



Billy Lee Cantrell

September 6, 1946 - October 26, 2023

Billy Lee Cantrell of St. James, Missouri passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on Thursday, October 26, 2023, at St. Luke's Hospital in Chesterfield, Missouri at the age of 77. Billy was born on September 6, 1946 in Licking, Missouri to the late Johnny and Vivian (Lewis) Cantrell.

Mr. Billy Lee Cantrell married his high school sweetheart, and the love of his life, Miss Jean Karr on June 25, 1966, this union was blessed with two children. Just after a year into the marriage Billy was drafted into the United States Army during the Vietnam War, which earned him two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star. After returning from active duty, Billy resumed his position at Holsum Bread as a route salesman, and later a supervisor. He was a man of God and was a member of the Rolla Church of Christ, serving as a Deacon for many years, and also in Fellowship. Billy was a strong presence in the lives of his children and grandchildren, his perseverance was one of his best qualities. He was involved in a head-on accident several years ago that took away his ability to walk, so for almost a year he underwent tough physical therapy. He also in later years struggled with the effects of Agent Orange, a chemical used during the war to help kill off underbrush. He enjoyed his family, and to say he was proud of them is an understatement, he adored his kids, and when the grandchildren came along, well that was a bonus for Billy. He and Jean operated R & S Floral in Rolla for 34 years, they really enjoyed working together, and getting to know their customers wants and needs in the

floral business. Billy was a loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather, uncle and friend, his finest quality was his patience, an inherent ability to listen, to absorb and to offer a point of view based on quiet, measured wisdom. Finally, every day of his 58 years of marriage, he taught his children, and grandchildren what it meant to be a great husband. He married his sweetheart, he adored her, he laughed with her and cried with her, and was dedicated to her totally. We bid farewell as we mourn the loss of a lively, and dignified soul, a soul that brought joy and fulfillment to many, and whose legacy will live forever.

Billy is survived by his wife Jean, of the home; children Michelle Pogue and husband James, of St. James, MO, and Michael Cantrell, of Rolla, MO; grandchildren, Landon Pogue (Erica), Kaylea Pogue, and Sydney Cantrell; great-grandchildren, Lenna Grace Hitch, Dayton Pogue, and Carter Pogue; brothers, Keith Cantrell and wife Marilyn, of Licking, MO, and Kenneth Cantrell and wife Lynette, of Cabool, MO; a host of nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. IN addition to his parents Johnny and Vivian Cantrell, Billy was preceded in death by his sister, Judy Evans, and brother, Jimmy Cantrell.

Funeral services will be held on Sunday, October 29, 2023 at 3:00PM at the Rolla Chapel of the James & Gahr Mortuary with Andy Cassidy officiating. Interment with Military Honors will follow at the Licking City Cemetery, in Licking, MO. A visitation for family and friends will be held at the Chapel on Sunday prior to the service from 2-3PM. Memorials are suggested and greatly appreciated to the Little Prairie Bible Camp; cards are available at all James & Gahr locations.

Cemetery Details

Licking City Cemetery

318 North Main Street
Licking, MO 65542

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **29**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

James & Gahr Mortuary - Rolla
1651 E. Hwy 72
Rolla, MO 65401
(573) 458-2262
jgrolla@hotmail.com
<https://www.jamesgahrmortuary.com/>

Service

OCT **29**. 3:00 PM (CT)

James & Gahr Mortuary - Rolla
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Military Honors

OCT **29**. 4:15 PM (CT)

Licking City Cemetery
318 North Main Street
Licking, MO 65542

Tribute Wall

DK

“ I remember him helping me pick out flowers for my mom and grandparents. He was a very nice man. I buy my flowers every year from R&S
I hadn't seen in awhile and was wondering where he was. May God Bless and Comfort you during this time of grief
I'm glad I got to know him!

Debbie Keithley - October 28, 2023 at 11:36 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Billy Lee Cantrell.



October 27, 2023 at 05:50 PM