



Mr. Roy Ragie VanHorn

August 4, 1943 - May 1, 2026

Roy Ragie VanHorn, born August 4, 1943, to Luther and Vera VanHorn, departed this life May 1, 2026, leaving behind a legacy rooted in love, hard work, and unforgettable memories. Ragie was preceded in death by his parents, four sisters Rosalyn Connor, Ebreña Connor, Virginia Place, and Doris Dye and two brothers Winiford and Virgil VanHorn. He was a devoted husband, a proud father, a cherished grandfather, and a beloved great-grandfather whose presence will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Ragie was married to the love of his life, Sandra Beason VanHorn, with whom he built a life centered on family and unwavering commitment. Together they raised a family that was his greatest pride and joy. He is survived by his two sons, Ragie Burt VanHorn, Kelly Layman and his special daughter, Ann West VanHorn, both of whom carry forward his strength, values, and spirit.

He was a proud grandfather to Jessica Miller (Codi) of Dewitt and James Ross VanHorn (Bailey) of Beebe, who brought him endless joy. His legacy continues through his six great-grandchildren—Hayden, Brantley, Reid, Kase, Kenzi, and Lane—each of whom held a special place in his heart.

Known as a barbecue legend to family and friends, Ragie had a gift for bringing people together around good food and even better company. You could often find him in his signature blue jean overalls, steady and dependable, with not a hair ever out of place. He lived simply, loved deeply, and left a lasting impression on everyone fortunate enough to cross his path.

Ragie's life was a testament to the importance of family, tradition, and staying true to who you are. His memory will live on in the stories shared, the lessons taught, and the love that continues through generations.

He will be forever loved and never forgotten.

Visitation will be 5-7 p.m. Tuesday, May 5 at Essex Funeral Home. Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. May 6 at First Baptist Church in Gillett with burial in Gillett Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Gillett Cemetery

Gillett, AR 72055

Upcoming Events

Visitation

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

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

Service

MAY 6. 10:30 AM.

First Baptist Church of Gillett

Tribute Wall

MM

“ *Minnie Mannis lit a candle in memory of Mr. Roy Ragie VanHorn*



Minnie Mannis - 2 hours ago