



Marion F. Graves

September 24, 1928 - June 14, 2013

Marion “Fay” Graves, of Muskogee, Oklahoma passed away Friday, June 14, 2013, at 2:05 a.m., at the age of 84. He was born in Delaware, Arkansas and was the youngest of three siblings born to Marion Monroe Graves and Ada Faye Stinnett Graves. He grew up in Boynton, Oklahoma where he attended school and graduated in 1947. Marion was an all-state basketball player and led Boynton High School to a state championship. He loved basketball and continued to play until his 40’s. He also loved his OU Sooners and OKC Thunder.

Marion married his high school sweetheart, Hazel Wilson, in 1950. Their first daughter, Shirley, was born in 1951 and their second daughter, Debi, was born in 1960. Marion worked at Basolo Auto Parts for 20 years and was known as the best “parts man” in town. He could remember any number given to him and still could at the time of his death. He later worked at BF Goodrich and then opened his own restaurant, “The Lunch Box”, all the while serving as a minister of music. Marion eventually would answer the call into full time ministry. His first church was Timothy Baptist where he served for over 10 years and then to Wainwright First Baptist where he served for over 20 years. His whole mission in life was to preach the gospel and win people to the Lord. He didn’t care what their circumstances were; their race, age, soul status – all he cared about was witnessing to whoever would listen. Even though his heart was in bad condition from the age of 57, nothing ever stopped him from preaching the gospel. He loved to sing and play the guitar which many of

those songs were ones he wrote. Marion would also go and sing with a local quartet until his health would not allow him to do so. He also enjoyed visiting Armstrong Bank, where his daughter worked, and would sit in the lobby, eat popcorn, and talk to the “girls.”

Recently, Marion started having hip pain which incapacitated him. He still preached every Sunday at Northside Baptist Church, in spite of the pain, until the day he died. He knew the hip surgery was risky, but he said if he couldn't serve the Lord then he would be much happier in Heaven. The first thing he said right out of surgery was, “When can I preach again?”

Marion loved life and enjoyed nothing more than coaching, watching his grandkids and great grandkids at their sporting events and activities. He was most noted for his ministry at hospitals and nursing homes of whom, in most cases, he didn't even know the people he was visiting.

He loved his two daughters, Shirley Hilton and Debi Ousley more than one can imagine. They frequently gave him sermon topics! Both his daughters were very proud of their father and how he was always there for anyone in need.

Marion was preceded in death by his parents, Marion Monroe and Ada Faye Graves; his wife, Hazel Marie Graves; his granddaughter, Kristen Ousley; and his grandson, Austin Ousley.

He is survived by his two daughters, Shirley Hilton, Debi Ousley and husband, Brian; his grandchildren, Whitney Hilton Thomas and husband, Rusty, all of Muskogee, Nick Hilton of Phoenix, AZ.; Morgan Ousley, Brooklynn Ousley and Jordan Ousley all of Muskogee; his two great grandchildren, Aubrey Ousley and Reagan McKee of Muskogee; his two sisters, Wanda Denney of Council Hill and Gilbretta Graves of Oklahoma City; numerous brother-in-laws, sister-in-laws, nieces, nephews, and friends, that were like family.

Funeral services celebrating the life of Marion will be 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 18, 2013 at First Baptist Church in Muskogee with Pastor Kent Kellogg and Rev. Bob Shoemake officiating. Interment will follow at Memorial Park Cemetery in Muskogee with Nick Hilton, Jordan Ousley, Jim Webb, James

Webb, Matt Webb, Chris Atwell, Gary Atwell, Tommy Wilson, and Jimmy Wilson serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers will be his special friends: Joe Kelley, Bob Shoemake, David Brown, Ed Raley, Lee Gibson, Zane Harding, Bob Denton, and Ron Ziegler.

Cemetery Details

Memorial Park Cemetery

7600 Old Taft Rd.
Muskogee, OK 74401

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 16. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Cornerstone Funeral Home & Crematory
1830 North York Street
Muskogee, OK 74403
(918) 682-1500

Visitation

JUN 17. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Cornerstone Funeral Home & Crematory
1830 North York Street
Muskogee, OK 74403
(918) 682-1500

Visitation

JUN 17. 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Cornerstone Funeral Home & Crematory
1830 North York Street
Muskogee, OK 74403
(918) 682-1500

Service

JUN 18. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church Muskogee
111 S. 7th Street
Muskogee, OK 74401

Tribute Wall



“ *Marion F. Graves*

October 23, 2023 at 09:38 AM



“ *Shirley, I never knew you very well, even in school, nor did I know your dad, but his obituary was so sweet and really expressed what a wonderful man he was. I wish I had known him. Please accept my deepest condolences.*

Margaret Butler

Margaret Butler - June 19, 2013 at 10:49 AM



“ *What a precious man, Bro Marion. We were privileged to know him from the gospel singing conventions he would attend when he was able. We pray for God to comfort each one of you and that you will meet your loved one on Heaven's Bright Shore when the time comes.*

Jerry & Carol Sue Willcutt

Jerry & Carol Sue Willcutt - June 18, 2013 at 11:12 PM



BU

“*Brother Marion was special man. My wife and him shared heart problems and he was our Oklahoma pastor. We live in Longview Texas, one day when he was preaching at Wainwright. We walked in door, six months after her surgery and he was having prayer for her. We first got to know brother Marion through singing conventions and formed lasting relationship even though was long distance. He was truly servant of GOD. He will be missed.*

brad usrey - June 18, 2013 at 09:08 PM

CB

“*Dear Shirley and Debbie,*

We are so sorry to hear of the passing of your dear father. He has meant so much to our family through the years. I have known him all of my life and loved that he was always interested in me and my family when we would get together with him and your mother, Hazel. He was a part of my wedding 19 years ago and it meant so much to me that he was there for us on that day. I am so sorry that I am unable to attend his funeral today but know he is rejoicing in heaven with all the saints that went before him. My sincere sympathy to both of you and your families as you deal with this great loss of someone who loved all of you dearly.

May the peace of Christ give you strength as you go through this day and days ahead.

With sincere sympathy,

*Claudia Holdridge Bartlett, Bart Bartlett, Trey Bartlett and Sarah Bartlett
Sapulpa, OK*

Claudia Bartlett - June 18, 2013 at 12:34 PM



LJ

“ Dear Shirley and Family - So very sorry to hear of your Dads passing. He was a wonderful person. Back in the day I worked in the Commercial Bank Building and ate at the Club Lunch several times and got to know your Dad then.

With my deepest sympathy - Linda (McKenzie) Johnson

Linda Johnson - June 18, 2013 at 08:31 AM



“ Shirley, I am so sorry to hear about the loss of your father. He was truly a great man. I have fond memories of us trying our hand at tennis one evening and going to the Lunch Box afterwards to hunt for a snack. I really enjoyed eating lunch there. Our prayers and sympathies for your family.

Fran Keown - June 17, 2013 at 10:25 PM



DF

“ So sorry to hear of your loss. I got to know Marion at Calvary Baptist Church. He was the nicest person, always friendly and ready to share God's word. He will be missed. Thoughts and prayers for God's comfort to the family.

Diane Few - June 17, 2013 at 11:52 AM



BL

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you all during this difficult time. Marion was a wonderful man who had Jesus in his heart & life and shared that love with us all.

It was an honor to know him. He will be deeply missed.

Bobby & Tammy Lee - June 17, 2013 at 09:19 AM

NC

“ Brother Marion was a blessing to everyone that knew him. I am so grateful for the time that I knew him and I am so sad to hear of his passing but I know where he is! My thoughts and prayers are with your family.

Nelita Cash - June 16, 2013 at 07:45 PM

KS

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with your entire family. We regret that we will be unable to attend the services. Marion meant so much to all of us. We are sharing our wonderful memories of him.

Norma Holdridge, Dorma Holdridge, Bob and June Dotson, Karen Holdridge Swick and Nina Overmon

Karen Swick - June 16, 2013 at 07:15 PM

GB

“ Shirley and Debbie - your loss is so great right now but just think of the celebration in Heaven! That makes me want to go! You had the best Dad (and I had the best Uncle a person could ever have. We were so blessed to have him. He was loving, caring and would have done anything for any of us. No matter what, this summer I was going to see him and that really makes me sad. He will be missed forever! Much love and blessings to you! Gail Biggerstaff

gail biggerstaff - June 16, 2013 at 05:02 PM

DE

“ I'm sorry to hear of his passing. He married my husband and I and I will miss his sense of humor. He talked with my father before Dad passed away and also comforted all of us. He will be missed.

Deanna Eichelberger - June 16, 2013 at 07:59 AM

HH

“ *What a wonderful man who touched my life in many ways. You were loved and you will be missed. Say hi to granny, grampa, and Terry.*

Holly Newton Hutchison - June 16, 2013 at 02:13 AM

BA

“ *A wonderful man and dear friend to so many. The world was a better place with you here and you will be missed. See you again someday.....*

Brenda Anderson - June 15, 2013 at 11:40 PM

SS

“ *Wonderful man. Will be greatly missed my many.*



Shonda Gorton Scott - June 15, 2013 at 09:09 PM

BB

“ *I am Buena Tarpley Beller, the daughter of F.Tarpley, the singing school teacher who taught Brother Graves how to read music and sing. My Dad thought the world of him and enjoyed his fine bass voice. We express our sympathy to the family. He was a good man.*

Buena Tarpley Beller - June 15, 2013 at 04:13 PM

CN

“ *This was a great man. He will be missed. Your family is in our thoughts and prayers!!*

Casey Nichols - June 15, 2013 at 01:17 PM

LB

Yes sir!

Lance Bennett - June 15, 2013 at 08:31 PM

SG

I got to know Marion at Timothy Baptist Church and he used to visit my Grandma and Grandpa Jewel/Adell Simmons, Adene Goings and Virnie Hogan. He was the kindest nicest man ever. I used to run when I would see him and jump on him and give him the biggest hug ever when I was much younger. He then owned/worked the Lunch Box with my great aunts and grandparents. I enjoyed coming to Oklahoma each summer and spending it around all of them. Marion was a wonderful person and I have such great memories of such a wonderful man. He will truly be missed!

Sonya Gordon - June 16, 2013 at 10:07 PM