



Jerry Edmond Ayers

October 8, 1936 - May 18, 2018

Jerry E. Ayers, 81, of Durant, OK, passed away Friday, May 18, 2018, at Texoma Medical Center. He fought a valiant battle after undergoing triple bypass heart surgery on April 23.

A celebration of life service will be held at 2 pm, Saturday, May 26, at Brown's Funeral Service, 4900 West Hwy. 70, Durant, OK 74701. Jerry was a member of Calvary Baptist Church, and Skip Robinson will officiate. Family and friends are invited to attend an informal gathering in the community room that will immediately follow the service.

Memorials may be made to the American Heart Association in lieu of flowers. Those wishing to sign Jerry's guestbook may do so at the service or on the tribute page at brownsfuneralservice.com.

Jerry was born October 8, 1936, in Brooks, WV, to coal miner Charles William and Dora Iva (Bragg) Ayers. After high school he enlisted in the US Air Force in October 1954 and completed basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio. He met the former Mary Helen Anderson in Durant while stationed at Perrin Air Force Base in Sherman, TX. They married at First Baptist Church in Durant on September 14, 1957, in a double wedding ceremony with friends.

During his 13 years of service in the Air Force he completed tours in Okinawa and in Thailand where he worked as an aircraft mechanic servicing a variety of aircraft, including fighter jets conducting bombing raids during the Vietnam War. After honorable discharge from full-time duty, Jerry became a small-business owner in the grocery industry. He opened Jerry's Handy Food Mart in Durant followed by a store in McKinney, TX, and then returned to Oklahoma where he built and ran the Calera Food Mart convenience store/gas station (now EZ Mart) with his wife, sister-in-law and brother-in law. After leaving the grocery business Jerry served two years in the Air Force Reserves out of Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City. He used his mechanical skills working at Hitchcock Industries in Denison and retired from Sherman's Pilkington Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Company in 1997.

In retirement Jerry enjoyed spending time with his family. He loved taking road trips back home to Virginia and West Virginia and exploring other states and Canada during family reunions and vacations, including special events like the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta and the National Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, D.C. Jerry loved the outdoors; one of his favorite hobbies was vegetable gardening, where he kept family and neighbors stocked with tomatoes and squash. He also enjoyed woodworking - using his skills to build bird houses - and making custom outdoor lamps.

Jerry is survived by his wife Mary of almost 61 years; two daughters: Deborah Ayers and her husband Dameon Harrison of Richardson, TX, and Melinda Ayers Scott of Durant; two grandchildren: Rylan and Destiney Scott of Durant; three sisters: Peggy Williams and husband Arthur and Lana Oyler and husband Junior, all of Covington, VA, and Pam Moneymaker and husband Frank of Nimitz, WV; one brother: Wayne Ayers and wife Brenda of Eagle Rock, VA; and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Iva; brothers Charles

Howard and Roger; and sister Otega May.

Arrangements are under the direction of Brown's Durant Funeral and
Cremation Service.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAY **26**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Brown's Funeral Service - Durant
4900 West US Hwy 70
Durant, OK 74701
(580) 920-0393
info@brownsfuneralservice.com
<https://www.brownsfuneralservice.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Jerry Edmond Ayers*

January 08, 2023 at 11:32 PM



“ *Mary Helen - so sorry to learn this sad news. You and your family are in our prayers.*

Ellen Brown Brewer - May 24, 2018 at 09:31 AM



“ *So very much love to all of you. I am so sorry for your loss. I will pray for you for a long time to come. I cherish the memories I made growing up so near the Ayers family.*

Ladonne - May 23, 2018 at 10:53 PM



“ *Mary Helen, I realize how useless words are at this time but I hope you find some comfort in knowing that you are loved and being prayed for.*

*Ella {McCollum} Mauldin
Fort Smith, Arkansas*



Ella Mauldin - May 23, 2018 at 06:57 PM



“ 2 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Melinda Ayers-Scott - May 22, 2018 at 11:42 PM

LO

“ *What great times we all shared when you all came in. How we enjoyed the train trip out to visit. Roger really enjoyed the time there. Great when families can create wonderful memories. Miss your phone calls. Love you. See you again. Love your sister Lana June. PS: will miss that birthday card next week*

Lana Ayers Oylet - May 21, 2018 at 07:15 PM

PW

“ *I will miss our phone calls, coming to VA for vacations. Good times here with all our family and yours. I looked up to you with honor and praise you were my older Brother and my Hero. I'm glad in the past few years before hanging up the phone I all ways said "I Love You" and you replied the same back.*
If a Heart can hurt mine does. Arthur said things would not be the same now that the last Brother is gone.
I know we will meet again and until then, rest in peace.
With much love . Sister Peggy & Arthur

Peggy Ayers Williams - May 21, 2018 at 06:24 AM

KB

“ I used to go to your house as a teenager and you were always so kind and accepted me right in. When mom was in the same nursing home as Mrs. Ayers he would pop in and say hi and check on her too. He will be greatly missed.

Kemberly Boney - May 21, 2018 at 05:43 AM

 Paula Robertson

“ Penfriends Dad - I had the absolute pleasure of meeting this kind and wonderful man on my first visit to the US in 2016. He showed me his 'underground tornado bunker' which I was fascinated with! A lovely dinner out to follow and a lovely time getting to know Penfriends family. My heart goes out to you all at this really sad time, sending hugs from NZ xx

Paula (Deb's Penfriend in NZ) x

Paula Robertson - May 20, 2018 at 10:33 PM



“ Daddy, I miss you so much!! My heart is so broken and I don't know what to do without you. I'll love you forever.

Melinda Ayers-Scott - May 20, 2018 at 10:23 PM