



Billy Don Uchtman

November 21, 1943 - June 17, 2025

Billy Don Uchtman, 81, of West Plains, passed June 17, 2025, surrounded by loved ones including his Brook Haven family that took great care of him during his final journey. He was born in Gamaliel, Arkansas, son of Everett & Bertha (Walker) Uchtman.

Billy Don proudly served our country in the United States Army, starting his military career in 1965. Then after he entered the civilian world, he spent many years working on the oil rigs in Louisiana as a Supervisor.

He met his soulmate, Mary, when he picked her up on the side of the road. He rode in the back of the El Camino so she could sit in the front. This was the beginning of a lifetime of love. He is survived by his loving wife, Mary, of 38 years of marriage.

Billy Don's family has so many fond memories they wanted to share, each one a little piece of who he was. He loved to read, especially the Bible and any Louis L'Amour western he could get his hands on. He enjoyed watching a good western, too, and always lived by his favorite saying: "Live life to the fullest because it is short." He loved fishing, hunting, tinkering with just about anything, and going to auctions. He was always up for a game of Yahtzee or a silly round of "1, 2, 3—heads under the covers!" If he ever had to change a dirty diaper, it was straight to the shower—gagging the whole way.

His grandkids filled his world with joy, and he gave them memories that will last forever. Hannah loved riding in the back of his old pickup to bottle-feed calves. One year, he let the grandkids pick out a calf, and Hannah thought it was her pet. Every time she visited, she'd feed "her cow"—until one day Grandpa brought it back, packaged for the freezer. She was mortified, and he thought it was the funniest thing ever. Cheyenne remembers one trip to feed the calves with Ciara and Hollis in the back of Grandpa's tiny old truck. By the time they arrived, Hollis had eaten half the bucket of feed, and Grandpa just laughed until he cried. Cheyenne still says he always drove trucks way too small for someone his size—like Mr. Incredible in disguise. Billy once said if you'd ever seen him, his dad, and Ev packed into his old Datsun pickup, you'd never forget it—especially since whoever sat in the middle had to shift gears for the driver!

Ev joked that the grandkids should've tried herding a loose calf or hog back into a pen with Grandpa—it wasn't an easy task! And while Billy Don could face just about anything, he had one big fear: fuzzy peaches. Just saying the words made him gag, and his boys never passed up a chance to toss one his way in the grocery store. If he ever lost a tool, he didn't hesitate to blame it on "Mommy."

Hollis loved going "honky tonkin" in Caulfield with Grandpa—especially since Grandpa let him cuss during those rides. Anytime the grandkids saw a Dr Thunder or a pecan log, they thought of him. He refused to order food through a drive-thru—what he called a "squawk box"—but when he did, he might order a "grape flush" and give detailed instructions on how to make a perfect ice cream cone.

His playful spirit never faded. One of his favorite recent pranks was hiding a life-sized Santa Claus in the bathroom at the nursing home. He'd ask a nurse

to grab something from the bathroom just to hear them scream when they opened the door. Ciara always loved sitting on his lap at the supper table because he'd sneak her vegetables off her plate so she could pretend she ate them. He probably watched more SpongeBob and Dora the Explorer than any other grown man, and he still loved to chant "backpack, backpack" with Ciara years later. Charleigh adored playing "mouse" in the kitchen with "Old Grandpa" as a fun way to get her to eat. He always kept those orange circus peanuts on hand for the grandkids—though none of them liked them!

Sami and Hannah remembered helping him roll cigarettes while sitting on his lap and then playing in the sawdust pile, though he always warned them not to let it get too hot or it might catch fire. He tried to teach Angel to drive once, and it was the only time in her 33 years he ever got truly cross with her—unless you count the time she was mean to her sister and he threatened to make her pick out her own switch.

Billy Don loved taking his kids and grandkids to see where he grew up and telling them stories about the past. And if you ever told him, "I love you," he'd always smile and say, "I love you more." More than anything, he loved his family deeply. He adored his grandkids and took great joy in making them laugh. He was always cracking jokes, being ornery, and showing them just how much he cared. And no matter what they did, the grandkids were perfect in his eyes—they could never do any wrong.

He is survived by his huge family and a beautiful legacy he has left behind to share fond memories of him and pass on his knowledge he shared with them. First his wife, Mary, of 38 years of the family home, sister, Marvene Copeland of Pleasant Hill, MO; children; Wesley (Daylene) Cotter of Lemoore, CA, Everett (Rachel) Uchtman of Gassville, AR, Billy (Dana) Uchtman of Gassville, AR, Meranda Uchtman of West Plains, MO, Angela (Jacob) Deckard of West

Plains, MO; Grandchildren; Chris Jones of Colorado Springs, CO, Angel Uchtman (Tony) of Dolph, AR, Samantha Gilley (Paige) of Gassville, AR, Leeann Uchtman of Fayetteville, AR, Levi Uchtman of Gassville, AR, Madison Beard of Yellville, AR, Hannah Uchtman (Joe) of Killeen, TX, Gracie Uchtman of Gassville, AR, Cheyenne Webb (Jeff) of Caulfield, MO, Ciara Deckard of West Plains, MO, Hollis Deckard of West Plains, MO, Great Grandchildren; Charleigh, Marci, Parker, Riley, Lydia, JayLynn, Daxton, and Koen. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews, including a special nephew, Kenny Uchtman, who was like a son to him.

He was preceded in death by his parents, two sisters, and six brothers.

Remember all the good times and the laughter and love he shared. Billy Don wouldn't want to be remembered any other way.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Historic Post Office in West Plains, MO on Sunday, July 6th at 2pm.

Arrangements were conducted by Always Faithful Memorial Services, of West Plains, MO.

Please feel free to share pictures, videos, and other memories on his tribute wall.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUL 6. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (cst)

The Historic Post Office
204 East Main
West Plains, MO 65775

Tribute Wall

YD

“ Your brothers at the Mtn Home Fire dept purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Billy Don Uchtman.



Your brothers at the Mtn Home Fire dept - July 03, 2025 at 09:46 AM

CC

“ He was so tickled in that video, so precious. I'm so sorry for your loss. My deepest condolences and praying for comfort for all.

Charlie Crandall - June 19, 2025 at 11:04 PM

MH

“ I was lucky enough to have been invited on my first coon hunt with him, Me & Everett were many times falsely accused of being up to no good so I think he had a plan, we all went out and the dogs treed a coon, Billy Don gave me the leash of one of his beautiful black & tan hounds and said just hold on to her and don't let go... I was dragged through that Ozarks ridge like a rag doll while he laughed and laughed, I was probably 18 or 19 I'm 56 now, but that is still a wonderful memory!!
Prayers to you all

Mark Hatcher - June 19, 2025 at 03:57 PM

LB

Billy Don was the micest, oneryest guy m will be missed by so many!
R.I.P. Billy Don! ❤️🙏🙏🙏

Lynn Bond - June 21, 2025 at 09:47 PM

LB

Still think of you and talk to Mary online. We both lost a loved one 🙏💔

Lynn Bond - December 18, 2025 at 02:06 AM

SW

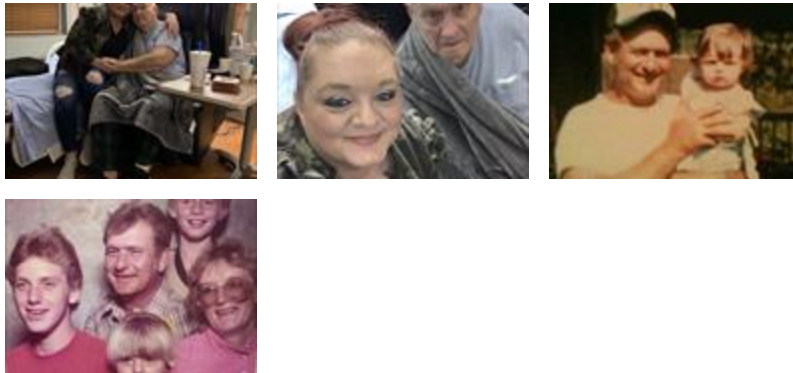
“ Billy taught us that Santa can be creepy at times! But is also great for a laugh!



Scott Wiley - June 19, 2025 at 01:34 PM

MU

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Meranda Uchtman - June 19, 2025 at 12:06 AM

JD

“ Prayer for the family. He will be greatly missed. All our love, Gary & Jennifer (Parton) Dreyer and Wanda Parton

Jennifer Dreyer - June 18, 2025 at 10:11 PM

SV

Bill was a great guy. Me and Lloyd thought of Bill and his family like they were our own family. Bill I know you are up there with Lloyd now looking at all of us. Until we see you yall again yall go dirt road riding.

Sandra Vidgal - June 19, 2025 at 07:42 PM