



## Mr. Billy Neil Ellis

March 11, 1936 - November 18, 2018

Billy Neil Ellis died at home, surrounded by his family, on Sunday, November 18, 2018 at the age of 82. A lifelong resident of Chickamauga, Georgia, Billy Neil was an entrepreneur, a philanthropist, a selfless advocate for his community, and the beloved patriarch of a family he cherished. The son of Lillian Crowder and Neil William Ellis, Billy Neil graduated from Chickamauga High School in 1954. After high school, he joined the army in 1955 and was stationed in South Korea. When he returned to the United States in 1957, he met Jean Marie Oliver, also of Chickamauga. They were married on December 19, 1958 in the home of Frank and Bernice Loveless, Billy Neil's aunt and uncle. Billy Neil and Jean were married just a few weeks shy of 60 years. Together, they raised Gregory Neil Ellis and Sherri Neila Ellis. Billy Neil served as a member of the Board of Education for Chickamauga City Schools for 37 years. This service, while impressive in its own right, does not begin to scratch the surface of his endless generosity to the last three generations of Gordon Lee Trojans. Billy Neil and Jean never missed a fall Friday night of Gordon Lee Football, cheering from their perch in the top of the stands. Over the course of his life, Billy Neil served in countless leadership positions, both publicly and behind the scenes, never wanting the credit or the acclaim. These included serving as a member of the Board of Trustees at Elizabeth Lee United Methodist Church and as a member of the Chickamauga City Council. However, Billy Neil's most important leadership roles were those of father and grandfather. To the children and grandchildren who adored him,

Billy Neil "Poppy" was a rock, unfailingly generous, kind, and loving. Billy Neil was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife, children, and grandchildren Kristen Spires (Laura) Williams, Dwane Alexander Spires, and Shelby Frances Ellis. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be made in Billy Neil's honor to the Elizabeth Lee United Methodist Church Building Fund or the Gordon Lee High School Athletic Fund. The family would like to thank Hospice of Chattanooga for their wonderful care and support. The family will receive friends Tuesday from 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm and Wednesday morning prior to the service. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 am – Wednesday – November 21, 2018 at Elizabeth Lee United Methodist Church with Pastor Zach Fitzpatrick and Mrs. Melody Day. Burial will follow in Chickamauga Cemetery – Chickamauga, Georgia. Arrangements by Wilson Funeral Homes – Chickamauga Chapel. Online register book at [www.wilsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.wilsonfuneralhome.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Chickamauga City Cemetery

Lee Ave.  
Chickamauga, GA 30707

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **20**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wilson Funeral Homes - Chickamauga Chapel  
215 Lee Ave.  
P.O. Box 370  
Chickamauga, GA 30707  
(706) 375-2161  
[bo@wilsonfuneralhome.com](mailto:bo@wilsonfuneralhome.com)  
<https://www.wilsonfuneralhome.com/>

## Visitation

NOV **21**. 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Wilson Funeral Homes - Chickamauga Chapel  
215 Lee Ave.  
P.O. Box 370  
Chickamauga, GA 30707  
(706) 375-2161  
[bo@wilsonfuneralhome.com](mailto:bo@wilsonfuneralhome.com)  
<https://www.wilsonfuneralhome.com/>

## Funeral Service

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NOV **21**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Elizabeth Lee United Methodist Church  
139 Cove Rd  
Chickamauga, GA 30707  
<http://www.elizabethleeumc.org>

# Tribute Wall

SR

“ *Shelly Russell lit a candle in memory of Mr. Billy Neil Ellis*



Shelly Russell - November 21, 2018 at 01:44 PM

SR

Prayers for your family 🙏🙏. So very sorry for your loss ..

Shelly Russell - November 21, 2018 at 02:45 PM

LP

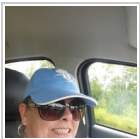
“ *Jean, Love and prayers for you all.  
Have just learned of your great loss as we are in Nashville through  
the Holidays.  
Lynda Palmer*

Lynda Palmer - November 21, 2018 at 10:05 AM

YP

“ *My deepest sympathy to the Ellis family.*

Yoka Plunkett - November 21, 2018 at 04:06 AM



“ *Kristi Lynn lit a candle in memory of Mr. Billy Neil Ellis*



Kristi Lynn - November 21, 2018 at 12:02 AM

RW

“ *Loss of a great and special man. Always willing to help in any way he could! He will be missed by so many! Rest in sweet peace!*

Rosa Willingham - November 20, 2018 at 07:05 PM

PH

“ *So sorry for your loss. Prayers for the family during this difficult time. God bless you*

Paula Holley - November 20, 2018 at 05:01 PM

BB

“ *Betty Bowman lit a candle in memory of Mr. Billy Neil Ellis*



Betty Bowman - November 20, 2018 at 03:16 PM

BB

*Prayers for the Family.*

Betty Bowman - November 20, 2018 at 03:17 PM

TP

“ *Teresa Martin Puryear sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Billy Neil Ellis*



Teresa Martin Puryear - November 20, 2018 at 02:14 PM

LD

“ You are all in our thoughts and prayers !



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**Lynn Evitt Dye** - November 20, 2018 at 12:58 PM

BP

“ Man I sure hate to hear this he was a good man.  
I have dealt with and worked around this man for years.  
He will be missed by many folks in and around this area.  
He was without a question a great person.  
So sorry to all his friends and family for the loss.  
Billy Joe Plaster

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**Billy Joe Plaster** - November 20, 2018 at 12:21 PM

JL

“ Mr. Ellis was truly an inspiration. It is difficult to think of  
Chickamauga without him. My heart goes out to Mrs. Ellis, Greg,  
Sherri and the rest of the family.

Jeff Landers

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**Jeff Landers** - November 20, 2018 at 12:00 PM



“ Tabitha Moses lit a candle in memory of Mr.  
Billy Neil Ellis



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**Tabitha Moses** - November 20, 2018 at 09:58 AM

JS

“ *Judy Shirley lit a candle in memory of Mr. Billy Neil Ellis*



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**Judy Shirley** - November 20, 2018 at 07:49 AM

DM

“ *Donna Gordy Montgomery lit a candle in memory of Mr. Billy Neil Ellis*



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**Donna Gordy Montgomery** - November 20, 2018 at 07:12 AM

TE

“ *Our deepest sympathy to the Ellis Family. Remembering “Bill” as such a kind, caring, loving man willing to help anyone in any way that he could.*

*Such an honor and privilege to have known him as a friend, confidant, and mentor who will truly be missed.*

*The Sharp Family  
Dean, Teresa, Mallory and Katlyn*



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**Teresa** - November 20, 2018 at 05:57 AM

JA

“ *My deepest Condolences to the Ellis family, I'm so very sorry for your loss, he was A very nice n caring man, sure will miss seeing him around town n waving Ashe passed.*  
*Mrs. Joy Abbott Swanson*



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**Joy Abbott** - November 20, 2018 at 01:44 AM

RV

“ *Ruth Venable lit a candle in memory of Mr. Billy Neil Ellis*



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**Ruth Venable** - November 19, 2018 at 09:06 PM

BP

“ *Billy Pickel lit a candle in memory of Mr. Billy Neil Ellis*



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**Billy Pickel** - November 19, 2018 at 08:35 PM

CQ

“ *Sincere and heartfelt condolences to the Ellis family. He will be missed.*

*Carl & Pam Quinn*



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**Carl Quinn** - November 19, 2018 at 07:18 PM

WT

*Heartfelt sympathy to family , community and friends.*

**Willie L Teems** - November 19, 2018 at 09:00 PM

DW

“ *Dear Jean, Greg, Cherri and Family, Our thoughts and prayers are with you all during this very difficult time. May God give you strength comfort rest and peace in the arms of Jesus. With our deepest symphaties. RIP Mr. Billy Neil Ellis. God bless, Donata and Johnny Walker*



**Donata Walker** - November 19, 2018 at 06:22 PM

AD

“ *Alice Drew lit a candle in memory of Mr. Billy Neil Ellis*



**Alice Drew** - November 19, 2018 at 05:49 PM

TW

“ *Tina Waters lit a candle in memory of Mr. Billy Neil Ellis*



**Tina Waters** - November 19, 2018 at 05:37 PM

BW

“ *Benny Ware lit a candle in memory of Mr. Billy Neil Ellis*



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**Benny Ware** - November 19, 2018 at 03:43 PM

PF

“ *Every time I'd go back home I'd hear more and more of things Uncle Billy Neil had done for people. He helps lots of people in our small town and I know is appreciated. Every Sunday we had family lunches at my grandmothers and Uncle Billy Neil and my Daddy were always into mischief. He loved to have a good time and loved being with family. I feel privileged to have grown up in my town and with my wonderful family. You're going to be missed by hundreds but what all you have done will help generations. I love you always and there's a big hole in my heart. Rest In Peace*

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**Pamela Jackson Folger** - November 19, 2018 at 02:52 PM

VP

“ *Mr. Ellis was truly a great man. He genuinely cared for others. He was always there to help. He was loved by many and will be truly missed. Our thoughts and prayers for the Ellis family.*



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**Victoria Prince** - November 19, 2018 at 01:47 PM

AP

“ Billy Neil was one of the most amazing people we were blessed enough to know. He was truly a wonderful man. He cared for anyone and everyone and would go well out of his way to help anyone he could. My dad could never say enough good words about him. The world is a better place for having had him and we were blessed tremendously to know him. We are praying for you Jean and family.



*Angela and Andrew Pence.*

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**Angela Pence** - November 19, 2018 at 01:37 PM

HS

“ I loved Billy Neil. He has been a part of our family since my early childhood. Many family trips/vacations. Great memories. Praying for the family.



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**Hope Sisson** - November 19, 2018 at 12:03 PM

DC

“ Debra Cauthorn lit a candle in memory of Mr. Billy Neil Ellis



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**Debra Cauthorn** - November 19, 2018 at 11:56 AM

JW

“ *Praying for the family. Loved this man and so very grateful to have had him in my life. Rest In Peace.* ”



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**Jan Wright** - November 19, 2018 at 11:24 AM

GQ

“ *Mr. Ellis was truly a supporter of the Chickamauga community and will be missed! We were fortunate to be apart of the Trojan Wrestling family! Forever a Trojan!!* ”

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**Gerald, Suzanne, and Braden Queen** - November 19, 2018 at 10:35 AM

RS

“ *Billy Neal was a fine man, who loved his Church, his School, his Community, and most of all, his Family. He will be missed. Our prayers are with the family.* ”

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**Richard Scoggins** - November 19, 2018 at 10:30 AM