

William E. Wheeler | 1931-2014

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William E. (Bill) Wheeler

William E. (Bill) Wheeler, 83, of Rhome, died Saturday, June 21, 2014 at Franklin Parish Health Center in Winnsboro, La. after a short illness.

Services will be 10 a.m. Wednesday, June 25 at Coker Hawkins Funeral Home Chapel in Decatur, officiated by brother-in-law Boatner Holder and sister-in-law Claire Harrison, stepdaughters Julianne Fendley and Janet Cowart, and nephew Larry Burke.

Interment will follow at Aurora Cemetery. David Long, Bailey Burke, Craig Utley, Kelly Adams, Scott Childress, Eddie Fendley, Bruce Fendley and Jeff Cowart will serve as pallbearers, while Fred Schultz, Stephen Long and Mark Burke will be honorary pallbearers. Friends and family may call at Coker-Hawkins Funeral Home from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Wednesday.

Bill was born Jan. 4, 1931. He was a retired truck driver and a member of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Decatur. He was a gentle person, loved by all who knew him. At 6'2" he was a basketball player in high school and at Decatur Baptist College, where he received an Associate Degree. Bill was a hard-working man who worked for Carnation Milk Company and later as a long-haul truck driver.

Survivors include his wife of 10 years, Bobbie Wheeler; daughter Leslie Elaine Marr and husband, Steve; stepdaughters Janet Cowart and husband, Jeff, Julianne Fendley and husband, Bruce; grandson Scott Childress and wife, Chris. He is also survived by two great-granddaughters, two step-granddaughters, two step-grandsons and four great-grandchildren; sisters-in-law Doris Dickey and Jewel Burke; nephews Baily Burke, Mark Burke, Larry Burke and Craig Utley. He was preceded in death by his wife of 53 years, Geneva Grace Utley Wheeler; parents William E. Wheeler and Amelia Williams Wheeler and son Gary Wheeler.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association at donate.heart.org or to Gideons International, Franklin Parish, Gideon Camp c/o Boatner Holder, 303 2nd Street, Winnsboro, LA 71295 or to Gideons International, www.gideons.org.