have been the last years fighting the BIG "C". May our loving LORD grant you peace and REST. May your SPECIAL memories sustain you as GOD holds you close, comforts you gently, and GOD will carry you through.*

*With Deepest Sympathy,  
Gene and Mary Jones Warren*



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**Gene and Mary Jones Warren** - February 08, 2021 at 04:51 PM

LE

“ *Lewis /E.J. Etheridge lit a candle in memory of Willie 'Billy' Auverne Ferguson Jr.*



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**Lewis /E.J. Etheridge** - February 08, 2021 at 03:41 PM

MK

“ *Billy made my tenure at Lincoln middle school fun. He and I had rooms across from each. He was the combination of being a great teacher and a great friend ! 🕯️*

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**Madge Katsoilis** - February 08, 2021 at 02:11 PM