



Marvin Lavern Gillam

April 5, 1936 - January 22, 2026

Marvin Lavern Gillam, the son of Floyd and Lonnie (Brakefield) Gillam, was born April 5, 1936, in Washington County, Missouri. He passed away January 22, 2026, in Cuba, Missouri, at the age of eighty-nine years.

Marvin grew up in Courtois and in 1953 graduated from Cherryville High School as class president. On November 22, 1956, he was united in marriage to the love of his life, Emilie Todd, and together shared sixty-nine years of marriage before her passing on October 3, 2025.

Marvin and Emilie were blessed with two sons: Dave and Don. His family was most important to him, and he treasured making memories with them. When his sons were younger, they enjoyed drive-in movies together. Marvin was always looking for a way to entertain his grandchildren and took them frequently to the creek. His nieces and nephews looked forward to summers spent with Marvin and Emilie on the family farm.

Marvin worked for Hummel Construction in St. Louis for many years. After his injury, he enjoyed farming and tinkering around the house. He was always creating things, and welding leather straps onto items, to make life easier on himself. Marvin overcame his struggles, never complained, and was very self-sufficient.

An avid outdoorsman, he enjoyed fishing and going hunting with his friends. He loved to tend to his big gardens alongside his wife. Marvin also liked listening to George Jones and reading western novels.

Marvin is survived by his sons: Dave Gillam and wife Sue of Viburnum, MO and Don Gillam and companion Janet Ringering-Shewmake of Wood River, IL; grandchildren: Jessica Metcalf and husband Nic of Cuba, MO, Ashley McMillian and husband Larry of Rolla, MO, and Drew Gillam of St. Louis, MO; great-grandchildren: Harrison McMillian, Noah McMillian, Blake Metcalf, and Brooks McMillian; as well as several nieces, nephews, other relatives, and dear friends.

Preceding him in death were his loving wife: Emilie Gillam; parents: Floyd and Lonnie Gillam; brothers: Elmer, Paul, and Herbert; and sisters: Ardell, Oneta, and Rosalie.

Marvin will be remembered for his excellent story-telling ability. He was always very welcoming, fun loving, and loved by everyone. He will be deeply missed but never forgotten.

Memorial Services were held Saturday, February 21, 2026, in the Wilson Mortuary Viburnum Chapel with Pastor Chris Hendrix officiating.

Granddaughter Jessica Metcalf shared the eulogy. The family was served by Wilson Mortuary, Viburnum, Missouri.

Condolences may be left online at www.wilsonmortuary.com

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **21**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Wilson Mortuary - Viburnum
548 Highway 49
Viburnum, MO 65566
(573) 244-5554
<https://www.wilsonmortuary.com>

Celebration of Life Service

FEB **21**. 2:00 PM (CT)

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548 Highway 49
Viburnum, MO 65566
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Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album Videos Album



Wilson Mortuary - March 05 at 11:54 AM

JA

“ Jeremy Asher planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Marvin Lavern Gillam.

Jeremy Asher - February 21 at 03:06 PM

JA

“ Jeremy Asher purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Marvin Lavern Gillam.



Jeremy Asher - February 21 at 03:06 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Marvin Lavern Gillam.



February 20 at 02:29 PM



“ 111 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Wilson Mortuary - February 20 at 12:36 PM

NS

“ Nicole Smith purchased the *Simply Elegant Spat hiphyllum* for the family of Marvin Lavern Gillam.



Nicole Smith - February 18 at 09:59 AM

NS

“ Nicole Smith planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Marvin Lavern Gillam.

Nicole Smith - February 18 at 09:59 AM

PH

“ Going to uncle Marvin's and aunt Emilie s it was heaven on earth!
There are so many awesome memories! Love Pauline

Pauline Hosto - February 15 at 06:01 PM

CY

“ What a treat it was to wake up on the bottom bunk in Don’s room on Saturday mornings and then race outside to join Uncle Marv on the front porch sipping his coffee, reading his paper and listening to some Ronnie Milsap!❤️ Waiting in anticipation for the other cousins to join in at the house so we could start asking Uncle Marv “Can we go to Crabtree’s yet??” Until finally he arose from his chair, folded his paper, took his coffee cup in and then reemerge to shout at the yard full of kids: “Anyone want to go to Crabtree’s?” Great memories!!! ❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️

Cynthia - February 15 at 04:54 PM

PH

All of the kids would get into the back of his jeep and off to the creek we would go!

Pauline Hosto - February 15 at 09:06 PM

PG

“ I always remember those Sunday trips tp the store at Pucky Huddle, We kids always got a treat

Paula Gillam Gamblin - February 04 at 07:00 PM

WS

He was definitely a go getter. He would mess with us boys putting up hay He say im gi e you boys a left or right hook. Sure miss those days.

Wayne J Skaggs - February 04 at 10:57 PM

CY

I recall Chick-o-sticks Candy and Yoo-Hoo drinks being popular favorites at Puckyhuddle! 😊

Cynthia - February 15 at 05:24 PM

PH

A soda or candy.

Pauline Hosto - February 15 at 08:58 PM