

Obituary

Charles Elmer Gilbreath, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend, passed away on October 9, 2025, in Clifton, Texas, surrounded by his loved ones. Born on August 7, 1941, in Meridian, Texas, Charles was a remarkable man whose legacy will forever be cherished by all who knew him.

Charles graduated from Walnut Springs High School in 1959. He was a proud lifetime member of Walnut Springs Baptist Church where he taught Sunday school for many years. A proud member of the Plumbers and Steam Fitters Local 146 in Fort Worth, Texas. Charles dedicated his career to honing his craft, eventually becoming a self-taught HVAC mechanic, working for Carrier Corporation for 50 years. His work ethic was the embodiment of the phrase "Work hard and play hard." Not only did he take immense pride in his professional life, but he also enjoyed skiing trips to the lake and unforgettable vacations in his cherished '79 Camaro. Those familiar with him knew that he had a truly remarkable ability to fix anything, earning him the distinction of being the smartest man many have ever known.

He cultivated a giving heart throughout his life, always ready to extend a helping hand whenever his phone rang or someone knocked at his door. Generosity marked his character, and his humble nature meant that he seldom spoke of his own accomplishments, preferring instead to share stories of his children and grandchildren with immense pride.

Family meant the world to Charles. He is survived by his son Max Bench, his daughter Rhonda Mae Maher, and his son Leo Gilbreath and his wife Eden, and his cherished grandchildren: Brandon Maher and his wife Julie, Bailee Mae Bench, Brandi Maegan Maher and her fiancé, Johnny Ray Stewart, Katelyn Bench, Winter Gilbreath, and Wilder Gilbreath. Additionally, he relished the joys of being a great-grandfather to Callie Maher, Logan Charles Maher, and Flint (Bean) Campbell. His memory will be forever etched in the hearts of those he left behind.

Charles is preceded in death by his beloved wife, Cherida Mae Gilbreath, and his parents, Leo and Ruby Mae Gilbreath. His absence will be profoundly felt by family and friends, including his special friend and running buddy, Martha Uloth, who shared many adventures and memories alongside him.

A visitation for Charles will take place on October 14, 2025, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Walnut Springs Baptist Church in Walnut Springs, Texas, followed by a funeral service at the Walnut Springs Baptist Church on October 15, 2025, at 10:00 AM. He will be laid to rest at Oak Grove Cemetery in Walnut Springs on the same day, after the service.

Charles Elmer Gilbreath will be remembered for his unwavering love for family, spontaneous laughter, and the countless lives he touched with his kindness and wisdom. He leaves behind a legacy that will continue to inspire those who were fortunate enough to know him.

Services In Care Of
Lawson Funeral Home
Meridian, Texas

In Loving Memory



Charles E. Gilbreath

August 7, 1941 ~ October 9, 2025

In Memory Of
Charles E. Gilbreath

Date of Birth
August 7, 1941

Date of Death
October 9, 2025

Words of Wisdom:

Good Lord willing and the creek don't rise.

Stay out of pool halls and bars.

It will cost you a Yankee dime.

Don't take any wooden nickels.

Many thanks til you're better paid.

Six one way, half a dozen the other.

"Later"

Services
10:00 AM, October 15, 2025
Walnut Springs Baptist Church
Walnut Springs, Texas

Officiating
Pastor TJ Joyner and Brady Dempsey

Bearers

<i>Robert Morrison</i>	<i>Brady Dempsey</i>
<i>John Riley</i>	<i>Brandon Maher</i>
<i>Kevin Bean</i>	<i>Rick Phillips</i>
<i>Johnny Ray Stewart</i>	<i>Richard Norton</i>

Honorary Pallbearers
Randy Baker
Tommy Speer
Eddy Speer
Joey Speer
Jordan Duncan

Interment
Oak Grove Cemetery
Walnut Springs, Texas