



## Ralph Burleson

July 16, 1932 - February 2, 2022

Ralph Raymond Burleson, 89, of Huntsville; passed away Wednesday, February 2, 2022, at Countryside Assisted Living, Huntsville. He was born Saturday, July 16, 1932, at Barnardsville, North Carolina; to Kermit Blake and Bertha Cordelia Ledford Burleson.

Ralph married his High School sweetheart, Elaine Gentry on June 1, 1953; and together they were parents to three sons.

Ralph was a mechanical and electrical technician specializing in diesels, electric power generation systems, inboard and outboard boat motors, snowmobiles, and tractors. He was a business owner in Alaska, installing and servicing power generating systems in remote Alaska towns and villages. He later moved to Texas and owned a tractor sales and service business. During retirement, Ralph also enjoyed woodworking and woodcarving.

Ralph was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife, Elaine Burleson of the home; three sons and daughters-in-law, Ronald and Mary Burleson of Huntsville; Randy and Cheryl Burleson of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; and Rick and Deana Burleson of Mulberry, Florida; 11 grandchildren and spouses, Rachel and Joshua Harrell, Sheena and Marc Atkinson, Daniel and Jessica Burleson, Robert and Susanna Burleson, Joseph and Ziwei Burleson, David Burleson, John Burleson, Cara and George Percell, Cayla Burleson, Jonah Burleson, and Baylee Bryan; and 13 great-grandchildren, Charli Percell, Brielle Percell, Nolan Parker, Gideon Harrell, Patrick Harrell, Gabriel Harrell, Marian Harrell, Kiarra Archambault, Grace Archambault, Jonathan Atkinson, Judah Atkinson, Evelyn Joy Atkinson, and Shea Burleson; and his brother and spouse, Boyd and Theresa Burleson of Asheville, NC.

The family will receive friends at 1:00 PM, Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at Brashears Funeral Home. Funeral Services will begin at 2:00 PM, with Rev. Dennis Brannan officiating. Pallbearers will be Randy Burleson, Daniel Burleson and others. Interment will immediately follow services at Sparks Cemetery. Services are entrusted to Brashears Funeral Home and Crematory of Huntsville.



# Cemetery Details

## Sparks Cemetery

Missouri Street  
Huntsville, AR 72740

# Previous Events

## Receive Friends

FEB 8. 1:00 PM (CT)

Brashears Funeral Home and Crematory  
509 North Gaskill Street  
PO Drawer B  
Huntsville, AR 72740  
<https://www.brashearsfuneralhome.net/>

## Funeral Service

FEB 8. 2:00 PM (CT)

Brashears Funeral Home and Crematory  
509 North Gaskill Street  
PO Drawer B  
Huntsville, AR 72740  
<https://www.brashearsfuneralhome.net/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Brashears Funeral Home and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Ralph Burleson*



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**Brashears Funeral Home and Crematory, Inc.** - February 08 at 08:12 AM



“ *Ralph Burleson  
July 16 1932 - February 2 2022*

*We are going to miss you so much Dad.*

*We will miss your smile, sense of humor and infectious laugh. We will miss your stories, your tender hearted caring about your family and their well being.*

*By your example, You taught us;*

*Our work ethic  
how a man should adore his wife.*

*How to never give up.*

*How to trust your gut.*

*How to be kind and caring.*

*I love you Dad and I will miss you dearly.I*

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**Randy Burleson** - February 09 at 01:39 AM

“Ralph Burleson was my grandfather. He was a man who was larger than life in every aspect to me. His kindness, his sense of humor, his stories, and most of all his love for his family will always inspire me to be a better person. He loved reading Louis L'Amour books, tinkering with small engines, and telling stories about his adventures. I remember so many times as a child and as an adult, sitting and listening to him talk about the things he had done in his life, the places he had been around the world, and the things that he had seen. I always loved hearing about his time in Alaska where he traveled the state working on generators, snowmobiles, and really probably anything that had an engine. He had a self-taught ability to make any engine run. As a child I loved watching him work in his small engine shop near Jacksonville, TX. I remember him fixing go-carts and getting to test drive them. He taught me how to mow the yard with a snapper riding lawnmower and boy I thought that I was cool. The first time I ever drove a car was down the long sandy driveway from his house out to his shop by the road. He was in the passenger seat talking me through it, his blue eyes twinkling and laughing the whole time. I remember watching the Dallas Cowboys on Thanksgiving with him as he explained the rules to me. When I was older I stayed with my Grandparents occasionally in Tennessee. I loved helping Grandpa work on things around the house and in his shop. I also loved taking trips with my Grandparents across the mountains back to where they grew up and met in the Great Smoky Mountains of North Carolina. All the while either listening to his stories or listening to him sing along to Merle Haggard or Jimmy Rogers. When he didn't remember the words he would just make some up and laugh at himself. My personal favorite memories of Grandpa though are watching him with my wife Jessica and my daughter Shea. I loved hearing him tell my beautiful wife the story of how he and Granny met and seeing those twinkling blue eyes and that wonderful laugh as he played with my little girl. Ralph Burleson was strong, kind, stubborn, adventurous, intelligent, and the last of the breed. He often said that "They don't make 'em like they used to." He would know he worked on anything with a motor his whole life. Well, they don't make 'em like Ralph Burleson anymore either.



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Daniel Burleson - February 08 at 08:28 PM

RH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Rachel Harrel - February 08 at 12:11 AM

RH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Rachel Harrel - February 08 at 12:09 AM

RH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Rachel Harrel - February 08 at 12:03 AM

SA

“ Grandpa used to bounce me on his knee and tell me that if I ever decided to run away, I could come to his house. These pictures span 38 years, and include me as a toddler with Granny and Grandpa, my oldest daughter, as a baby (now almost 16) and my youngest daughter, taken a few weeks ago. This picture of Granny and Grandpa kissing is one of my all time favorites. Love you Grandpa!



Sheena Atkinson - February 07 at 09:41 PM

Cheryl  
Burleson

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Cheryl Burleson** - February 07 at 04:09 PM



“ Thinking about my Dad today...

*One of my favorite memories was when I was in High School .*

*I had been playing guitar for a year or so and Dad loved that I played guitar and wanted to encourage me.*

*He took me to a guitar shop and showed me this guitar, a Gretsch Chet Atkins Country Gentleman. A beautiful guitar that I immediately fell in love with.*

*We left the guitar shop without the guitar. I kept thinking about that guitar and couldn't get it out of my mind. It was haunting me so much so, that I Skipped school one day with a friend and I took him to the guitar shop to share my excitement about this awesome guitar that my Dad showed me. I played it for a while and then figured I better get back to school. After leaving the shop driving back to school, I saw Dad driving by and he saw me! 🙄 BUSTED!*

*I knew I was in for trouble when I got home and I was dreading having to face Dad when I got home.*

*Well when I got home, as I expected I was reprimanded and after more than sufficient lecturing he grounded me and said “Now, go to your room”*

*Feeling bad , I went to my room only to find this beautiful guitar laying on my bed!!!!*

*My mood immediately changed and I went back to Dad to express my surprise, gratitude, appreciation. ❤️🙏*

*He told me that I had to learn to play one of his favorite Chet Atkins songs called “Wheels” which was, and still is beyond my capabilities . But after his passing , I am more determined than ever to push myself to learn it.*

*When we passed each other on the road that day, I had no idea he was on the way to buy that guitar for me. ❤️*

*At one time after Cara Percell was born we were in a difficult financial situation. The company I worked for had fallen on hard times and sometimes couldn't pay me for several weeks. But our bills kept coming.*

*I considered selling it to make ends meet. Now I thank God that I didn't have to. Now that my Dad has passed, this is something I will never let go of.*

*I LOVE YOU DAD!*

*This guitar will always remind me of you!❤️*





*What a wonderful story. ❤️  
Thank you for sharing.*

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**Sandra Bailey** - February 07 at 11:24 PM