



Harley Dwayne Bates

November 19, 1947 - September 1, 2022

Harley Dwayne Bates, 74, of Bartlesville, died Thursday in Bartlesville the town he grew up in and returned to. Harley loved the Lord and was his usual happy self even through his short battle with cancer.

Harley was born the youngest child of Ross Mahan and Millie Dallas (Henson) Bates on November 19, 1947, in Maysville, AR - the only one of his siblings to be born in a hospital. The family moved to Bartlesville where Harley formed a passion for all things mechanical, especially cars and motorcycles. Being the baby of the family, Harley enjoyed being with and experiencing activities with his six older siblings. They shaped his future and outlook on life, and he loved them dearly.

After graduating from College High in 1967, Harley was drafted into the U.S. Army and served in the Vietnam War as a mechanic. He was resourceful and found solutions for broken equipment to promptly get them back into service. Once honorably discharged, he returned home and worked at the smelters.

While visiting family in Florida, he met and fell in love with Sheri Thomas. They married and Harley's brothers encouraged him to work with them at NASA. His title may have been mechanic, but he did so much more: rebuilding rocket boosters, helping to transport the space shuttle to the launch pad, and, some would say, taking naps. For his service to our nation, Harley

received an award from NASA. Once retired they moved back to Bartlesville.

Retirement gave him more free time to be dedicated to his daily routine: breakfast at McDonalds, bible study, and taking regular naps which were high priority. Harley collected and worked on his classic cars and motorcycles. He had so many projects going on at the same time that he leaves behind many unfinished projects, far too many to mention.

Harley was never tired of spending time with his sweetheart Sheri. Together, they had raised their daughter, Shelly. In their free time, they enjoyed attending car shows and hitting up garage sales. Truth be told, Harley bought the big stuff compared to Sheri's small trinkets, and he was always looking for a deal.

The kids recall fondly that when they were young, they took fun rides on his motorcycle, oftentimes not one, or two, but 3 of them with Harley at the same time. To know Harley was to love him and he was well-loved. He was always happy and ready to help anybody and everybody. He was a member of Spruce Avenue Missionary Baptist Church. Most of all, he loved his church family and cherished his family. Harley will be dearly missed.

Special thanks to Comforting Hands Hospice and nurses Dawn and Tiffany, his VA nurse Laura, and many other special friends, too many to list but who all made his life and years happier.

Harley is survived by his loving wife Sheri of 38 years; children Shelly Bates, Angela Bates, Wesley (Shelly) Bates and Basil Bates; sister Lois (Ellis) Stephens; seven grandchildren, Chase, Jarren, Tyler, Bethany, Marshall, Wyatt and Gera; and three great grandchildren Brixley, Ella and Crew. He is preceded in death by his parents and siblings Michael, Bill, Nick, Jack and Ronnie.

Harley's family will receive friends at the Davis Family Funeral Home & Crematory – Walker Brown Chapel, 918-333-7665, 4201 Nowata Rd, Bartlesville, on Wednesday, from 6-8 p.m. Visitation will also be held on Wednesday from 10-8, In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the Spruce Avenue Missionary Baptist Church, PO BOX 3112, Bartlesville, OK 74005.

Services will be held 10 a.m. on Thursday at the Davis Family Funeral Home & Crematory – Walker Brown Chapel with Brother Randy Bettis officiating. Interment will follow in the Spavinaw-Strang Cemetery. Services are under the direction of Carter Davis and the Davis Family Funeral Home & Crematory – Walker Brown Chapel. Online condolences and remembrances may be shared at www.DavisFamilyFuneralHome.com.

Cemetery Details

Spavinaw-Strang Cemetery

Spavinaw, OK

Previous Events

Family and Friends Gathering

SEP 7. 6:00 AM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Davis Family Funeral Home & Crematory - Walker Brown Chapel
4201 Nowata Rd
Bartlesville, OK 74006
(918) 333-7665
davisfamilyfuneralhome@gmail.com

Visitation

SEP 7. 10:00 AM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Davis Family Funeral Home & Crematory - Walker Brown Chapel
4201 Nowata Rd
Bartlesville, OK 74006
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Funeral Service

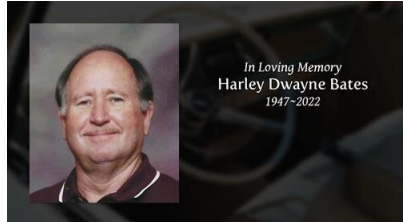
SEP 8. 10:00 AM (CT)

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Bartlesville, OK 74006
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Tribute Wall



“ *Davis Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Harley Dwayne Bates*



Davis Family Funeral Home - September 06, 2022 at 05:13 PM

ST

Harley was a cousin of mine. I had not seen him in many years. His mother Millie and my mother Pearl (Henson) Gregory were sisters. Love and Prayers for his family. I would very much like to see his sister Lois. A Loving Cousin Steve Anna True.

Steve Anna True - September 11, 2022 at 02:15 AM

CB

*Cynthia (Gregory) Briggs
Harley was my cousin... hadn't seen him in many years. So wish I had know he was back in Bartlesville. My mother and his mother were sisters! Prayers for his remaining family! Cindy Briggs his cousin*

cindy briggs - September 11, 2022 at 09:29 PM

YF

“ *Your CBR Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Harley Dwayne Bates.*



Your CBR Family - September 06, 2022 at 11:02 AM

JC

“ It was one of the best days of my life when I met Harley. He was never shy about his love for Jesus Christ, many a conversation's we had about Gods word. Cars, that was a second language to Harley, we could and did talk for what seemed like hours about cars. It was a great pleasure to meet and become friends with Harley's beautiful wife and his family, they made me feel welcomed every time I was around them.
I wish everyone could have friends like Harley and his family

james a cato - September 05, 2022 at 06:15 PM

LW

“ We are saddened to hear of Harley's passing. We have fond memories of our friendship when he, Sheri and Shelly lived in Florida. He was a wonderful person who knew and loved the Lord so we know we will see him again someday. Our deepest sympathy to all of the family and we will be praying for the peace and comfort that only God can provide during this sad time. We Love you,

Patty and Larry Wilson

Larry and Patty Wilson - September 03, 2022 at 07:35 PM