



Mr. Billy Gray

March 17, 1937 - November 2, 2016

Mr. Billy A. Gray, age 79, of Shelbyville, passed away Wednesday, November 2, 2016, at his home surrounded by his family.

Funeral services will be Friday, November 4, 2016 at 11 AM at Feldhaus Memorial Chapel. Burial will follow at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens. Visitation will be Thursday from 4-8 PM at the funeral home.

He was born on March 17, 1937, in Gallatin, to the late Emory Reese and Willie Catherine Campbell Gray. A pioneer in the Tennessee Walking Horse Industry, he has ridden numerous World Grand Champions.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his wife, Hilda Anne Boze Gray and sister, Peggy Pitts.

He is survived by his son, Tim (Patti) Gray of Shelbyville, Daughter, Kathryn Ann (Kenneth) Gray Cook of Lewisburg, grandchildren, Chelsea Leigh (Dillon) Cook Connor and Baylee Ann Cook, great grandchildren, Noah Lambert and Isaiah Gray Lambert.

Feldhaus Memorial Chapel is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Hillcrest Memorial Gardens

Shelbyville, TN 37160

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 3. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Feldhaus Memorial Chapel
2022 North Main St.
Shelbyville, TN 37160
(931) 684-8356
feldhausgowensmith@gmail.com
<http://feldhausgowensmith.com/>

Service

NOV 4. 11:00 AM (CT)

Feldhaus Memorial Chapel
2022 North Main St.
Shelbyville, TN 37160
(931) 684-8356
feldhausgowensmith@gmail.com
<http://feldhausgowensmith.com/>

Tribute Wall

MW

“ I started coming to the Celebration as a young boy in 1966 with our family...didn't miss a year until this past Labor Day but the group changed through the years...we always made the last night and always cheered for whomever Billy Gray was showing...went by the barn a couple of times and met Billy years ago and he was always very friendly , hospitable and humble...and you can't always say that about all true legends...as it read in the paper , he was the Master Showman and a Southern Gentleman and I'll just add Class Act to those kind and true words...one never forgets people like Billy Gray and I'll always remember him for being truly special for a lot of reasons and for many people...prayers for the entire family. Mitch Watson , Eden , NC

Mitch Watson - November 04, 2016 at 11:26 AM

SR

“ To Tim, Patty, Kathryn Ann, and extended family. Please accept my most heartfelt condolences for the loss of your beloved "Pop."

Many words have been used to describe this legendary man: world-class horseman, inspiration, mentor, a great colleague and friend to many.

Billy Gray's warm heart, generous nature, remarkable horse knowledge and training/riding skills never ceased to amaze. To witness Billy exhibiting a horse in the show ring, or just stopping by Southern Comfort to chat, was a cherished experience.

I'm so fortunate to have known you. Rest in peace my friend.

*Steven Rich
Bellevue, WA*

Steven Rich - November 04, 2016 at 02:44 AM

BW

“ Thinking of Tim and the rest of the family on Billy's passing. Always sad to see so many of the trainers I knew growing up passing to their final reward. Prayers of comfort and strength to all in their loss.

Mark Welsh
Shelbyville

B Mark Welsh - November 03, 2016 at 10:47 PM

TP

“ The Norton Law Firm, P.C. purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Mr. Billy Gray.



The Norton Law Firm, P.C. - November 03, 2016 at 04:36 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Billy Gray.



November 03, 2016 at 02:20 PM

JS

“ Loved talking to Mr. Billy at the barn. Always asked me about the folks we both knew and then would tell me a story about one of them from the past.

Joe Green, Sr. - November 03, 2016 at 01:24 PM

JW

“ Jackie Whatley purchased the *Beautiful in Blue* for the family of Mr. Billy Gray.



Jackie Whatley - November 03, 2016 at 11:09 AM



“ *Garden Accent* - "Those we love don't go away..." was purchased for the family of Mr. Billy Gray.



November 03, 2016 at 10:33 AM

DY

“ *I walked into Bedford Tack one cold day and Mr. Billy was sitting by the kerosene heater in a rocking chair talking to some other guy. I sat in the other chair for a moment to warm up and listen to him. I could have stayed there all day listening to him talk and laugh. Wish I would have.*

Debbi S. Yates - November 03, 2016 at 07:56 AM

JM

“ The last words Billy ever said to me was at the Champions arena when I stopped to reverse in front of him riding I'm Deuce. He said, "Ride him gal and don't let anyone ever tell you that you can't ride" smiling because he knew I had my hands full. He gave me back my confidence that I could ride him. He never knew how much that comment meant to me coming from "The Legend". I admired him and respected him and wish all the young riders would look at his riding style to pattern themselves after him and make us proud. RIP Billy Gray, you will be missed!
Joyce Myers



Joyce Myers - November 03, 2016 at 12:23 AM



“ Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Billy Gray.



November 02, 2016 at 10:08 PM

SM

“ Sheryl McKinzie lit a candle in memory of Mr. Billy Gray



Sheryl McKinzie - November 02, 2016 at 07:46 PM

GG

“ Gail Garrison lit a candle in memory of Mr. Billy Gray



Gail Garrison - November 02, 2016 at 07:33 PM

GG

So Sorry for your loss, he was a great trainer always loved to watch him in the ring.

Gail Garrison - November 02, 2016 at 07:36 PM

SK

I can remember him showing Prides Secret Threat and he did not want to canter. He took down in the back field after his class and MADE him canter. I can remember it as if it was yesterday. Way to go Billy you were the greatest.

Suzanne Keplinger - November 03, 2016 at 11:34 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Billy Gray.



November 02, 2016 at 07:16 PM

NH

“ My Condolences to the Gray Family!! I've enjoyed growing up Watching you for many years 🙏



Nicky Harris - November 02, 2016 at 07:14 PM

NH

“ *My Condolences to the Gray Family!! I've enjoyed growing up Watching you for many years 🙏*



Nicky Harris - November 02, 2016 at 07:10 PM

WP

“ *Wanda Potts lit a candle in memory of Mr. Billy Gray*



Wanda Potts - November 02, 2016 at 06:29 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Billy Gray.*



November 02, 2016 at 06:17 PM

MB

“ *My deepest condolences to Hilda and the Gray family. I am so saddened by the loss of such a wonderful man. My heartfelt prayers go out to all of you.*

*Sincerely,
Marianne Bolling*

Marianne Bolling - November 02, 2016 at 06:06 PM

Kelly Dalton

“ *Kelly Dalton lit a candle in memory of Mr. Billy Gray*



Kelly Dalton - November 02, 2016 at 04:34 PM

MH

“ *Martha Harvey lit a candle in memory of Mr. Billy Gray*



Martha Harvey - November 02, 2016 at 04:22 PM

RW

“ *The Walking Horse Industry has lost a Legend today. Mr Billy was a true Showman in every respect, I will never forget the excitement of the crowd as he would enter the big ring at the Celebration. He will surely be missed by the countless people who had the privilege to witness his many great accomplishments in the show ring. Rest In Peace. Ron Wagaman and family*

Ron Wagaman - November 02, 2016 at 03:17 PM

BC

“ *Always a nice guy to talk to! A legend in the WH community!*

Bethany Cole - November 02, 2016 at 03:15 PM

TF

“ *The Bob Kilgore Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Mr. Billy Gray.*



The Bob Kilgore Family - November 02, 2016 at 03:13 PM



“ *On behalf of the Family of the late Mr. Joe North, we send our condolences to the family. My father and Billy Gray were two amazing men that could train a horse into a high stepping Tennessee Walking Horse. Throughout the years they showed against each other, were friends and truly loved horses. Let 'em Walk On!!!!!!*

Cheryl Jackson - November 02, 2016 at 03:03 PM

BS

“ *Barry And Brenda Smotherman lit a candle in memory of Mr. Billy Gray*



Barry and Brenda Smotherman - November 02, 2016 at 02:26 PM

JC

“ *If you want to see how to present a Tn. Walking Horse then look back at Mr. Billy Gray. He was always a gentleman when I was around him. Will be missed by many. Prayers for his family. Jo Eldridge Craighead*

Jo Eldridge Craighead - November 02, 2016 at 01:37 PM

KA

“ He ALWAYS had the best posture riding a Tn. Walking Horse!!!
Male riders these days should really watch & learn!!!

Kathy Wolaver Anderson - November 02, 2016 at 01:16 PM



“ Love Everlasting Bouquet was purchased for the
family of Mr. Billy Gray.



November 02, 2016 at 01:13 PM

TB

“ We have lost a legend and special member of our Tn walking horse
family. Loved watching him show. He sure made any horse he sat
on look great. We will miss you dearly. Walk on!!

Tracie Becknell - November 02, 2016 at 12:42 PM

SE

“ My heart is saddened today by the loss of a great person. He was a
great horseman and he taught me how to ride. I will miss him
greatly. My thoughts and prayers are with the Billy's family. God
Bless You

Sandra Ashley Edson - November 02, 2016 at 12:32 PM

TN

“ Tony Neill lit a candle in memory of Mr. Billy Gray



Tony Neill - November 02, 2016 at 12:18 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Billy Gray.



November 02, 2016 at 11:42 AM

VS

“ Too many memories to share.

Vicki Self - November 02, 2016 at 11:29 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Billy Gray.



November 02, 2016 at 11:16 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Billy Gray.*



November 02, 2016 at 10:54 AM



“ *I have enjoyed my time talking with Billy and watching him show great horses. He was a wonderful man. He will be missed.*



Jenny Funk - November 02, 2016 at 10:25 AM



“ *Billy has been my idol since I first saw him in the ring. A true showman, a true friend and an icon in the TWH industry. There will never be another like you, Billy. Ride with the angels.*

Scott Benham & Family

Scott Benham - November 02, 2016 at 10:21 AM



“ *Melissa Mitchell sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Billy Gray*



Melissa Mitchell - November 02, 2016 at 09:41 AM



Melissa Mitchell

Praying for the family ... the TWH Legend as he will be remembered as I watched him ride many horses and always great! He will be greatly missed!

Melissa Mitchell - November 02, 2016 at 09:49 AM

RH

“ you will be missed by so many who loved you. Not only your family and loved ones but by the Walking Horse industry as well. Your name will be etched in many great rides on many great horses. Thank you for being one of the Greats.



Rae Harwell - November 02, 2016 at 08:12 AM

VS

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Mr. Billy was one of my all time favorites. He will be missed by many. Your family are in my thoughts and prayers.

valerie smith - November 02, 2016 at 07:52 AM



“ I'm sorry for your loss. I've always thought a lot of Billy.



Kay Chambers - November 02, 2016 at 03:57 AM

PS

I'm so sorry for your loss

Peaches Searles - November 02, 2016 at 06:49 AM

BF

Heaven has gained a great one this morning. I pray for God's grace to be with the family may He shower you with His love and mercy and comfort you in this time.

Bud Fox - November 02, 2016 at 07:09 AM

DO

Best Horseman ever, I was glad I knew him Very Big Loss.

Dick Ockerman - November 02, 2016 at 07:42 AM

JB

So many fun memories of time spent with your family... love you all

jill holt bell - November 02, 2016 at 07:58 AM

DG

I'm so sorry to hear of Billy's passing. Tim and Kathryn Ann, you have my deepest sympathy on your loss and my prayers for comfort during this time. I always enjoyed watching Billy show a horse. He rode to win but was also gracious when he didn't. The walking horse industry is diminished by his passing.

Don Gandy - November 02, 2016 at 08:34 AM

VW

My prayers are with all of you. Billy was a heck of a man. A legend that so many young riders have tried to emulate for years, his memory will live on in all of us! God bless you all!

Vicki Watlington - November 02, 2016 at 08:40 AM

CS

Prayers going out to Mr. Billy's family.

Steve & Carol Shelton

Carol Shelton - November 02, 2016 at 10:18 AM

JH

I was always awed by the touch, talent and understanding with horses Billy could demonstrate (without trying) in the first 30 seconds or so. He gave straightforward and practical advice that wasn't sugarcoated but was reliable and trustworthy. He was a giant. I have been blessed to have known him, watched him and learned from him.

Jim Heiting - November 02, 2016 at 10:46 AM

SG

Billy and his daddy Emory put me in the ring on Midget Man for the first time when I was 3 years old at the Sumner County Fair. So many wonderful memories. What a horseman he was! His distinctive seat was recognizable as soon as he entered the ring. I have always loved you, Billy Gray.

I wish for peace and comfort for Kathryn Ann and Tim knowing that he lived such a full life and touched so many people.

*Billy's Niece,
Suzie Boze Gray*

Suzanne Gray - November 02, 2016 at 12:50 PM