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BILLY JAMES JENNINGS
November 20, 1934 - August 12, 2026

Billy James Jennings, 91, of North Little Rock, Arkansas, passed away peacefully on August 12, 2026. Born November 20, 1934 in Lavaca, Arkansas, Bill lived a life marked by quiet duty, steady devotion, and the kind of steadfast character that left a lasting imprint on everyone who knew him. He served his country as a United States Marine, carrying the values of honor, discipline, and loyalty with him long after his uniform was hung up. He returned from his service to marry the love of his life, start a family and work his beloved farm. Those same qualities defined his long career with the General Services Administration, from which he eventually retired after 36 years of faithful public service.

A longtime and faithful member of Park Hill Baptist Church, Bill found community, purpose, and a saving grace in his faith. He was the kind of man who showed up—whether for family, church, or country—without fanfare but with unwavering consistency.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents James Hester Jennings and Mary Elsie Gantt, his beloved wife, Lora Fern Stem and a son-in-law, Frank Matson.

He is survived by his children: daughter, Karen Matson; daughter and son-in-law, Anita and Mike Marlow, and son and daughter-in-law, James and Melissa Jennings; four granddaughters: Amy Smith, Lauren Hughes (Mark Hughey), Andrea (Cody) Chadwell and Kathryn Jennings; two great-granddaughters: Lora Lynn Chadwell and Holly Samantha Hughesy, with a third great-grandchild on the way; and his brother, Norris Jennings. His family remembers a man whose presence was steady and whose love was practical and enduring.

Billy James Jennings was a man of quiet strength, reliability and a quiet faith. He leaves behind a legacy measured not in headlines, but in the lives he shaped and the example he set.

Viewing will be from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, Friday, August 21, 2026 at Smith North Little Rock Funeral Home. A graveside service will begin at 10:00 am, Saturday, August 22, 2026 at Oak Valley Cemetery, Lavaca, AR.

Memorials in honor of Billy, may be made to AR Baptist Children and Family Ministries, Little Rock, AR.