



Bill Nichols

December 27, 1927 - March 20, 2018

Bill Nichols, 90, retired comptroller for Phillips Petroleum, passed away at his home on March 20, 2018.

Bill was born on December 27, 1927 in rural Washington County, North of Dewey, Oklahoma to parents George Henry and Myrtle Alice (Bowman) Nichols.

Bills father died in the Dewey tornado of 1942. Bill was 14 years old when he left home to make his own way, as his Mother had other children to support. Bill went to work at Superior Welding, which was busy helping support the War effort. When Bill was 16, his mother signed papers for him to join the US Navy. He was in boot camp his Junior year of high school, and he turned 17 in China. After WWII he returned and worked at the K & C Welding Shop, and started taking classes at Pittsburg St. He married Beverly Ann Loper at Mound Valley, Kansas on December 28, 1948. Bill hitchhiked back and forth to classes in Pittsburg, and when Beverly called and gave him the news that they were expecting a child, he quit school, hitchhiked home, and got a job with Phillips Petroleum.

Bill was an active man with many hobbies and interests. Along with his full-time job at Phillips, he owned the Holiday Inn 66 and Hillcrest 66 service stations. When he sold them, he invested in rental properties, buying and fixing up houses to rent out. He did all the carpentry, electrical, plumbing and repairs himself.

Bill had quite the green thumb, and always enjoyed a large vegetable garden

and grew beautiful flowers. He would often work his garden late at night and sometimes into the wee hours of the morning. In the 1960's, Bill got interested in jewelry making. He used turquoise and sterling silver to create beautiful and unique jewelry and pendants.

In the 1970's, Bill also began selling ElectroLuxe vacuums door to door, and before long, he was a top salesman in the region.

Bill has a love of automobiles, and had a special affinity for Cadillac Convertibles, of which he owned many. He collected many, many old cars, in various states of condition.

In the 1980's, Bill purchased a small 10-acre farm. Pretty soon the acreage grew, and he started a hay and cattle operation. Bill was also a lifelong student, taking numerous college classes over the years. He enjoyed reading, Zane Gray Western novels were a favorite. Bill was always good natured and was called "Billy Pure Heart" by many that knew him.

Bill is survived by his daughter Rita Byfield and husband Mike of Bartlesville; son Earl Nichols and wife Teri of Bartlesville; five grandchildren Sean Byfield, Kristi Davis, Katee Byfield, Ian Nichols and Andrew Nichols; four great-grandchildren Lukas Byfield, Eva Davis, Gray Davis and Tycen Nichols and brother Jerry Nichols of Eufala, Oklahoma.

He is preceded in death by his wife Beverly Ann on May 2, 2017 and siblings Don Oscar, Earl Eugene, Carl Curtis, Joe, John Wesley Nichols, Joe Rogers, Violet Clark, June Rigdon, Mae Goldsberry, Betty Jane Armstrong and Georgina Morgan. He was also preceded in death by one great-grandson Ryker Nichols.

Graveside services will be held on Friday, March 23, 2018 at Memorial Park Cemetery in Bartlesville at 1:00 pm.

Cemetery Details

Memorial Park Cemetery

4200 Nowata Rd
Bartlesville, OK 74006

Previous Events

Graveside Service

MAR 23. 1:00 PM (CT)

Memorial Park Cemetery
4200 Nowata Rd
Bartlesville, OK 74006

Tribute Wall



“ *Bill Nichols*

October 23, 2023 at 04:40 AM



“ *Bill Nichols*

October 06, 2023 at 03:15 PM



“ *I've loved my uncle, Billy Ray Nichols, all of my life. He was a constant presence in our family during my childhood and later years -- both Mother and Daddy loved and depended on him. His laugh, his charm, his loyalty brightened their life. Billy Ray was generous with his time and his love. I am deeply saddened that he has passed away, but know he was met in heaven by so many who loved him -- he has graduated to the Church Triumphant and is with our Lord.*

Joan Minor - March 24, 2018 at 12:02 AM



“ *Sheila Haynes, Barbara Nichols, Marilyn Weatherman purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Bill Nichols.*



Sheila Haynes, Barbara Nichols, Marilyn Weatherman -
March 22, 2018 at 06:06 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Flowers



Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory - March 22, 2018 at 03:24 PM

NN

“ My father, Earl Nichols, was 18 when his baby brother was born. He thought of Bill like a son rather than a brother. As I look back I am reminded of how good Billy Ray was to my father and my mother. He and Uncle Don were the first ones called when anything went wrong with the car or the house. Daddy was not gifted with being able to fix anything, but his brothers were and he didn't hesitate to call them when something needed "fixed". Growing up both uncles were always at the house. Uncle Bill and Aunt Beverly lived next door to us for four or five years so he was a constant in my young life. Even though man has a transitory nature it is with sadness I look upon his death and know the grief his family feels. Bye Billy Ray, and thank you for all that you did for my family.
<http://storage.lifetributes.com/Candles/new/candle-10.png>



Nancy E Nichols - March 22, 2018 at 12:51 AM

JN

“ Joan Minor and Nancy Nichols purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Bill Nichols.



Joan Minor and Nancy Nichols - March 21, 2018 at 10:53 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Bill Nichols.*



March 21, 2018 at 09:19 PM