



## Mr. Ray Barnes Gilbert

October 2, 1953 - February 20, 2026

Ray Barnes Gilbert, 72, of Stuttgart, Arkansas, passed away on February 20, 2026, surrounded by his loved ones after a brief illness. He was born on October 2, 1953, in DeWitt, Arkansas.

Ray was a proud graduate of DeWitt High School, Class of 1971. He built his life around family, community, and the simple joys that brought him happiness. Known for his strong work ethic and friendly personality, Ray enjoyed selling cars and never met a stranger. He had a gift for conversation and loved connecting with people wherever he went.

He was an active member of the Stuttgart Kiwanis and a past member of the Pine Bluff Jaycees as well as a Jaycee Senator #45438, dedicating time to his community over the years. Ray especially loved shooting fireworks, firing up the grill for family gatherings, camping, and cheering on the Arkansas Razorbacks. His enthusiasm for life and his spirited support for his favorite team was contagious.

Above all, Ray treasured time with his family. He especially loved spending time with his grandchildren, faithfully attending their sporting events and numerous other activities. Whether in the stands cheering them on or simply enjoying everyday moments together, he was one of their biggest supporters and proudest fans.

Ray was preceded in death by his mother, Marlene McGahhey Gilbert, and his father, C.W. Gilbert.

He is survived by his brother, Roger (Angie) Gilbert; his daughters, Meredith (Jeremy) Miller and Rachel Davis; his cherished grandchildren, Brock Miller, Ashton Miller, Eli Davis, and Harrison Davis; his niece, Lindsey (Sara) Shira; and his longtime partner, Jan McCallie.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to the ICU nurses at Baptist Hospital-Little Rock for their compassionate care and support.

He will be remembered for his warmth, humor, and the love he had for his family and friends. Ray's legacy lives on in the many lives he touched and the memories that will be treasured by all who knew him.

Honorary pallbearers will be his grandchildren Ashton Miller, Brock Miller, Eli Davis, Harrison Davis. Other honorary pallbearers are Cooter Faila, Bill Brummett, Greg Lorince, Steve Petrus, Putt Carter, Dwayne "Dobber" Petrus, Lester Sieber and Eddie Bronson.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, February 26, 2026, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Essex Funeral Home in Dewitt, Arkansas. A memorial service will follow on Friday, February 27, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at the funeral home. In honor of Ray's love for the Razorbacks, guests are encouraged to wear Razorback attire to the service.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorial contributions be made to one of Ray's favorite charities: Kiwanis of Stuttgart (2001 S Main Ste A, Stuttgart, AR 72160); the Arkansas JCI Senate (US JCI Senate Foundation, Earl Sawyer, Treasurer, 747 Oak Hall Lane, Ballwin, MO 63301); Or Arkansas JCI

Scholarship Fund, in memory of Ray Gilbert, 160 Stonehill Dr., Sherwood, AR  
72120.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **26**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Essex Funeral Home  
1405 South Grandview  
DeWitt, AR 72042  
(870) 946-3104  
<https://www.essexfuneralhome.com>

## Memorial Service

FEB **27**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Essex Funeral Home  
1405 South Grandview  
DeWitt, AR 72042  
(870) 946-3104  
<https://www.essexfuneralhome.com>

# Tribute Wall

NS

“ Meredith & Rachel,

*I am praying for each of you during this time of the passing of your dad. I may not have had the opportunity to be around him much but I know that you two turned out to be two amazing women and I have no doubt he played at part in this.*

*Turn to God during this great loss to help guide you through this difficult season.*

*Psalm 34:18 says,*

*The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.*

*With Love,  
Nick Steele*

---

**Nick Steele** - February 27 at 12:21 AM

LB

“ Rachel and family, prayers and love sent your way. 🙏❤️🍓

---

**Lynell Bowen** - February 26 at 11:49 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mr. Ray Barnes Gilbert.

---

February 26 at 11:38 PM

OB

“ OMP Department - Arkansas Farm Bureau purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mr. Ray Barnes Gilbert.



---

**OMP Department - Arkansas Farm Bureau** - February 25 at 05:11 PM

OB

“ OMP Department - Arkansas Farm Bureau planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Ray Barnes Gilbert.

---

**OMP Department - Arkansas Farm Bureau** - February 25 at 05:11 PM

LD

“ Dear Jan, et al, I am still in shock. I am asking The Holy Spirit to pour His peace and contentment, comfort and joy, down over you all, like warm honey. A bright light has been extinguished, here on Earth. Blessings! Libbie Dougan. AKA. Libbie Terry from St. Charles.

---

**Libbie Dougan** - February 24 at 10:30 AM

SM

“ I was very sorry to hear of Ray's passing. I bought more than a few cars from Ray and i always appreciated his professionalism and knowledge. I also consider it a privilege to have considered him a friend. He simply was a top shelf gentleman. My condolences to the family.

*Scott Morgan*

---

**scott morgan** - February 24 at 08:55 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Ray Barnes Gilbert.*



---

February 23 at 10:53 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mr. Ray Barnes Gilbert.

---

February 23 at 10:53 PM



“ *Eric Hollis purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Mr. Ray Barnes Gilbert.*



---

**Eric Hollis** - February 23 at 06:48 PM



“ *Eric Hollis planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Ray Barnes Gilbert.*

---

**Eric Hollis** - February 23 at 06:48 PM

KR

“ Ray was a great friend! I met him the day we first met at Trotter Ford and remained friends for all these years! His smile and personality was special to me! Praying for all that loved this special guy! RIP RAY! I'll see you over yonder.



Kay Reed - February 23 at 06:04 PM

KW

“ Sorry to hear about the loss of Ray. He sold my family several cars and was a wonderful person. He will be missed by many. Prayers to his family

Karen Wile - February 23 at 03:24 PM

JC

“ WOW! This is a tough one. Ray was such a good guy. He was always around when the Failla family needed him. He was so good to my Momma and Daddy, especially driving Daddy to Hog games. He and Jan were good friends with my brother, Cooter, and his wife, Kaye. When I think of Ray, I think of laughter. He will be missed



Julie (Failla) Cracchiolo  
St. Louis, MO

Julie Failla Cracchiolo - February 23 at 02:53 PM

KL

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Prayers for all of you.

Karen Lindsey - February 23 at 02:14 PM

MD

“ I am so sorry Rachel. I remember how you love to talk about your family and your love for them. I know it is very hard but know that reliving memories and smiling about them surely, will help with the pain that you are feeling now and the days to come. My prayers are with you and your family

---

**Marie Dolce** - February 23 at 12:09 PM

DB

“ Meredith,

*I am so very sorry for the loss of your dad. There are just no words that truly make moments like this easier, but I hope you know you are surrounded by people who care deeply about you.*

*Praying for peace, comfort, and strength for you and your family in the days ahead. May the memories you shared bring you comfort and remind you how loved he was.*

*Please know I'm here for you if you need anything at all. 🧡*

---

**Delinda Richardson Blevins** - February 23 at 09:40 AM

EH

“ Prayers for Jan and families!!



---

**Ester Poston Hageman** - February 22 at 11:47 PM

NC

“ We were surprised and saddened to read this about Ray . We were long time Jaycee friends.He was a great Arkansas and JCI Senator.He will be remembered as a good man and a great Friend of the Arkansas Jaycees .Our Prayers and Condolences to your families. Norman Clifton.

Norman Clifton - February 22 at 10:34 PM



“ Claudette Comstock lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ray Barnes Gilbert



Claudette Comstock - February 22 at 08:45 PM



“ Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Mr. Ray Barnes Gilbert.



February 22 at 07:19 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mr. Ray Barnes Gilbert.

February 22 at 07:19 PM

DR

“ DeAnna Ray lit a candle in memory of Mr. Ray Barnes Gilbert



DeAnna Ray - February 22 at 12:34 PM

TW

“ Todd and Pam Wallworth purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Mr. Ray Barnes Gilbert.



Todd and Pam Wallworth - February 22 at 10:44 AM

TW

“ Todd and Pam Wallworth planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Ray Barnes Gilbert.

Todd and Pam Wallworth - February 22 at 10:44 AM



“ Serene Reflections Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Ray Barnes Gilbert.



February 22 at 09:47 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mr. Ray Barnes Gilbert.

February 22 at 09:47 AM



“ Neal, Cindy, Ella, and Harper purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mr. Ray Barnes Gilbert.



Neal, Cindy, Ella, and Harper - February 22 at 08:39 AM