

Some men do not need many words  
to leave a mark that lasts.  
They do it in the way they show up,  
the way they stay,  
the way they carry the people they love.  
Jeff was one of those men.  
He was steady in the quiet places of life—  
in long days of work,  
in the weight of providing,  
in a hand always ready to help,  
in a heart that made room for others first.  
He knew the simple, lasting things:  
the sound of a Harley on an open road,  
a fishing line cast into still water,  
campfires and family trips,  
classic rock and country on the radio,  
the Cowboys on Sunday,  
the Royals in season,  
racing, wrestling, laughter,  
and the kind of life built more by love than  
by noise.  
He knew what mattered.  
He was a husband to Laura,  
a dad his children could count on,  
and to seven little hearts  
he was simply “PaPa” —  
the name he loved best,  
the one that said everything  
about who he was in this world.  
And maybe that is the hardest part of grief:  
not only losing the man,  
but losing the place he held—  
at the table, in the driveway,  
in the middle of family stories,  
in every ordinary day  
that will never feel quite the same again.

He carried loss of his own.  
He knew what it was  
to miss the people who made you,  
to love them long after they were gone.  
And now, in Jesus,  
he is gathered to them again.  
There is sorrow here, yes—  
deep and deserved.  
But there is also this truth:  
a life like Jeff's does not end in silence.  
It goes on  
in the children he raised,  
in the grandchildren who adored him,  
in lessons that were never spoken like  
lessons,  
only lived.  
It goes on in kindness,  
in honesty,  
in showing up,  
in doing the next right thing,  
in loving your people well.  
And so we hold him there—  
not only in the moment he was lost,  
but in the many ways he was given.  
Because, as Henry van Dyke wrote,  
“for those who love, time is not.”  
So rest now, Jeff.  
Your work was not flashy,  
but it was faithful.  
Your life was not small,  
because it was poured into others.  
You were deeply loved.  
You will be deeply missed.  
And the legacy you left behind  
is still growing.  
Job well done.

# In Loving Memory



## Jeffrey G. Rhoads

May 27, 1967 - March 31, 2026

Jeffrey Gayle Rhoads, 58, of Smithton, passed away Tuesday, March 31, 2026, as the result of an auto accident.

He was born May 27, 1967, in Clinton, the son of Leon Mack Rhoads and Carolyn Joan (Lysinger) Rhoads. Jeff deeply loved his dad, whom he lost when he was just eight years old, and his mother, who recently passed last year.

On December 10, 1988, in Sedalia, he was united in marriage to Laura B. Lyle.

Jeff was a 1985 graduate of Smith-Cotton High School. He worked at Cargill for 19 years and most recently at Jostens.

He was a member and former deacon of Smithton Baptist Church. Jeff had a passion for Harley-Davidson motorcycles, and his grandchildren were the center of his world. "PaPa" was his favorite name. He enjoyed fishing, camping, family trips, watching the Cowboys, Royals, NASCAR, and wrestling, and listening to classic rock and country music. As a young boy, he owned and showed horses. He enjoyed raising different types of chickens.

Jeff will be remembered for his big heart, his honesty, and the way he always put others before himself. He was generous, caring, and always willing to help others.

Survivors include his wife, Laura, of the home; three children, Krista Rhoads, of Smithton, Jeffrey C. Rhoads (Ashely), of Sedalia, and Kimi Snapp (Colby), of Smithton; seven grandchildren, Karaline, Weston, Daxton, Jameson, Axle, Payton, and Stetson; a brother, Marty Rhoads; and his mother-in-law, Dee Lyle.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his father-in-law, Jimmy Lyle.

In Loving Memory

## *Jeffrey G. Rhoads*

FUNERAL SERVICE

6:00 pm Monday, April 6, 2026

Heckart Funeral Home

Sedalia, Missouri

OFFICIATING

Rev. Ron Griffith

Tony Dixon

MUSIC

*"Dancing in the Sky From an Angel's Perspective"*

*"Lead Me Home"*

*"Live Forever"*

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Jeffrey C. Rhoads     Colby Snapp

Brent Rhoads         Ryan Rhoads

Brad Dixon             Nick Martinez

Ray Marcum