



Alva Jasper "A.J." Coates

August 28, 1928 - September 24, 2024

Mr. Alva Jasper "A.J." Coates, age 96, passed away at his home on September 24, 2024, surrounded by his loving family. Born on August 28, 1928, in Centerville, Tennessee, A.J. spent his entire life in the place he loved most, raising his family just a stone's throw from the old schoolhouse on Defeated Creek where he spent his childhood.

On Christmas Day in 1950, A.J. married the love of his life, Willie B., in a ceremony that would mark the beginning of their nearly 73-year journey together. The joy of Christmas morning stayed with them for decades, as they built a home filled with love and laughter every year Christmas was more than a holiday in the Coates household-it was a celebration of their enduring love and the life they had created together.

A dedicated worker, A.J. spent over forty years serving the community as a road grader operator for the Hickman County Highway Department. A.J. took great pride in his work and his colleagues admired him for it. A.J. was not only known for his deep connection to the community but also for his unwavering dedication to the Masonic Lodge #618, where he was a proud and active member for 28 years. He embodied the values of service, charity and brotherhood that the Masons hold dear. Beyond his Masonic work A.J. was a man of deep faith and devotion. For over 50 years, he was a faithful member of the Centerville Church of Christ, where he worshiped, served and formed

lifelong friendships. His deep faith was the foundation upon which he built his life – a life centered on love, family, and his commitment to helping others. His home was always filled with music, and those close to him will forever remember the joy he brought when strumming his guitar or playing the fiddle. A.J. was a proud member of the Grinder's Switch Skillet Lickers Band, where he showcased his talent on the fiddle. His music made even the simplest moments magical.

A.J. is preceded in death by his parents, Walter Coates and Estelle Coates, brothers, Walter A. Coates Jr., Arthur Coates, William Coates, Rash Elkins Jr., Charlie Elkins, sisters, Addie Bell Nash, Annie Mai Coates, Ethel Lindley, and Nell Hickman.

Those left to cherish his memory are his loving wife Mrs. Willie B. Coates, of Centerville, Tennessee, daughter, Melissa (Mark) Filson, of Dickson, Tennessee, daughter, Melinda (Ed) Sullivan, of Nunnely, Tennessee and son, Ronald Coates, of Centerville, Tennessee. Grandchildren, Marcy (Brock) Brooks, Marny (Josh) Mullins, Matthew (Barbie) Filson, Marlee (Ricky) Corn, Maggie Filson, Douglas (Katy) Gammons, Jennifer (Derrick) Mnick, Jeff (Dana) Sullivan, Jon (Leslie) Sullivan, great grandchildren, Jeb (Morgan) Brooks, Jaime Brooks, Owen Mullins, Ethan Mullins, Ian Mullins, Dean Filson, Autumn Filson, Connor Butts, Logan Butts, Kaidence Butts, Landon Gammons, Layton Gammons, Parker Mnick, Emmerson Mnick, Carson Mnick, Rachel Sullivan, Rylee Sullivan, Rebekah Sullivan, and great great-granddaughter, Charlotte Butts. Along with extended family, Carol (John) West, of Centerville, Tennessee, Ben (Alexandria) West, of Centerville, Tennessee and two fur babies Tabby and Bucky.

The family wishes to recognize the following as honorary pallbearers, Masonic Brothers, Brock Brooks, Marcy Brooks, Andy Coates, James Coates, Phil Coates, Marlee Corn, Ricky Corn, Maggie Filson, Josh Hensel, Derrick Mnick,

Jennifer Mnick, Josh Mullins, Marny Mullins, Danny Primm, Jeff Sullivan and Jon Sullivan.

The following individuals will serve as pallbearers, Jeb Brooks, Connor Butts, Logan Butts, Dean Filson, Matthew Filson, Douglas Gammons, Landon Gammons, Layton Gammons, Carson Mnick, Parker Mnick, Ethan Mullins, Ian Mullins, Owen Mullins, and Ben West.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in A.J.'s name to Centerville Church of Christ.

Centerville Church of Christ

138 N. Central Ave.

Centerville, TN 37033

<https://centervillechurchofchrist.org/give/>

Cemetery Details

Coates Cemetery

Centerville, TN 37033

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 27. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

McDonald Funeral Home, Inc. - Hickman County
102 West End Ave.
Centerville, TN 37033
(931) 729-3561

Masonic Service

SEP 27. 7:30 PM (CT)

McDonald Funeral Home, Inc. - Hickman County
102 West End Ave.
Centerville, TN 37033
(931) 729-3561

Funeral Service

SEP 28. 1:00 PM (CT)

McDonald Funeral Home, Inc. - Hickman County
102 West End Ave.
Centerville, TN 37033
(931) 729-3561

Tribute Wall

MC

“ *Maelynn Campbell lit a candle in memory of Alva Coates*



Maelynn Campbell - October 13, 2024 at 08:27 PM

SA

“ *I have seen Mr. Coates play the fiddle and the band harmonized together. He was such fine Christian man. He was loved by many.*

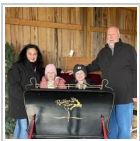
Steve A Atkinson - September 29, 2024 at 05:51 PM

SA

“ *Steve A Atkinson lit a candle in memory of Alva Jasper "A.J." Coates*



Steve A Atkinson - September 29, 2024 at 05:48 PM



“ *Sandi Westover lit a candle in memory of Alva Coates*



Sandi Westover - September 28, 2024 at 04:48 PM

DI

“ *He was a gentleman in every facet of his long life*

douglas Bates III - September 28, 2024 at 04:07 PM

JR

“ *Julie Russell lit a candle in memory of Alva Coates*



Julie Russell - September 28, 2024 at 03:43 PM

JR

“ *A genuinely good man who will be greatly missed. His unconditional love for, dedication to and pride in his family was always evident. He was caring, entertaining, funny, kind, knowledgeable, thoughtful and so much more. His talent for music and playing the fiddle brought joy to those who witnessed it. He will never be forgotten and may he rest in peace. Prayers for the family that their lifetime of memories will be of comfort to them at this sad time.*
Wayne & Julie & Family



Julie Russell - September 28, 2024 at 03:42 PM

EC

“ *Praying for all the family during this time.*

Eddie Chisholm - September 27, 2024 at 03:13 PM



“ *What a fine Christian man. Mr. Coates lived a life that all should aspire to model oneself on.....my prayers and thoughts for his family...R.I.P Sir*



James Arthur (Tank) and Dana Atkinson - September 27, 2024 at 03:02 PM



“ *AJ was a wonderful man. We will miss him and pray for all his family.*



Glenda Coates - September 27, 2024 at 01:58 PM



“ *We are so sorry for your loss! May God comfort you and give you peace. Prayers for all of his family. Debbie and Keith Semore*



Debbie Semore - September 27, 2024 at 01:25 PM



“ *Bobby/Sandy McFarlin lit a candle in memory of Alva Coates*



Bobby/Sandy McFarlin - September 27, 2024 at 11:15 AM

GJ

“ *Glenda Jones lit a candle in memory of Alva Coates*



Glenda Jones - September 27, 2024 at 09:51 AM

SG

“ *Stanley & Judy Gordon lit a candle in memory of Alva Coates*



Stanley & Judy Gordon - September 27, 2024 at 09:14 AM

MD

“ *Mr. Coates was a good man who was admired by family. He earned the respect of all who knew him. My deepest condolences. He will be missed.*



Mike Dorton. - September 27, 2024 at 09:14 AM

RS

“ *Renee Shepard sent a virtual gift in memory of Alva Coates*



Renee Shepard - September 26, 2024 at 07:27 PM

KB

“ *Kimberly Broadbent lit a candle in memory of Alva Coates*



Kimberly Broadbent - September 26, 2024 at 03:58 PM

CB

“ *Connie Bowen lit a candle in memory of Alva Coates*



Connie Bowen - September 26, 2024 at 02:22 PM

CT

“ *CHUCK TALLEY lit a candle in memory of Alva Coates*



CHUCK TALLEY - September 26, 2024 at 01:25 PM

GG

“ *So very sorry for your loss. He was such a sweet person. Sending prayers for all the family.*



Gail Gammonss - September 26, 2024 at 12:46 PM

WL

“ *Wilbur & Dianne Lancaster lit a candle in memory of Alva Jasper "A.J." Coates*



Wilbur & Dianne Lancaster - September 26, 2024 at 11:34 AM



“ *So sorry. Remembering those days at Genesco. Charles*



Charles & Glenda C. Gilmer - September 26, 2024 at 10:35 AM



“ *His legacy will shine on! A good man who always greeted with a smile!*



Jewell Prince - September 26, 2024 at 09:28 AM

RR

“ *Very kind and thoughtful man, he will be missed by many!!!*



Ray Ragsdale - September 26, 2024 at 07:49 AM

RH

“ *Rita Hayes lit a candle in memory of Alva Jasper "A.J." Coates*



Rita Hayes - September 26, 2024 at 05:57 AM

SR

“ *Sharon Bates Rochelle lit a candle in memory of Alva Jasper "A.J." Coates*



Sharon Bates Rochelle - September 26, 2024 at 12:06 AM

MR

“ *Margaret Roberts lit a candle in memory of Alva Jasper "A.J." Coates*



Margaret Roberts - September 25, 2024 at 11:38 PM

RT

“ *Rhonda Taylor lit a candle in memory of Alva Jasper "A.J." Coates*



Rhonda Taylor - September 25, 2024 at 11:33 PM

LG

“ *Lonnie & Marilyn Gilliam lit a candle in memory of Alva Jasper "A.J." Coates*



Lonnie & Marilyn Gilliam - September 25, 2024 at 11:06 PM

CM

“ *Cheeva McClearen lit a candle in memory of Alva Jasper "A.J." Coates*



Cheeva McClearen - September 25, 2024 at 09:46 PM

CS

“ *A humble Christian man who lived his life doing good.*



Charlotte Staggs - September 25, 2024 at 08:34 PM

LG

“ *Lonnie & Diane Garrett lit a candle in memory of Alva Jasper "A.J." Coates*



Lonnie & Diane Garrett - September 25, 2024 at 08:26 PM

SA

“ Steve A Atkinson lit a candle in memory of Alva Jasper "A.J." Coates



Steve A Atkinson - September 25, 2024 at 08:18 PM

CM

“ Casey And Christie Simmons And Kay Marti lit a candle in memory of Alva Jasper "A.J." Coates



Casey and Christie Simmons and Kay Marti - September 25, 2024 at 07:29 PM

RM

“ Roy & Sharon McCoy lit a candle in memory of Alva Jasper "A.J." Coates



Roy & Sharon McCoy - September 25, 2024 at 07:06 PM

LD

“ Prayers for the family during these difficult days ahead.



Laura DeLong - September 25, 2024 at 05:57 PM

LG

“ Ronald and family We are so sorry to read about his passing. May God comfort you and your family during this difficult time. 🙏🙏🙏

Lonnie and Marilyn Gilliam - September 25, 2024 at 05:41 PM

KO

“ Kyle Orman lit a candle in memory of Alva Coates



Kyle Orman - September 25, 2024 at 05:08 PM

RS

“ We're so sorry & he will be missed with his smiling face.

Regina & Martha Shelton - September 25, 2024 at 03:34 PM

RH

“ We are thinking of u.

Ruby & Rex Horner - September 25, 2024 at 03:33 PM

RB

“ Randall-Sandra Barber lit a candle in memory of Alva Coates



Randall-Sandra Barber - September 25, 2024 at 03:08 PM

JW

“ Janet Wright sent a virtual gift in memory of Alva Coates



Janet Wright - September 25, 2024 at 02:49 PM

MB

“ MICHAEL BATES sent a virtual gift in memory of Alva Coates



MICHAEL BATES - September 25, 2024 at 02:43 PM

FD

“ Faye Daniels lit a candle in memory of Alva Coates



Faye Daniels - September 25, 2024 at 02:33 PM

JG

“ John & Wanda Givens lit a candle in memory of Alva Coates



John & Wanda Givens - September 25, 2024 at 01:39 PM