



Billy Black

July 20, 1932 - March 12, 2012

Billy Jack Black passed from this life Monday, March 12, 2012 at his home in Waldron, Arkansas. Bill was born July 20, 1932 to the late Doyl Black and Winnie (Smith) Black. As a young boy, Bud Rice lived right across the street from Bill's home and liked to recall that he remembered the night Bill was born. Bill's mother Winnie Winchell and his grandmother Mae Bethel Smith, were there for him during his growing up years and later. Bill forged many friendships during his youth in Waldron. In particular, Kerwin Ashford and Roy D. Mills, remained close friends throughout his lifetime. Bill was a Boy Scout in Vernon T. Baugh's Scouts. They made float trips on the Fouché and Quachita Rivers. Bill recalled one night on a float trip that a storm came and blew down his and Kerwin's tent. He couldn't awaken Kerwin so he finally gave up and went to a dry tent himself. Bill reminisced that the scouts often played an adventure game called Capture the Flag. He remembered wading through Poteau Creek to capture the flag. Bill said later he "wouldn't let a kid of mine play that." Kerwin and Bill played high school basketball together and enjoyed recounting their shared memories. Roy D. Mills played basketball too and was also in the Baugh Scout Troop. Once, during a high school play called "Grandpa Steps Out" Roy played a trick on Johnnie Sue Crutchfield and wired up the prop phone to be live. Johnnie Sue was flabbergasted when she picked up the prop phone and got a dial tone. With Roy's help, this became an outstanding comedy. Also, during Bill's high school years, he worked at Baber Drug for Oscar and Martha Baker. Sports were a big part of Bill's boyhood

and young adulthood. During his baseball years he pitched and his friend, Wayne Davis caught. After high school he continued to play, venturing to California where he worked at Rohr Aircraft and played baseball for their company team. After returning to Arkansas, Bill then played for a Waldron adult team called The Waldron Redlegs. He was drafted into the US Army in 1952 and served two years. At the time of his discharge he ranked as a Sgt E5 and was training recruits to be company clerks. His 11th Armored Cavalry Division was scheduled to go to Korea when the truce was signed. Bill said of his army service the loneliest time was when taps played, signaling "lights out." After discharge from the Army in 1954, he worked a short while for the Waldron Furniture Factory. His cousin, Raymond Black, encouraged him to pursue college on the GI Bill at the College of the Ozarks in Clarksville. In contrast, Raymond's father, Atticus Black, scoffed "You're never going to college?" prompting Bill to resolve to go to college with the sentiment "I'll show him!" Bill married the girl next door, Jo Ann Marsh, in 1956. He finished pre-pharmacy at the College of the Ozarks and subsequently graduated from U of A Pharmacy School in Little Rock in 1961. That same year, Bill moved back to Waldron starting a news business and his family. He formed B & B Drug with Martha Baber and his son Brad was born in December 1961. Bill loved his family and his job. He loved going to work and always said he had "The best customers." From 1961 to 1991 he kept coffee at a nickel a cup. Also during his early years in business he met Britt Cordell, pastor of the United Methodist Church. Brother Cordell was a positive influence on Bill and he was saved and joined the church during the time Brother Cordell was pastor. Along with establishing a family and a business, Bill also started an American Legion Baseball Team. His friend, J.C. McChristian, coached the team. There was no home court, so all the games were played away. Bill also started fishing at this time. This became a time of relaxation and renewal. His friend, Dr. H.B. Wright and he fished weekly for many years until Dr. Wright's death. Afterwards, Bill sold his boat and stopped fishing. He discovered a new hobby, however? Golf. Bill played golf with both friends and family and in

particular, enjoyed golf with his son, Brad. Bill was well-known to many as a Pressure Player- the more the pressure, the better he liked it. During his later years, he was content to be home. He enjoyed watching Razorback Basketball and Football and even the Price is Right and Wheel of Fortune. He enjoyed watching golf tournaments on TV, especially to marvel over Tiger Woods ability to play golf. Bill always loved his children coming home to visit so he could get something good to eat. Growing up, Brad worked at the drug store, as did his daughter Mary. Buck Byford said Mary reminded him of Billy Jack, and referred to her as "Mary Jack." His youngest daughter Laura's special times was when she and her dad would hunt for a Christmas tree each December or go to Truman Baker Park to eat an after school burger they picked up at Charbroiler. Bill leaves behind to cherish his memory his wife of 55 years, Jo Ann Black; one son, Brad Black of Parker, Colorado, two daughters Mary Ballard and husband, Charlie Ray of Gravelly, Arkansas and Laura Black of Little Rock, Arkansas, five grandchildren, and one great grandchild. Bill also leaves behind one sister Myrian Matthews of Marian, Arkansas and one nephew Justin Quoss of Fayetteville, Arkansas. Bill is preceded in death in addition to his parents by his step-father, Dude Winchell; brother, Gary Black, and sister, Linda Quoss. Bill's celebration of life service will be held at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, March 14, 2012 at the Heritage Memorial Funeral Home Chapel in Waldron, Arkansas with Donald Fittin, officiating. Interment will be in Birdsvew Cemetery in Waldron, Arkansas. Arrangements are being entrusted to the Heritage Memorial Funeral Home & Crematory in Waldron, Arkansas. Bill's pallbearer's will be Terry Plummer, Rick Black, Steve Hattabaugh, John Terrill, Ron Blair, and Dickie Newberry. Honorary Pallbearers will be Jim Girkin, Roy Mills, Dr. Jerry Hoyt, Barry Hogan, Jerry Parker, Gaylon Taylor, Dr. Nathan Bennett, and Johnny Ray Ward. Bill's visitation will be 1:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at the Heritage Memorial Funeral Home in Waldron, Arkansas. Bill's family will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the Heritage

Memorial Funeral Home.

Tribute Wall

SY

“ *Having grown up next door to Dude and Winnie, I have fond memories of Bill, JoAnn & Brad. We often did business at the drug store and I'm sure he will be missed by all of Waldron.*

Susan Jones Young - August 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LJ

“ *I just heard about Billy Jack's passing. I remember like it was yesterday loafing in the front window or on a stool at B&B Drug. Bill was a great friend to my entire family and all of Waldron. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.*

Larry Jones - April 05, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BN

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

Bill and Carolyn Needham - April 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ Thank You,
*For support during Bill's illness and friendships through the years.
For friends taking part in service, speaking, singing and being
pallbearers at the memorial celebration of Bill's life.
For all the friends for visitation and your presence from our church.
For health care providers: Scott County Hospital, physicians,
nurses, and pharmacists, hospice home care, and the services of
the Heritage Memorial Funeral Home and the members of the
Waldron United Methodist Church and our pastor, and Dianne
Miller.
For all the prayers, cards, visits, flowers, food and online guest
register book from the time of his death through his memorial
celebration service.
Thank you again for the food the day of the funeral.*

Blessings From The Billy J. Black Family - April 03, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LA

“ We were very sorry to learn of Billy Jack's death. We read the
obituary in the Waldron News. We will keep the family in our
prayers.

Linda and Don Applegarth - March 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ Laura, I am sorry to hear the loss of your dad! Yall were so close.
My thoughts will be with you and yours.

Jody Watts - March 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

WW

“ JoAnn & Family,

We are saddened to hear the news of Bill's passing. He was a great man, and he will be greatly missed. May God comfort your family and grant peace that surpasses all understanding. Your family is in our thoughts and prayers.

Wyatt & Deborah Watkins - March 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PC

“ Dearest Jo Ann and family
*My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time.
A forester friend. Patsy whisenhunt Copeland*

patsy copeland - March 16, 2012 at 12:00 AM

OT

“ JoAnn and family, I'm so sorry to hear of Billy Jack's passing. I will always remember being the smallest batter on our baseball games at recess and Billy Jack would be walking by and he would bat for me. He was fun to be around, always had a smile for everyone. May God be with your family at this sad time. Love, Ocie Faye

Ocie Faye Tull Tinder - March 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ A good friend in high school and so much fun to be around.

Jonnie Sue Crutchfield Harris - March 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ Our prayers go out to Jo Ann, Laura, & the rest of the family.

Jerry, Paula, & Anthony Ward - March 15, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BG

“ JoAnn.. I'm so sorry about Billy Jack's passing. I can't remember not knowing Billy Jack. He was a good friend to all my family. It doesn't seem that long ago that Billy Jack and Kerwin were a big part of the WHS basketball team. Lots of good memories. I hope you know that our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Becky Gardner - March 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM

ES

“ Our love and sympathy to our dear Forester friend,Joann, and all the family of Billy Jack.

Evelyn and Dub Smalling - March 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CL

“ Joann, there are no words to ease your pain or loss but know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. Christine Lees

Christine Lees - March 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AB

“ Thinking of you all at this time.

Ann Bingham - March 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BY

“ I had the privilege of working for Bill at B&B from 1972 to 1974. One of my favorite memories is the time he let me off work early so I could go to the revival they were having at the Baptist church. He was a man of great integrity and I was honored to know him. Your family will be in my prayers.

Bill Yates - March 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM

VS

“ *Jo Ann and Family:*

*My Deepest Sympathy to you and May the Good Lord hold
you in his arms during this
difficult time!
Bill was a good friend and will be missed. Love, Virginia Sizemore*

Virginia Sizemore - March 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CT

“ *We just learned of Bill's death on 3-14, 10 am.*

*We are sorry we did not know in time to attend the 3-14 service. We
just want you to know we are thinking of the Bill / Jo Ann family
during this sad time.*

Carl & Judith Thompson - March 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GH

“ *i just read in the paper today of the passing of Bill, oh! how i wish i
could have known about it sooner. Bill and his family is very special
people and will always be in my memory of waldron. coach gaile
hainley*

gaile and bruce hainley - March 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ *Bill, was a fine man, he cared about people. He helped a lot in what
you needed.
Sure am glad I called him that day not long ago and once again he
was there for me.
JoAnn, God bless you and and the rest of the family. He will not be
forgotten.*

Richard & Patsy Sehorn - March 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PK

“ I played American Legion baseball under the watchful eyes of Billy Jack. He and his wife would haul me and my wife to several of the games and even J.C. and his wife did the same. What a giving person. And when I wanted to quit college, he was totally against the idea. Thankfully I followed his advice and continued my college education. Was saddened to hear of his passing. Paul Key

Paul and Kay Key - March 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AW

“ Jo Ann, You have my deepest sympathy. You are in my prayers.

Antoy Weiche - March 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ Laura & Family, So sorry for your loss. Praying each one of you!

Tanya Coffey Kennedy & Family - March 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LT

“ Just when you think that you're out of tears, they flood down your face in great sadness. Billy Jack was in the waiting room the night I was born. He was a good friend to me and my Dad, Kerwin. He was a great guy. I was proud to know him and love him. He made this world a better place. Dad has his golf partner now, and they are both winners.

Laralei Ashford Thomas - March 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LK

“ Jo Ann and family; anybody who knew Billy Jack over the years can't help but look back with smiles and laughter. What a great guy and how many others he helped over the years. I still remember the days when he and Dr. Wright made such a great team. Prayers and thoughts are with you all.

Linda Kizer - March 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

WS

“ With deepest sympathy.

Waldron Nursing Center Residents and Staff - March 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LW

“ Mary and Family, so sorry for your loss. I have such fond memories of going into B&B after school.

Laura Watkins - March 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

NS

“ JoAnn and family, we were so sorry to hear about Bill. May you find comfort in your many special memories. Thoughts and prayers for you and your family.

Neal and Paula sparks - March 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ I have many fond memories of growing up next door to all of you. I especially remember one time when Bill took me and Brad to Lake Millwood fishing. He was a great man and will be missed by all who knew him. My thoughts and prayers are with you all at this time

Phillip Sherrill - March 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ Joann and family, my thoughts and prayers are with you all. I feel like I've known Bill all my life, and have so many fond memories of him! He was loved by many, and will be missed!

Teresa Johnston Culpepper - March 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ Joann, Mary, Brad, Laura, and families, I am so sorry for your loss. I have known all of you my whole life, and spent time with you, and have lots of fond memories of Billy Jack. There will never be another like him! He will be greatly missed. I love you all and will keep you close in thought and prayer.

Darla

Darla (Johnston) Dozier - March 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AD

“ Jo Ann Thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this time. I know Bill will be greatly missed.

Alla Merle Doyel - March 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AH

“ Bill was very special to me. His kindness and sense of humor shine brightly in remembering my youth (when Laura and I were inseparable). I am honored to call him a dear friend. My love to the family, whom I love very much.

Angela English Hunsucker - March 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

PG

“ JoAnn & family - Our thoughts and prayers are with each of you. May happy memories be a comfort during this difficult time.

Pam (Brown) & Charles Glidewell - March 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Jo Ann and family I am so sorry to hear about Billy Jacks passing. You are in my thoughts and prayers. May God comfort you during this time of sorrow. He was a special man and will be missed by all that knew him.

Debbie Sparks - March 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GE

“ JoAnn--we are so sorry to hear of Bill's passing. I will never forget our game of pool and the look on his face!It will always make me smile, along with the other memories of funny stories he always told at the drugstore if he had a spare minute. He brought laughter to alot of people and touched many lives.My prayers are with you and your family. Joni

Gerald & Joni Essman - March 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CD

“ Our hearts go out to you and your family during this difficult time. Just know that, although we can't be there, our thoughts and prayers are with you. Hope to see you soon.

Calvin and Charlotte Davis - March 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ A sympathy card has been sent to the family of Billy Jack Black c/o Heritage Memorial Funeral Home and Crematory funeral home.

March 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

EI

“ As long as we remember, he will always be here.

Everett A. Ham, III - March 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SU

“ So sorry to hear of the death of Bill. I have such happy memories of spending time one summer with JoAnn & Bill shortly after they were married. He always remembered the recipe for Spam I fixed for them during this visit. Last year when we came to a car show in Waldron I had the opportunity to visit with him and he mentioned my Spam recipe(he must have liked it?)Our prayers are with the family at this time...I love you JoAnn.

Sharon Ussery - March 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KH

“ Mary, Laura, Joann: My deepest sympathy is extended to each of you. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you. God bless.

Keith Holleman - March 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

LH

“ We are so sorry to hear of Billy Jacks passing, Please know our prayers are with the family.

Larry & Deloras Horn - March 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

"P

“ Jo Ann, sorry to hear about Bill. My thoughts & prayers are with you & Family.

"Jeto" Piles - March 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KY

“ Mr. Bill Black was one of the sweetest men I knew. Some of my fondest memories as a child were going into B&B Drug as a child and Bill always greeting me with a smile. I will miss him dearly. We will always be birthday buddies. Joann, and kids know that each of you are in my heart during this sad time.

Kayla Yandell - March 13, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SJ

“ Mary, so sorry for your loss.

Sheila (Rose) Jones - March 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KH

“ Billy was my Baseball coach growing up at Waldron..I admired him through the years.He always encouraged me in life whether it was Sports or my Music..He was a special person...Heaven is brighter tonight!

Ken Huens - March 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BL

“ Bill will surely be missed,he was a good man.All the years I was a policeman I drank coffee at his drug store,he was fun to talk to,always joking about something.I will miss you old pal.

Bill Luttrell - March 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ Laura and family you are all in our thoughts and prayers. Lots of childhood memories at B&B.....
Love Steph

Stephanie and Chris Brewster - March 12, 2012 at 12:00 AM