



Hershel Eugene Hollifield

July 25, 1934 - March 26, 2021

Hershel Eugene Hollifield, 86, of Ringgold, Georgia, passed away on March 26, 2021, at home surrounded by family following a lengthy battle with Parkinson's Disease.

He was born July 25, 1934, the 2nd oldest of 13 children born to Abe and Vinie Mae Hollifield, and was a lifelong resident of Ringgold, Georgia.

Always known for his teasing, fun-loving nature, Hershel met the love of his life, Alice Ruth Tinker, when he and his friend Charles Templeton were hot rodding late one afternoon as Southern boys were prone to do from time to time in the early 1950's. They drove past Alice and her friends who were taking a walk down Alabama Highway in Ringgold. Hoping to make an impression on young ladies, they drove past the girls several times and then pulled into Cawood's Service Station and burned their tires round and round the single gas pump. No doubt, Mr. Cawood was thrilled. Hershel must have been successful because in spite of his antics, he and Alice married in 1954, and enjoyed a marriage of over 66 years.

Hershel was a hard-working man. There were times when his job required him to work in circumstances that caused him physical pain. Nevertheless, he was a dedicated employee. He joined Lucey Boiler Company in 1965 and retired from there in 1997.

Hershel and Alice's home was always a gathering place for family and friends. In addition to raising two daughters of their own and his niece, Sue, they opened their home to several girls who needed a temporary safe place over

the years so he was like a second dad to several. After his grandchildren were born, he became known as “Gramps” to all who knew him.

Hershel was a horse enthusiast and especially loved quarter horses. He owned several during his lifetime and riding was one of his great pleasures. He enjoyed sports of all kinds, but was especially fond of Nascar racing, University of Georgia and University of Alabama football. He had a great appreciation of classic country and Southern Gospel music. One of the simple pleasures he enjoyed most was playing Canasta (or Rook) with family and friends – especially if he was the victor.

In his retirement years, Hershel took on the role of compassionate caregiver, taking excellent care of his mother and two of his brothers for years. He treated it like a job, visiting the nursing home where they stayed every single day, sometimes multiple times day, to feed them and make sure they knew they weren’t forgotten. Always the extrovert, he then proceeded to visit everyone else in the nursing home to make sure they knew they weren’t forgotten either. It was his way.

His great passion in life was serving his church, which he did for many years. First, at the Ringgold Church of God and later at Indian Springs Church of God. During his younger years, he and Alice ran an unofficial bus ministry for their church (never mind that there was no bus). They drove separate cars to church so they could pick up as many children as their cars (or pickup truck) would hold. For years and years, he was the quiet servant who arrived at church early to turn on the lights, get the temperature just right, and make sure each Sunday School class had the proper literature. He loved to sing and was honored to enthusiastically lead the music at Indian Springs for many years.

Lastly, it was obvious that his family was his greatest treasure. In his later years, he often embarrassed his daughters as he unashamedly bragged to doctors, nurses, store clerks, or anyone else willing to listen as he recounted what a great family he had. He really didn’t need a prompt; he just wanted people to know how much he’d been blessed.

He was a great son, brother, husband, father, “Gramps”, and friend to many. He was a feisty fun-loving; a quick-witted soul. He had a big personality and will be greatly missed!

He is survived by his wife Alice Ruth Tinker Hollifield, daughters Terrie (Ken) Rhodes and Pam (Kris) Taivalkoski; five grandchildren - Jessica (Rick) Harris, Kristian (Jake) Edgeman, Drew Rhodes, Adam (Jacque) Rhodes, and Charlie Taivalkoski; and 4 great grandchildren – James Rhodes, Ben Edgeman, Natalie Rhodes, and Alicen Edgemen. He is survived by siblings Larry (Linda) Hollifield, Paul (Leann) Hollifield; Jim (Jean) Hollifield, Faye Mong, Darlene Underwood and numerous nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, Vinie and Abe Hollifield, siblings Cecil Hollifield, Geneva Shields, Wayne Hollifield, Dolly Clark, Kenneth Hollifield, Jeanette Ballard, and Linda Kay Hollifield, and the niece he raised, Sue Hollifield.

A celebration of his life will be held on Tuesday, March 30, 2021 at 2:00 P.M. at Wilson Funeral Home in Ringgold. The family will receive friends from 5-8 P.M. Monday and 11 A.M. until funeral time Tuesday at the funeral Home. We invite you to share your thoughts and memories online at www.wilsonfuneralhome.com.

Heartfelt thanks to Hospice of Chattanooga - Alleo (Carol, Jason, Crystal, and Cynthia) for their fine care of Hershel for more than 9 months. Thank you to nurse practitioner Lisa Brooks for your years of excellent care. And, unending gratitude to dear friend Edna Elliott and brother Larry Hollifield for all you did to make the journey easier – words cannot express our gratitude to you. Arrangements are by Wilson Funeral Home Wallis-Stewart Chapel Ringgold, Georgia.

Cemetery Details

Lakewood Memory Gardens South

325 Greens Lake Road
Rossville, GA 30741
(706) 866-7777

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 29. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wilson Funeral Homes - Ringgold Chapel
443 Boynton Drive
Ringgold, GA 30736
(706) 935-2331
spencer@wilsonfuneralhome.com
<https://www.wilsonfuneralhome.com/>

Visitation

MAR 30. 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Wilson Funeral Homes - Ringgold Chapel
443 Boynton Drive
Ringgold, GA 30736
(706) 935-2331
spencer@wilsonfuneralhome.com
<https://www.wilsonfuneralhome.com/>

Funeral Service

MAR 30. 2:00 PM (ET)

Wilson Funeral Homes - Ringgold Chapel
443 Boynton Drive
Ringgold, GA 30736
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Tribute Wall

DP

“ I am so sorry to hear about Hershel's passing. Alice and Hershel went to church with me for years. He was and still is in my book a wonderful man. Alice is a wonderful woman that has done more for me than anyone will ever know. They both made a big difference in my life and I will never forget it. I don't see Alice much but she is still in my heart as well as Hershel. I love you 💕 both. Diane Houston Poore

Diane Houston Poore - April 24, 2021 at 12:30 AM

DS

“ Herself and Alice was always a blessing. Always had a smile and always serving the Lord. You was such an inspiration to so many. Go rest high on that mountain you are a good memory.

Darlene (wilson) Sanborn - April 07, 2021 at 09:33 PM

LS

“ I will always remember Brother Hershel and Sister Alice picking us up, the Smith kids and taking us to Ringgold Church Of God in the 60s and 70s. And also him leading the choir at Ringgold and Indian Springs Church of God singing praises to the Lord. God Bless. Our prayers go out to you Sister Alice and the Hollifield family.

Lesley and Karen Smith - March 30, 2021 at 12:01 AM

LS

“ Lesley And Karen Smith lit a candle in memory of Hershel Eugene Hollifield



Lesley and Karen Smith - March 29, 2021 at 11:51 PM

RC

“ sorry to hear of the passing of brother *HERSHEL* /my wife and i have known herchel and Alice for years they were our neighbor for several of those years we thought a lot of them our prayers sympathy goes out to Alice and Terrie and Pam may the lord be with you and comfort you and keep you safe /Richard Barbara Clark and Becky Rex

RICHARD BARBARA CLARK - March 29, 2021 at 08:35 PM

RC

“ *RICHARD BARBARA CLARK* lit a candle in memory of *Hershel Eugene Hollifield*



RICHARD BARBARA CLARK - March 29, 2021 at 08:22 PM

DB

“ We were saddened to hear of Hershel's passing. We know that he loved his community , his family and most of all The Lord Jesus Christ. He was a servant from the time that we first met him until his going home. We know that his family and friends have lots of memories that they will always cherish near and dear to their heart concerning Hershel. Our continued prayers and thoughts will be with his Bride (Alice) and the rest of his family in the upcoming days and future. All is well with Hershel now ! God Bless. We love yall , David and Dana Bragg

David and Dana Bragg - March 29, 2021 at 03:13 PM

JS

“ I met Hershel and Alice when I married into the Smith family. They would come and pick up my sister and brother in law and carry them to church. He was always a sweet person and he loved the Lord he will be greatly missed.

James and Martha Smith - March 29, 2021 at 12:36 PM

GS

“ I thank God for Hershel and Alice. They were always there for my children. When I would go slack they would pick up the pieces. Faithful is not enough of a word to explain the Hollifield family, I cannot put it into words what they mean to me and my family. Hershel is leaving a legacy too many. God has blessed his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren because of his life. We lost our great granddaughter when she was six days old. I told my son, "I promise you Hershel has already found her and is holding her dearly." Love and prayers to all the family. Glenda Smith

Glenda F Smith - March 29, 2021 at 08:36 AM

LH

“ So so so many beautiful memories spending time at Terries, my BF, at the Hollifields house. What a sweet and gentle man he was. I remember all the camping trips we took and playing Canasta. I remember going to ride horses and being chased and stung in the head by a swarm of hornets. The horse didn't like it either. These memories are replayed over and over again in my mind because they were the highlight of my high school years. Life is definitely just a vapor and I know that Mr. Hollifield is in Heaven now. Praying for this special family.

lisa hullender - March 29, 2021 at 05:39 AM

TB

“ *Hershel was the father I feel God put in my life after my dad passed and Alice 2nd mother to me and my siblings. Hershel picked me up every day tge church doors were opened and I'd go home w them on Sunday morning worship and I loved spending time with Pam and Terri and Alice . They inspired me to be who I am and although our journey started at Ringgold church of God , I shared being on the Praise team with Hershel at Indian Springs and back to Ringgold. He and Alice were like grandparents to my kids and I'm so Thankful God place them in my life . I just know he's shouting snd praising Jesus!Thank you for loving me and being obedient to God may you Rest In Peace , Tyra and Vance Bell*

tyra bell - March 28, 2021 at 09:25 AM

DA

“ *Bro. Hollifield blessed us with his leading music, laughter, and love for his family.*

Donna Allen - March 27, 2021 at 11:13 PM

BH

“ *Some of my earliest memories of attending church or anything at Ringgold COG with my Maw Maw, Mildred Smith , contained Mr Herschel. What a sweet presence he had about him and he was always smiling and happy to see us. I remember hearing stories of how He and Mrs Alice went and picked up my aunts and uncle for church as part of the unofficial bus ministry. Prays for the family!*

Beth Smith Howell - March 27, 2021 at 10:27 PM

PB

“ I always remember that beautiful smile while Hershel led the choir at Ringgold Church of God and would almost march across that stage in front of the choir waving those arms in praise as he sang unto the Lord! What a precious memory!

Pam Bennett - March 27, 2021 at 08:06 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Terrie Rhodes - March 27, 2021 at 03:17 PM