



## Ronnie Willhite

April 8, 1931 - January 19, 2023

Ronnie Willhite, 91, of Fayetteville passed away Thursday, January 19, 2023, at his home. He was born Wednesday, April 8, 1931, at Beaver, Arkansas to George Edward and Wilsie Beaver Willhite.

Ronnie married Shirley Ann Eaton on Saturday, November 27, 1971, at Fayetteville. For the last 25 years he attended Cross Church at Springdale. Ronnie's work ethic began as he worked in his father's handle manufacturing company. Before serving his country in the US Army, he worked building bridges and dams. He then began his own lumber business. In 1980, he and his wife expanded their business to include pallet lumber. They owned and operated Willhite Forest Products, Inc. together until 2002. Ronnie took great joy in all aspects of the lumber business and in inventing new equipment. He was a hard worker who loved his wife and family and was well-respected by all who knew him. Some of his pastimes were telling stories, singing, riding four-wheelers, boating, playing pool, making the best lemonade, and visiting with people of all walks of life.

Ronnie was preceded in death by his parents; his daughter, Debbie Eaton; granddaughter; Candace Willhite; four brothers, Bill Willhite, Vern Willhite, Bob Willhite and Bud Willhite. He is survived by his wife, Shirley Willhite of the home; one surviving son, Mark Willhite of Springdale; six grandchildren; Justin and Christian Eaton of Rogers, Jessica Eaton of Farmington. Kimberly and

Ken Blundell of Elkins, Kyle Eaton of St. Paul, Amanda Drummond and Tim Macks of Fayetteville, Matthew and Lindsey Willhite of Elkins; 13 great-grandchildren; Cody, Isaac, Kaitlyn, Kaydra, Kinley, Gavin, Elli, Kylie, Kenzie, Jaxon, Karson, Gracyn, Kelton; nephew, Mark and Joanna Eaton of Springdale and great-nephew, John-Mark Eaton of Springdale and other nephews and nieces.

The family will receive friends on Friday, January 27, at 1:00 p.m. with funeral services to follow at 2 p.m. at Brashears Funeral Home with John Baker officiating. Pallbearers will be Mark Willhite, Justin Eaton, Mark Eaton, John-Mark Eaton, Matthew Willhite, Kyle Eaton, and Steve Eaton. Interment will immediately follow services at Boston Cemetery, Pettigrew. Services are entrusted to Brashears Funeral Home and Crematory of Huntsville

# Cemetery Details

## Boston Cemetery

Madison County Road 4805  
Pettigrew, AR 72752

# Previous Events

## Receive Friends

JAN 27. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Brashears Funeral Home and Crematory  
509 North Gaskill Street  
Huntsville, AR 72740  
(479) 738-2123  
<https://www.brashearsfuneralhome.net/>

## Funeral Service

JAN 27. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Brashears Funeral Home and Crematory  
509 North Gaskill Street  
Huntsville, AR 72740  
(479) 738-2123  
<https://www.brashearsfuneralhome.net/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Brashears Funeral Home and Crematory created a Webcast in memory of Ronnie Willhite*



Brashears Funeral Home and Crematory, Inc. - January 23, 2023 at 01:02 PM

SR

“ *So sorry to hear of Ronnie's passing. He was such a nice man. Prayers go out for your family.*

Sara and Jeff Reeves - February 01, 2023 at 04:20 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ronnie Willhite.*



January 27, 2023 at 10:22 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Ronnie Willhite.*



January 25, 2023 at 06:48 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Ronnie Willhite.



January 24, 2023 at 11:16 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of Ronnie Willhite.



January 23, 2023 at 09:02 AM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of Ronnie Willhite.



January 22, 2023 at 06:35 PM



“ *Brian & Laquiita Sabin and Girls* purchased the *Medium Dish Garden* for the family of Ronnie Willhite.



**Brian & Laquiita Sabin and Girls** - January 22, 2023 at 03:24 PM

JE

“ *He loved his family. Here he is with his brothers*



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**Justin Eaton** - January 22, 2023 at 09:33 AM

VH

*This is Ronnie, Bill, and Bob Willhite with Uncle John Willhite and Aunt Ruby*

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**Vicky Haynes** - January 24, 2023 at 11:21 AM

JE

“ *Christmas memories go way back.*



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**Justin Eaton** - January 22, 2023 at 09:32 AM

JE

“ When I first moved to Pettigrew I became friends with Debbie and ended up living on their land and working with the turkeys. I guess that was the beginning of my acquaintance with her dad, Ronnie. I became Shirley's hairdresser and that was the beginning of a great friendship with her. I am sure they helped me a lot back then since I was a single mother. In 1983 I had an inheritance coming when a house trailer came up for sale in Pettigrew. I wanted it but I didn't have my inheritance money yet, so when Shirley told Ronnie, he helped me get the trailer anyway. Through the years I heard story after story of Ronnie helping people. Also I was amazed at the stories of the inventions he designed.. He was just a very special person and I m glad I knew him.

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**Judy Evans** - January 21, 2023 at 10:44 PM

BW

“ Ronnie was a second Dad to me when Debbie and I were growing up together. He was the kindest man and so good to us kids!  
Prayers for all his family.  
Billie Baker Whorton

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**Billie Whorton** - January 21, 2023 at 07:46 PM

LI

“ Please accept our condolences. May the peace of God surround the family in the days ahead.  
Joel & Lisa Carlson

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**Lisa** - January 21, 2023 at 03:08 PM