



## Billy (Bill) Eugene Deaton

September 6, 1927 - April 25, 2019

Billy (Bill) Eugene Deaton, 91, retired row crop farmer, civic leader, and lifelong citizen of Morrilton, died Thursday, April 25, 2019. He was born September 6, 1927 to James Alex and Etta Irene Williams Deaton.

He was preceded in death by an infant brother, James; brother, Jimmie Dean Deaton and sister, Marietta Russell.

Bill attended Morrilton High School and served in the U.S. 5th Army Air Force from 1945-47, with the occupation forces in Japan at the end of World War II. Returning home, he married Helen Louise Long and in 1950 began farming with his father-in-law in the Sandtown Bottoms south of Morrilton. He was joined in 1972 by his son, William Randy Deaton and actively farmed until he retired in 2002, and Randy assumed the operation. Through the years, Bill was active in all farm organizations serving on boards of directors and chairman of some. He served on the Conway County Soil Conservation Service from 1987 and chairman from 2012-2018; Conway County Agri Co-op Supply, many years as chairman; Conway County Farm Bureau, Morrilton Area Chamber of Commerce; Farm Credit Services of Western Arkansas representing 41 counties and chairman 11 years; former ASCS committee, now Farm Service Agency, 11 years; Cattlemen Association and American and Arkansas Soybean Associations.

Bill also served on the Conway County Extension Service Advisory Committee and the Conway County 4-H Foundation that honored him in 2012 by naming the Bill Deaton Student Salute Award given each month to a deserving high school student.

As a long-time active member of the Conway County Fair Association, Bill served several years as president. Under his leadership, many improvements were made to the fairgrounds, including black-topping the grounds, constructing a multi-purpose building and a large livestock building. The latter replaced old structures built in the 1940s.

For this, the Morrilton Area Chamber of Commerce named him the 1992 Citizen of The Year, and the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce presented him the Award of Individual Exceptional Accomplishment in the Arkansas Community Development Awards Program.

Bill was a deacon in the Downtown Church of Christ for 51 years and in his later years spent much time overseeing improvements to the church's property. As a member of the

Morrilton Kiwanis Club, he was Kiwanian of the Year in 2005 and also received the Tablet of Honor award from the Kiwanis International Foundation.

As an alderman on the Morrilton City Council for 37 years, Bill served under four mayors and vice mayor to three. His accomplishments for improving the city were many. His last duties were as a member of the Wastewater Commission and overseer of crops grown on city farmland.

The Deaton family received the Conway County Farm Family of The Year award in 1967 and 1984. Bill enjoyed watching and hunting the deer that roamed over his farm, and he loved fishing for crappie. His wit and good humor endeared him to many.

Bill is survived by his wife of 71 years, Helen; son, Randy Deaton (Cheryl) of Morrilton; daughter, Cheryl Blansett (Andy) of Cabot; five grandchildren, Jennifer Mahan and Whitney Deaton, Conway; twins, Joshua Blansett, North Little Rock and Dr. Jonathan Blansett, Rogers; Luke Blansett (Tia), North Little Rock; five great-grandchildren, twins, Mayson and Shelby Mahan and Kylan Trezvant and Makenzie Deaton of Conway, and Olivia Blansett of North Little Rock; seven nephews and nieces and a sister-in-law, Ruth Deaton of Little Rock.

Family visitation will be at Harris Funeral Home Chapel Sunday, April 28, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., and funeral services will be 10:00 a.m. Monday, April 29 at Harris Chapel by George Hulett, Mickey Burleson and Stewart Nelson. Burial will be at Elmwood Cemetery by Harris Funeral Home of Morrilton.

Pallbearers are: Ed Moore, Greg Flowers, David Duffle, Curtis Davis, Charlie Hamilton and Charles Session. Honorary pallbearers: Max Sellers, Ray Ellis, Bill Chism, and Archie Green.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 251977, Little Rock, AR 72225; Arkansas Hospice Foundation, 144 Parkstone Circle, North Little Rock, AR 72116 or Southern Christian Children's Home, PO Box 649, Morrilton, AR 72110.

# Cemetery

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## Elmwood Cemetery

1830 Highway 113  
Morrilton, AR, 72110

# Events

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**APR** **Visitation** 02:00PM - 04:00PM

**28**

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Harris Funeral Homes - Morrilton  
1325 Oak St, Morrilton, AR, US, 72110

**APR** **Funeral Service** 10:00AM

**29**

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Harris Funeral Homes - Morrilton  
1325 Oak St, Morrilton, AR, US, 72110

# Comments

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“ Bill was one of the nicest men around. He always had a smile and a funny comment, especially if Ricky was around. We will miss Bill very much. Prayers and love to the family. Rick & Dee Dee Hill Family

**Dee Hill** - April 29, 2019 at 09:48 AM

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“ Bill Deaton was my grandfather known as “pappaw”! I remember the times always staying the night with them and my nonnie would get up and cook us breakfast before he headed out to go farm with my father Randy Deaton! He was such a loving Christian husband and father and grandfather to all of us!!! He always had a sense of humor and kept a smile on his face and would make you laugh!!! He was such an inspirational man and I will always remember him that way!!! I love you pappaw and one day I will see you again!!!

**Whitney Deaton** - April 27, 2019 at 12:13 PM

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“ The Deaton family is one of the finest people I have ever known. Some of my most treasured memories are times spent with them. Mr. Bill life exemplified his strong faith in God and helped me to develop the faith I have today. His deeds will live on thru eternity. My sincere sympathy is extended to the entire family.  
Judy Forrest Box

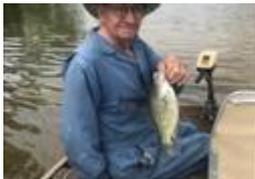
**judy box** - April 27, 2019 at 08:12 AM

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“ Bill Deaton, who I only knew as 'Pappaw', was a great man. A member of the 'Greatest Generation', Pappaw was a hard worker and had many achievements and accomplishments throughout his life. I always looked up to him for his faith, intellect, wit, and how he dealt with people. Pappaw was a very humble man, and treated everyone the same. He had a great sense of humor and could relate to people on every level. These qualities endeared him to many people along the way and he was never short on good friends. He was a great example of what a Christian man should embody and was married to Helen (Nonnie) for almost 72 years. He was a great teacher and always gave freely of his time to spend with me. I have many fond memories of him growing up whether it was on the road to Branson, on the farm, on the lake, in the creek, or in the deer stands he was always up for it and always had a smile doing it. He loved nature and admired God's creation. He was happiest finding a honey hole of crappie during April when they were spawning or watching and feeding deer on his farm in the fall. He loved his pets (and mine) and they loved him. They say a dog is a good judge of character, and I never saw a dog who didn't like Pappaw or almost immediately take to him. He loved the Lord, he loved his wife, and he loved his family. I hope I get to see him again someday. Until then, he will make Heaven a brighter place. They don't make them like this any more, I will miss him immensely.

-Jonathan Blansett, Rogers AR



Jonathan Blansett - April 27, 2019 at 01:50 AM

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“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Billy (Bill) Eugene Deaton.



April 26, 2019 at 11:04 PM

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“ Bill wore a lot of hats in his life. He was a member of a lot of organizations from the Conway county fair board to the city council of Morrilton. He was a long time Kiwanian. Involved in his community in so many ways. He served in the military. He loved to fish and hunt. He loved animals. He loved farming. He loved a good clean joke. He loved a good practical joke. He was a kidder. He loved people. But the thing he loved most was his God , his family and his country. He was a good husband, a good Dad to his kids. He was a teacher and mentor to me and so many others. I know heaven is richer because he is there.

His favorite son in law (Meathead).

Andy Blansett, Cabot, AR

Andy Blansett - April 26, 2019 at 04:51 PM

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“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Billy (Bill) Eugene Deaton.



April 26, 2019 at 04:34 PM

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“ We were saddened to hear of the passing of Bill. He loved the land, the community and it's people,, his family, his God and his church family Downtown Church of Christ where he was a true servant. May God's love, grace, peace and hope sustain Helen and the family in the days ahead. Ray & Sandra Hall- Sherman, Texas

Ray & Sandra Hall - April 26, 2019 at 03:38 PM

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“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Billy (Bill) Eugene Deaton.



April 26, 2019 at 01:44 PM



“ Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Billy (Bill) Eugene Deaton.



April 26, 2019 at 12:24 PM

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“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Billy (Bill) Eugene Deaton.



April 26, 2019 at 11:26 AM

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“ So sorry for your loss, Bill was one of the finest men I have ever known, Conway County was a better place because of men like him

**Lucretia Walker Flowers** - April 26, 2019 at 10:43 AM

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“ Such a dedicated man, I thought a lot of him and my children all respected him.

Sharon Turner

**Sharon Turner** - April 25, 2019 at 07:53 PM

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“ To the family of Mr. Bill Deaton,  
My sympathy goes to you. Mr. Deaton was sweet and kind man. It was a blessing to know him, I truly enjoyed working with him on the Morrilton Wastewater Utility Commission. Continued prayers for your family in the loss of a great man. He will forever be in my heart.  
My condolences...  
Terrell Jones

**Terrell Jones** - April 25, 2019 at 05:34 PM



“ So very sorry to hear of his passing. Prayers for comfort and peace.

**Wilma Winn** - April 25, 2019 at 07:48 PM



“ Prayers to you ll in your loss. Mr. Bill was a great man.  
May God give each of you strength to get through your sorrow.

**Frances Mahan** - April 25, 2019 at 10:58 PM



“ God Bless the Deaton family. My dad's big brother was a great man.

**Mark Deaton** - April 26, 2019 at 12:45 PM