



Burlin Gray

October 22, 1931 - September 29, 2023

Burlin Gray of Cleveland, Arkansas, passed away at home on September 29, 2023, following a period of poor health. Family surrounded him including Nelda Long Gray, his wife of over 71 years. The couple married in Teague, Texas, in February 1952.

Burlin was born in rural Raines County, Texas on October 22, 1931. He was the 7th of 13 children born to Joe Byron Gray, a sharecropper, and Mertie Gertrude Roby Gray, a seamstress. Later the family moved to Lubbock, Texas. Burlin joined the Army and served two years in Korea with the 780th Artillery Battalion, serving on a howitzer gun crew. Following his service in the Army, he worked in the Texas oil fields for several years. Later he worked for Sante Fe and then Navajo Transportation.

The family moved to Conway County Arkansas in 1970 where Burlin worked with small congregations of the Churches of Christ and developed a cleaning supply company, Gray Supply.

He is survived by his wife, Nelda, and their daughters Rita Anderson of Weston Lakes, TX, Gay Williams (Marvin Lee) of Cleveland, AR, and Joyce Stobaugh (Tommy) of Hattievilleville, AR. Surviving grandchildren include Kary Anne Baldwin (Paul) of Fayetteville, AR, Jeremy Anderson (Mary) of Tampa, FL, Kristy Shaw of Center Ridge, AR), Heath Williams (Kristy) of Hattievilleville, AR, Gabriel Williams (Tammie) of Clinton, AR, Luke Williams (Kelsey) of Hattievilleville, AR, Emily Alvey (Gary) of Morrilton, AR and Evan Stobaugh (Kristina) of Hattievilleville, AR, as well as 17 great-grandchildren and one great-

great-grandson. His brother, Bobby Gray (Peggy) of Greenville, Texas, sisters Faye Johnson of McGregor, TX, and Judy Evans of Sayre, OK, and numerous nieces and nephews also survive him.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers and sisters Joe Gray, Gene Gray, Lillie Mae Scallon, Clyde Gray, Lewis Gray, Eunice Chism, Melton Gray, Virginia Gray, and Dale Gray as well as their son-in-law, Clay Anderson and granddaughter Rea Fawn Anderson Spence.

Funeral services will be held at the Harris Funeral Home on Tuesday, October 3, 2023, at 2:00 P.M. with visitation at 1:00 P.M. The interment will be at the Grandview Cemetery. His grandsons will serve as pallbearers.

Cemetery Details

Grandview Cemetery

685 Grandview Rd.
Center Ridge, AR 72027

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 3. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Harris Funeral Homes - Morrilton
1325 Oak St
Morrilton, AR 72110
(501) 354-4575

Funeral Service

OCT 3. 2:00 PM (CT)

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1325 Oak St
Morrilton, AR 72110
(501) 354-4575

Tribute Wall

MR

“ We met Burlin and Nelda when he came down to Gainesville to officiate our daughter’s marriage to our wonderful son-in-law, Jeremy Anderson. We found out they were card players and so we spent many nights to the wee hours playing Canasta! We are praying for all of you but also celebrating that he is in Paradise, first stop, on his way to Heaven when the Lord comes! Love to all.

Myrna and Robert - October 03, 2023 at 02:56 PM



“ Dish Garden with Fresh Cut Flowers was purchased for the family of Burlin Gray.



October 02, 2023 at 12:24 PM

RR

“ I met Burlin and Nelda when I married her brother in 1964. All I ever knew for a good while Butch and Suzie. We played MANY games but the one that was our favorite was Scrabble. Suzie knew to keep a dictionary handy because some of the simplest words he played just didn’t look right. I have a lot of memories of Butch. I can see now what a great legacy that he and Suzie were making. And they did that together just as they have done all things together. Legacys such as the churches they led, the many times they helped others but, to me the family was raised right! Just to see the kids, grandkids and the rest of the family, shows a beautiful legacy. It is what is because two young kids fell in love 71 years ago and decided to build their home upon The Rock. Love y’all so much and praying for peace and rest. Hang onto the many memories!! Rena

Rena Richardson - October 01, 2023 at 04:37 PM

ES

“*Burlin Gray and his wife Nelda along with their three daughters came into our lives in 1970. We were attending Pleasant Hill Church of Christ at the time. We were a young couple with a four year old and one on the way. We, like Grandview and New Liberty churches only met on Sunday mornings. There were no evening services or Wednesday night services. In no time at all, Burlin and his family helped establish Sunday night services and midweek services at all three congregations, and they attended all of them—Tuesday night, Wednesday night, and Thursday night. All three congregations thrived and grew. There is not enough room here or time to tell all the Christian activities this man and his family started or were involved in. They were the very definition of Christianity. Eddie and I give this great man his family credit for our roll in the church then and now. He encouraged us to be faithful Christians, and we loved him and still love his family. We look forward to joining him in heaven one day.*

Eddie and Sue Shipp - September 30, 2023 at 11:17 PM

DH

*One of my favorite childhood memories was the excitement when Uncle Butch, Aunt Suzie, Rita, Gay, and Joyce visited Granny Long. Uncle Butch had a comical sense of humor and was fun to be around. There was usually a game of Hate Your Neighbor played, which was a family favorite.
Joe and I send our love and are praying for God's peace for each family member.
We love you all!
Joe & DeAnne Harris*

DeAnne Harris - October 01, 2023 at 05:40 PM

BF

“ *Bob, Peg and family purchased the Classic Firesi de Sympathy Basket for the family of Burlin Gray.*



Bob, Peg and family - September 30, 2023 at 10:11 PM

BF

“ *Bob, Peg and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Burlin Gray.*

Bob, Peg and family - September 30, 2023 at 10:11 PM