



## William Clay Rochelle

March 5, 1994 - October 8, 2022

William Clay “Billy” Rochelle

March 5, 1994 – October 8, 2022

Billy was born in Nashville and raised in Nunnelly, TN, on his family’s farm. A simple man, not much made Billy happier than farming, spending time with his family and friends, and worshipping the Lord. Billy was a fifth generation farmer and loved farming with his dad, whom he greatly looked up to, along with his grandfather.

Billy was full of life, never met a stranger, and could smile and laugh during the hardest of circumstances. He was hard working, resilient, and full of faith every day of his life.

Throughout his years on earth, Billy was a passionate advocate for agriculture. He was greatly involved and excelled in 4-H, fulfilling top leadership roles on State 4-H Council, earning state-level awards, and attending National 4-H Congress. He was involved in the Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers and served on Hickman County’s Farm Bureau Board as Chairman of the Young Farmers and Ranchers. Billy truly loved all things agriculture and enjoyed giving back to his community in any way he could. He donated to the 4-H Foundation, his church, and other organizations annually. He loved serving others.

He attended college at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, where he was a member of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity, served as a UT Agriculture Ambassador, was a Farm Credit Scholar, worked in the UTK Chancellor's office, served on the TN 4-H Foundation Board of Directors, and earned a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and Resource Economics on top of several other accolades. He loved sports, primarily football and basketball, and he was over the moon anytime the UT Vols won a game. He attended the Church of Christ at Nunnely and then the Centerville Church of Christ in which he led prayers, attended Sunday school classes, and took part in fellowship anytime he had the opportunity.

Billy was 28 years old when he died doing what he loved: farming. He was a wonderful Christian, husband, father, son, brother, and friend. He is survived by his wife Ericka Ragland Rochelle, his daughter Harlyn Ruth Rochelle (4 months), his parents Danny and Cheryl Rochelle, his sister Lindsey Rochelle Hensley and brother-in-law Kevin Hensley, his nieces Mattie Elizabeth Hensley (5 years) and Martha Rochelle Hensley (2 years), his best friend Justin Crowe, and his long-time coworker Fernando Sandoval, along with so many other family members and friends.

Visitation will take place Thursday, October 13, from 4-7 PM with a celebration of life to follow at the McDonald Funeral Home in Centerville, TN. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Billy Rochelle Memorial Fund within the Tennessee 4-H Foundation. Donations can be made online at <https://tn4hfoundation.org/donate>. Checks can be made payable to the Tennessee 4-H Foundation and mailed to 2621 Morgan Circle, 205 Morgan Hall, Knoxville, TN 37996. Please mention the Billy Rochelle Memorial Fund on the check.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT 13. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

## Celebration of Life

OCT 13. 7:00 PM (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall

JC

“ Prayers for the family. I'm so sorry for your loss.



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**Jennifer Chastain** - October 15, 2022 at 12:42 PM

CA

“ Celena Atkinson sent a virtual gift in memory of William Clay Rochelle



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**Celena Atkinson** - October 14, 2022 at 10:16 PM

DI

“ Like everyone in Hickman County I am consumed by grief for the tragic loss of one of our sons. I have loved and admired your family all my life and my heart is breaking for you. Your family on both sides and for many generations are Hickman County royalty.

*Doug Bates*

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**Doug Bates III** - October 14, 2022 at 01:02 PM

RG

“ Ronald Gammons lit a candle in memory of William Clay Rochelle



Ronald Gammons - October 14, 2022 at 08:10 AM

CH

“ I can't express how deeply sorry I am for your loss. I pray that God will comfort and watch over your family. Sending love and prayers.  
Carla Hinson



Carla Hinson - October 13, 2022 at 11:47 PM

KH

“ My Deepest of Sympathy to Cheryl, to Danny and to the Family. My Heart breaks for you all. I didn't personally know him but remember his Mom sharing stories, i am so sorry for your loss.

Kathy Hamilton - October 13, 2022 at 08:43 PM

JB

“ I was the pediatrician for both Billy and Lindsey when they were kids. They were both outstanding children and both matured into amazing young adults, which is a testament to their upbringing. As I read all of Billy's accomplishments, I am so proud of him. To the Rochelle family, I am so sorry for your loss. He was an impressive young man.  
Janet Blackwell, M.D.

Janet G Blackwell - October 13, 2022 at 04:24 PM

LH

“ *Loretta Chessor Harrington lit a candle in memory of William Clay Rochelle*



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**Loretta Chessor Harrington** - October 13, 2022 at 01:07 PM

JE

“ *Our last memory of Billy was him carrying his little precious baby into church with his sweet wife beside him. That same day in our service, he led the prayer for the congregation.  
Our love and prayers continue for the Rochelle family.  
Chug and Johnnie Ruth Elrod*



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**Johnnie Elrod** - October 13, 2022 at 10:56 AM

SA

“ *THOUGHTS AND MANY PRAYERS FOR THIS SWEET AND DEAR FAMILY*



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**STEVE AND SUSAN ANGLIN** - October 13, 2022 at 10:12 AM

WT

“ Billy and Lindsey were both excellent students in my 6th grade class at HCMS. Two weeks ago, Billy brought me 40 square bales of grass hay for our horse and goat herd. He took time to stack the bales in the barn which I appreciated. He talked about Ericka teaching school and how little Harlyn was developing a personality. He got out his phone and showed me adorable pictures of Harlyn and said, "Life is good". He was so happy, grinning as he told me about his young family, Lindsey's girls, his parents and his farming plans. Steve and I pray that Ericka, Danny, Cheryl, Lindsey and family can begin to find comfort and peace knowing that Billy loved them, he was proud of them, and he was happy and content with his life.

Wanda and Steve Turner

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Wanda Turner - October 12, 2022 at 07:10 PM

AC

“ Abby Clinkenbeard lit a candle in memory of William Rochelle



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Abby Clinkenbeard - October 12, 2022 at 06:48 PM

DT

“ Love and Prayers to this wonderful family!



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Debbie Thomas - October 12, 2022 at 01:25 PM

GF

“ *Love and prayers for everyone that was touched by Billy. Daryl & Gina Fox*



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**Gina/Daryl Fox** - October 12, 2022 at 09:56 AM

CB

“ *Billy was the type of student every classroom needs. He made the students in the room better with this questions. He was an even better young man. He was a joy to have around Morgan Hall. I am very sorry for your loss. Your family is in my prayers. - Chris Boyer*

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**Chris Boyer** - October 12, 2022 at 05:33 AM

BE

“ *Ben Engelman lit a candle in memory of William Clay Rochelle*



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**Ben Engelman** - October 12, 2022 at 01:05 AM

MS

“ *Ericka,*

*I am so incredibly sorry for the loss of your beloved husband, and your daughter's father. I will keep you all in my prayers for the days ahead.*

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**Megan Singleton** - October 11, 2022 at 10:38 PM

TM

“ Once I had a very stubborn lug nut stuck on a truck wheel. Couldn't get it off with anything I tried. Saw Billy down in the field working on something. I walked down there and asked if he had any tool that might help. He pointed to a ratchet and socket and said, "That'll do it". He knew it would and it did on the first try. He was so willing to share what he had. Billy was such an inspiration to us with his love for others. We'll truly miss him.

Tim and Jane McEntire - October 11, 2022 at 09:22 PM

RJ

“ Prayers for this family. May his memories give you peace and comfort.



Rita Jenkins - October 11, 2022 at 07:38 PM

BJ

“ Brenda Jacobs lit a candle in memory of William Clay Rochelle



Brenda Jacobs - October 11, 2022 at 06:31 PM

WL

“ Wilbur & Dianne Lancaster lit a candle in memory of William Clay Rochelle



Wilbur & Dianne Lancaster - October 11, 2022 at 05:17 PM

AE

“ *Amy Elizer lit a candle in memory of William Clay Rochelle*



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**Amy Elizer** - October 11, 2022 at 02:05 PM

M&

“ *Michael Bates &Michelle Bates &Sara lit a candle in memory of William Clay Rochelle*



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**Michael Bates &Michelle Bates &Sara** - October 11, 2022 at 01:53 PM

FW

“ *Felicia Wilbanks sent a virtual gift in memory of William Clay Rochelle*



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**Felicia Wilbanks** - October 11, 2022 at 01:44 PM

MB

“ *Michael Bates sent a virtual gift in memory of William Clay Rochelle*



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**Michael Bates** - October 11, 2022 at 01:39 PM

SG

“ So sorry for your loss.



Stanley & Judy Gordon - October 11, 2022 at 01:34 PM



“ Sorry for your loss. He was a fine young man.

Brenda Nelson - October 11, 2022 at 01:08 PM

LT

“ My heart breaks for his family, I had the pleasure to know Billy thru my grandmother/grandfather babysitting him and Nunnely Church of Christ. He was a good boy whom grew into a good man. Words cannot express my sadness , prayers for his family and friends.



Lisa Thomison - October 11, 2022 at 12:01 PM

PH

“ Paula Hay lit a candle in memory of William Clay Rochelle



Paula Hay - October 11, 2022 at 11:46 AM

BM

“ *Billy was a wonderful young man. Keeping family in our thoughts and prayers.* ”



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**Bobby/Sandy McFarlin** - October 11, 2022 at 11:04 AM

JH

“ *Joanie And Jim Holtsford lit a candle in memory of William Clay Rochelle* ”



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**Joanie and Jim Holtsford** - October 11, 2022 at 10:32 AM

BN

“ *Watched Billy grow up. He was a fine young man. My prayers are with all of you.* ”

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**brenda nelson** - October 11, 2022 at 10:23 AM

JW

“ *Prayers for the family..* ”



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**Jeff/Janet Wright** - October 11, 2022 at 09:33 AM

CB

“ *Coleen Crowe Bratton lit a candle in memory of William Clay Rochelle*



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**Coleen Crowe Bratton** - October 11, 2022 at 08:59 AM



“ *Teresa Bell lit a candle in memory of William Clay Rochelle*



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**Teresa Bell** - October 11, 2022 at 08:48 AM

AL

“ *Andrea Lee lit a candle in memory of William Clay Rochelle*



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**Andrea Lee** - October 11, 2022 at 08:47 AM

LT

“ *So sorry to hear this , I am deeply saddened . Nanny and Papa loved him so much he was a lovely boy whom grew into a great man . Prayers for all his family. So sorry for your loss*

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**lisa thomison** - October 11, 2022 at 07:33 AM

AC

“ Prayers and deepest sympathy to all those who knew and loved Billy.

*Much love, The Carvalho Family*

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**Ashley Carvalho** - October 11, 2022 at 12:33 AM

TL

“ I had the honor of meeting Billy a couple times through his travels with Justin Crowe. He always was such a kindhearted gentleman and did a great job of taking care of Justin in whatever mischief they were up to. May his entire family as well as his extended family and friends know that we grieve with you all on the loss of such a great person and role model for countless.

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**Toby Lepley** - October 10, 2022 at 11:10 PM

JA

“ Billy was a great guy and it was a pleasure to call him friend. Praying for his family and loved ones.

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**Jared Allen** - October 10, 2022 at 11:07 PM

RL

“ Randy Lynch sent a virtual gift in memory of William Clay Rochelle



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**Randy lynch** - October 10, 2022 at 10:54 PM

RB

“ *Randall-Sandra Barber lit a candle in memory of Billy Rochelle*



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**Randall-Sandra Barber** - October 10, 2022 at 09:42 PM

KM

“ *So sorry for the family . My heart is broken for you , my son died at at age 20 19 years ago. So very sorry and praying for you.*

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**Kathie McClanahan** - October 10, 2022 at 09:33 PM

DG

“ *So sorry for your loss. Thinking of you all. Remembering how proud he was carrying Harlan around in church. Precious memories for all.*

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**Diane/Lonnie Garrett** - October 10, 2022 at 09:24 PM

JW

“ *Janet Wright sent a virtual gift in memory of Billy Rochelle*



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**Janet Wright** - October 10, 2022 at 09:01 PM

DB

“ Donna Douglas Baker lit a candle in memory of Billy Rochelle



Donna & Douglas Baker - October 10, 2022 at 08:51 PM



“ No words, unimaginable, our prayers and thoughts for his entire family and friends. May God's love comfort each of you.



James Arthur (Tank) and Dana Atkinson - October 10, 2022 at 07:56 PM

FF

“ Danny, Cheryl and family I am so so sorry for your great loss. I remember Billy as a little boy when I use to visit Nunnelly Church of Christ with my mother. May God give your hearts comfort knowing what a great young man Billy was.



Frances(McClearen) McMeen & Family - October 10, 2022 at 07:33 PM

NJ

Neil and I are so sad to hear of the loss of this young man who has accomplished so much in such a few years. He sounds like a “chip off the old block”. We remember Danny and Cheryl as being excellent students and model leaders in high school. My God put His arms around you and may you be comforted by your happy memories.

Neil and Bea Jobe - October 11, 2022 at 10:25 PM



“ *Sandi Shelton lit a candle in memory of Billy Rochelle*



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**Sandi Westover** - October 10, 2022 at 07:25 PM



“ *Cheeva McClearen sent a virtual gift in memory of Billy Rochelle*



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**Cheeva McClearen** - October 10, 2022 at 07:16 PM



“ *Rick and I are so very sorry for your loss. God bless Billy's wife, daughter and the entire family. We pray for peace and comfort to you all!*

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**Jo Atkinson** - October 10, 2022 at 07:11 PM



“ *Lea Truett lit a candle in memory of Billy Rochelle*



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**Lea Truett** - October 10, 2022 at 07:10 PM

PA

“ *Sympathy to the Rochelle Family!*



Phillip, Letitia & Mckenna Allen - October 10, 2022 at 04:33 PM

RH

“ *We are thinking of you.*

Ruby & Rex Horner - October 10, 2022 at 03:32 PM

RS

“ *We both are thinking of u.*

Regina & Martha Shelton - October 10, 2022 at 03:31 PM

RB

“ *Billy was a fine young man. I am so sorry for his family as they continue life without him.*

Renee Badon - October 10, 2022 at 03:23 PM



“ *Kathy Mcgahey lit a candle in memory of Billy Rochelle*



Kathy Mcgahey - October 10, 2022 at 02:00 PM

CB

“ Billy was such a tremendous part of the Herbert College of Agriculture family and he embodied all of the best attributes that we desire to see in our graduates - intelligence, strong work ethic, and a passion for agriculture. He will be deeply missed!

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**Caula Beyl** - October 10, 2022 at 10:58 AM

SA

“ Samantha lit a candle in memory of Billy Rochelle



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**Samantha** - October 10, 2022 at 10:41 AM

 Martha Butler

“ Martha Butler lit a candle in memory of Billy Rochelle



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**Martha Butler** - October 10, 2022 at 08:27 AM

TP

“ Travis Celine Powell lit a candle in memory of Billy Rochelle



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**Travis & Celine Powell** - October 10, 2022 at 08:03 AM

JD

“ Jason Gage Dotson lit a candle in memory of Billy Rochelle



Jason and Gage Dotson - October 10, 2022 at 07:54 AM

DS

“ I've known Billy for a long time. From seeing him at church. I've had the pleasure of watching him grow into a fine young man. I know that Erika is broken..I know Harlyn will miss a lot by not getting to know her dad. I'm so sorry Erika for your loss. To Danny and Cheryl and Lindsey, my heart breaks for all of you. I love you all.

Debbie Semore - October 10, 2022 at 12:22 AM

PG

Danny and Cheryl I'm so sorry for your loss Prayers for you and your family.

PATTY GOSSETT - October 11, 2022 at 04:03 PM

JM

Linda and I are so sorry for your loss. While we did not know Billy, Lindsey and her family are our wonderful new neighbors. Billy sounded like he was a very special young man and his community has lost someone who had so much to offer. We will keep all of you in our prayers, especially Erika and Harlyn.

Jim and Linda Mayfield - October 11, 2022 at 07:49 PM



So sorry for your loss. May God continue to comfort and bless you and your families.

Tnt Farms - October 12, 2022 at 02:25 PM

MW

*Cheryl and family..my hearts breaks for this great loss you are in myprayers*

**marilyn woodard** - October 13, 2022 at 09:56 AM

JH

“ *Jeannie Hansford lit a candle in memory of Billy Rochelle*



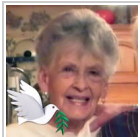
**Jeannie Hansford** - October 09, 2022 at 11:48 PM



“ *Betty Love lit a candle in memory of Billy Rochelle*



**Betty Love** - October 09, 2022 at 07:52 PM



“ *Joyce Mayberry lit a candle in memory of Billy Rochelle*



**Joyce Mayberry** - October 09, 2022 at 06:04 PM

RM

“ Roy Sharon McCoy lit a candle in memory of  
Billy Rochelle



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**Roy & Sharon McCoy** - October 09, 2022 at 05:54 PM