



Michael Wayne Gilliam

July 2, 1955 - June 13, 2025

Michael Wayne Gilliam, born on July 2, 1955, in Jacksonville, Arkansas, took his final bow on June 13, 2025, in his beloved Bakersfield, California, at the age of 69. Mike's journey was one of grit, laughter, and endless stories, marked by a life well-lived and deeply cherished by those who knew him. From the moment he tied the knot right out of high school, Mike was a man of commitment. He spent many years working as a mechanic and welder, but it was the oilfields that captured his heart. For the last 42 years, Mike poured his soul into his work, with CRC being his final employer, and he loved every moment of it. The oilfields weren't just a job to him; they were a passion, a way of life. Animals were another of Mike's great loves. His loyal dog Butch was his sidekick for many years, and his bond with Dolly, his horse, was legendary. A true animal enthusiast, Mike surrounded himself with nearly every farm animal imaginable, even the exotic likes of ostriches, emus, and parrots. His life was a colorful tapestry of creatures great and small. Though not heavily involved in organized community activities, Mike's impact was felt by all who crossed his path. With an easygoing nature and a knack for striking up conversations with anyone, Mike was the kind of person who never met a stranger. His willingness to help those in need was just part of his generous spirit. Mike leaves behind his devoted wife, Barbara, and his daughter, Kristie(Chad), granddaughter Ashley (Nick), who carry forward his legacy of kindness and warmth. He is also survived by his brothers, Gary (Theresa), James (Tonia), brother-in-laws Terry, Tim, and Mike (Berni) Stonecipher.

Special friends Ken, Ralph and Jim. Along with many nieces and nephews and cousins. Preceding him in death were his parents, George J. and Carol, and his brother, Terry. Family and friends will gather to celebrate Mike's life on June 27, 2025, at Mission Family Mortuary, located at 531 California Ave, with a viewing from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Following this, a graveside service will take place at Greenlawn on River Blvd at 1:30 p.m. Mike's life was a testament to the joy of simple pleasures and the love of family and friends. He may have left this world, but his stories, laughter, and indomitable spirit will remain in the hearts of those who had the privilege of knowing him.

Cemetery Details

Greenlawn River Blvd

3700 River Blvd
Bakersfield, CA 93305

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 27. 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM (PT)

Mission Family Mortuary
531 California Ave
Bakersfield, CA 93304
1 (661) 323-3339
<https://missionfamilymortuary.com/>

Graveside

JUN 27. 1:30 PM - 2:15 PM (PT)

Greenlawn River Blvd
3700 River Blvd
Bakersfield, CA 93305