



## Jerry Wayne Bates

September 16, 1942 - January 12, 2025

Jerry Wayne Bates

September 16, 1942 – January 12, 2025

Jerry Wayne Bates, a devoted husband, father, brother, and cherished member of the Centerville community, passed away peacefully on January 12, 2025, at the age of 82. Born on September 16, 1942, on the family farm along Beaverdam Creek in Centerville, Tennessee, Jerry's arrival was special—he was lovingly delivered by his grandmother Bates. Farming would become the heart of his life, a place of solace, hard work, and joy.

Jerry was the son of the late Earl Woodrow and Mary Tom Shepard Bates, who instilled in him a strong sense of family, faith, and community. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Barbara Nickell Bates, and his brother, Charles Bates.

He is survived by his loving wife, Linda Breece Bates of Centerville; his children, Russell Bates (Ben Scott) of Nashville and Michelle Bates of Nolensville; his sisters, Wilma Bates Wade (C.W.) of Columbia and Kaye Bates Holland (Mac) of Brentwood; and his brothers, Don Bates (Brenda) of Coopertown and Rick Bates (Mellie) of Nolensville.

Jerry's life was grounded in faith attending the Centerville Church of Christ, where he built lifelong friendships and a deep connection to his spiritual community. He also found fellowship as a proud member of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias, living out their values of charity, benevolence, and brotherhood.

After serving his country with pride in the U.S. Army and the Tennessee National Guard, Jerry returned to his roots in Centerville, where his love for his hometown shone in everything he did. As a farmer, Jerry worked the land with dedication and skill, finding peace and purpose in the rhythm of farm life. He and his wife Linda also operated the iconic Breece's Café on the Centerville Square, where he shared his incredible talent for cooking—most famously his chicken and dumplings, a dish that brought family, friends, and neighbors together time and again.

Jerry had a warm and magnetic personality, the kind of man who never met a stranger. His table in the back corner of the dining room became a gathering place for friends and visitors alike. Whether discussing the events of the day, sharing a laugh, or simply enjoying the company of others, Jerry's presence

made every conversation memorable.

In addition to his community and culinary talents, Jerry had a passion for travel. He loved exploring new places, making new friends, and creating lasting memories with those he loved most.

Jerry was a man of many gifts, but perhaps his greatest was the way he made people feel. His laughter, kindness, and unwavering sense of hospitality were unmatched. From the friendships he built at Skyview Country Club to his leadership on the Hickman County School Board, Jerry lived a life of service and connection.

One of Jerry's greatest joys was his farm on Milam Branch and Beaverdam Creek. There, he found peace among the rolling hills, the hard work of the land, the lowing cattle, and the timeless beauty of nature. It was his sanctuary, and it reflected the quiet strength and steadfast heart of the man who loved it.

Jerry's life was a testament to the power of faith, family, and friendship. Though he is no longer with us, his legacy lives on in the hearts of those he touched and in the community he loved so deeply.

“Well done, good and faithful servant.”

In lieu of flowers, the family ask memorial donations may be given in his honor to the Morrison-Nicks Scholarship Fund. You may send payments to c/o Centerville Church of Christ, 138 N Central Ave., Centerville, TN 37033.

# Cemetery Details

## Charles L Nickell Memorial Park

Centerville, TN 37033

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 17. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

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

## Visitation

JAN 18. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

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

## Funeral Service

JAN 18. 11:00 AM (CT)

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



# Tribute Wall

LK

“ *Lisa King lit a candle in memory of Jerry Wayne Bates*



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**Lisa king** - January 29, 2025 at 06:23 PM

LL

“ *Laura Love lit a candle in memory of Jerry Wayne Bates*



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**laura Love** - January 21, 2025 at 01:01 AM

LS

“ *Last year, Ray and I were riding around in Gulf Shores with Jerry and Ms. Linda. Ms. Linda was driving, Jerry was riding shotgun, and we were in the back seat. As we were making a turn, Jerry suddenly blurted out, "short", right before Ms. Linda's wheels bounced over the edge of the curb. Ray and I looked at each other and burst out laughing. Just the matter of fact way he said it, like it was nothing new, cracked me up and I will never forget it. He was a very cool guy, and we will certainly miss him.*

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**Lisa Sullivan** - January 18, 2025 at 10:17 AM

RG

“ Robert and Bobbie Graf. lit a candle in memory of Jerry Bates



Robert and Bobbie Graf. - January 18, 2025 at 08:59 AM

WL

“ Wilbur & Dianne Lancaster lit a candle in memory of Jerry Bates



Wilbur & Dianne Lancaster - January 17, 2025 at 08:30 PM

MA

“ MaelynnCampbell lit a candle in memory of Jerry Bates



MaelynnCampbell - January 17, 2025 at 07:04 PM

LM

“ Your guidance and kindness are everlasting.



LMF - January 17, 2025 at 11:40 AM

LG

“ *Lonnie & Marilyn Gilliam sent a virtual gift in memory of Jerry Wayne Bates*



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**Lonnie & Marilyn Gilliam** - January 17, 2025 at 09:59 AM

TT

“ *Teresa Totty lit a candle in memory of Jerry Wayne Bates*



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**Teresa Totty** - January 16, 2025 at 10:40 PM

NS

“ *So sorry for your loss. Jerry was a kind man. Always enjoyed seeing him. Our thoughts and prayers are with you through this difficult time.*

*Roger and Nancy Sullivan*

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**Nancy Sullivan** - January 16, 2025 at 10:36 PM

BB

*I'm so sorry to hear of Jerry's passing. He was a very kind man who always said hello with a smile. I am praying for his family.*

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**Billie Brunell** - January 17, 2025 at 10:42 AM

TC

“ Teresa Carroll lit a candle in memory of Jerry Wayne Bates



Teresa Carroll - January 16, 2025 at 08:35 PM

RG

“ Ronald Gatewood lit a candle in memory of Jerry Wayne Bates



Ronald Gatewood - January 15, 2025 at 03:48 PM

CS

“ Charlotte M Staggs sent a virtual gift in memory of Jerry Wayne Bates



Charlotte M Staggs - January 15, 2025 at 02:58 PM

CM

“ Carolyn Moss sent a virtual gift in memory of Jerry Wayne Bates



Carolyn Moss - January 15, 2025 at 02:35 PM

JA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Jim Adams** - January 15, 2025 at 02:08 PM



“ Paula Crowder lit a candle in memory of Jerry Wayne Bates



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**Paula Crowder** - January 15, 2025 at 02:01 PM

RG

“ Ronald Gammons lit a candle in memory of Jerry Wayne Bates



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**Ronald Gammons** - January 15, 2025 at 11:14 AM

KH

“ My deepest of sympathy to Linda and the Family. While I did not personally know him, growing up in Centerville I heard wonderful things about him and Linda throughout my life. I recall when my Mom & I were in Dickson at Logan's a few years ago Jerry & Linda were dining in a booth close to us and of course they all caught up in conversation. I am so sorry for your loss. Love, sympathy and prayers to you all.

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**Kathy Hamilton** - January 15, 2025 at 11:02 AM

DW

“ So sorry. Prayers for all the family.

*Dorinda Wilson*



**DORINDA A WILSON** - January 15, 2025 at 10:24 AM



“ Wanda Gossett lit a candle in memory of Jerry Wayne Bates



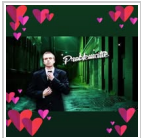
**Wanda Gossett** - January 15, 2025 at 09:51 AM

GC

“ Greg And Leah Conder lit a candle in memory of Jerry Wayne Bates



**Greg and Leah Conder** - January 15, 2025 at 07:51 AM



“ So sorry to all of you for your loss, he was a great man



**Tarra Tarra** - January 14, 2025 at 11:04 PM

KF

“ *Kilpatrick Family lit a candle in memory of Jerry Wayne Bates*



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**Kilpatrick Family** - January 14, 2025 at 09:54 PM

JM

“ *Janie McCord lit a candle in memory of Jerry Wayne Bates*



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**Janie McCord** - January 14, 2025 at 09:25 PM

PC

“ *A Good Man and Friend to all. Enjoyed conversations when cutting his Hair. He will b deeply missed* ❤️🙏❤️🙏❤️

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**Penny Creech** - January 14, 2025 at 08:26 PM

JM

“ *My deepest sympathy and prayers for Linda and all the family*



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**Joyce Aldridge McDaniel** - January 14, 2025 at 07:32 PM

KC

“ *Kay Campbell lit a candle in memory of Jerry Wayne Bates*



**Kay Campbell** - January 14, 2025 at 07:30 PM

AL

“ *I have some wonderful memories working at Breece's Cafe and always enjoyed my interactions with Mr. Jerry. He was always kind. Always smiling and laughing. Prayers for his family.*

**Allyson Lampley** - January 14, 2025 at 07:03 PM

LD

“ *So sorry! Prayers for comfort for Linda, Russell and Michelle! Jerry was a good man and will be missed by all who knew him!!*



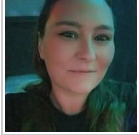
**Laura DeLong** - January 14, 2025 at 07:00 PM

TH

“ *Tracy Hannum lit a candle in memory of Jerry Wayne Bates*



**Tracy Hannum** - January 14, 2025 at 06:37 PM



“ *Mary Malugin lit a candle in memory of Jerry Wayne Bates*



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**Mary Malugin** - January 14, 2025 at 06:33 PM

ES

“ *Ed And Melinda Sullivan lit a candle in memory of Jerry Wayne Bates*



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**Ed and Melinda Sullivan** - January 14, 2025 at 05:54 PM

CM

“ *Cheeva McClearen lit a candle in memory of Jerry Wayne Bates*



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**Cheeva McClearen** - January 14, 2025 at 05:28 PM

CA

“ *I can close my eyes and see Jerry and Linda sitting in their corner table. Next comes Michelle and Russell. It was always a pleasure to watch them sit and chat, laughing and enjoying one another. Jerry Loved Linda and Jerry Loved his kids! He was so kind, so happy and FUN. He was a hard worker (that's an understatement for that entire family) and never complained. I love my memories of Jerry and the entire Breece's Cafe Family. He will be missed.*

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**Cassidy Alexander** - January 14, 2025 at 05:17 PM



“ Oh, Linda, Michelle and Russell, I am so very sorry to hear this. You all have always been family to us. You are in my prayers. I love you all.



Carri Scott - January 14, 2025 at 05:06 PM



“ I'm so sorry for your loss. Prayers for strength, comfort and peace.



Debbie Semore - January 14, 2025 at 04:59 PM



“ Becky Palmer lit a candle in memory of Jerry Bates



Becky Palmer - January 14, 2025 at 04:11 PM



“ Sissy Scroggins lit a candle in memory of Jerry Wayne Bates



Sissy Scroggins - January 14, 2025 at 03:50 PM

BM

“ We have loved and appreciated Jerry for many years. He was a true and kind friend. Our thoughts and sympathy to Linda, Russell, Michelle, and extended family. May they find peace and comfort in the upcoming days!



Bobby/Sandy McFarlin - January 14, 2025 at 03:43 PM



“ Sandi Westover lit a candle in memory of Jerry Wayne Bates



Sandi Westover - January 14, 2025 at 03:38 PM



“ I work with jerry at the cafe many year he going to be miss.

Hazel King - January 14, 2025 at 03:34 PM



“ Hazel King lit a candle in memory of Jerry Wayne Bates



Hazel King - January 14, 2025 at 03:33 PM

TG

“ Tony and Carol Garrette lit a candle in memory of Jerry Bates



Tony and Carol Garrette - January 14, 2025 at 02:47 PM

RS

“ Renee Shepard sent a virtual gift in memory of Jerry Bates



Renee Shepard - January 14, 2025 at 02:44 PM

CB

“ Connie Bowen lit a candle in memory of Jerry Bates



Connie Bowen - January 14, 2025 at 02:39 PM

PS

“ Pat Sullivan lit a candle in memory of Jerry Bates



Pat Sullivan - January 14, 2025 at 02:10 PM

RB

“ *Randall-Sandra Barber lit a candle in memory of Jerry Bates*



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**Randall-Sandra Barber** - January 14, 2025 at 01:11 PM

MB

“ *Michael Bates sent a virtual gift in memory of Jerry Bates*



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**Michael Bates** - January 14, 2025 at 11:49 AM

RH

“ *We are thinking of you.*

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**Ruby & Rex Horner** - January 14, 2025 at 11:45 AM

RS

“ *We are thinking of the nice man & will be missed.*

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**Regina & Martha Shelton** - January 14, 2025 at 11:44 AM

JW

*Malcolm Harrington And Caren live on Jerry's farm for years .Thay love it there on the creek running though the yard .It was always peaceful and quiet. Jerry was always so nice to us .Help us out any way he could he's going to be miss.Prayers for his wife Linda.*

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**Joyce Williams** - January 14, 2025 at 04:21 PM

SG

“ Stanley & Judy Gordon lit a candle in memory of Jerry Bates



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**Stanley & Judy Gordon** - January 14, 2025 at 11:44 AM