



William Franklin

July 26, 1946 - November 20, 2025

WILLIAM LEWIS FRANKLIN WAS BORN JULY 26, 1946, IN GADSDEN, AL TO LEONARD LEON SR AND BEULAH FRANKLIN, BOTH WHO PRECEDED HIM IN DEATH. WILLIAM WAS QUITE THE ENTERTAINER. HE ALWAYS FOUND A WAY TO MAKE THOSE AROUND HIM LAUGH AND SMILE. HE EMBRACED CHRISTIANITY AT AN EARLY AGE AT SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH IN GADSDEN.

HE AI ENDED CARVER HIGH SCHOOL AND LATER MOVED TO PIN-Y WOODS, AL TO LIVE WITH HIS GRANDPARENTS GUS AND VESTER THREATT. THIS IS WHERE HE BEGAN TO DEVELOP AN INTEREST IN FARMING. HE LOVED RESTORING ANTIQUE CARS, LIFTING WEIGHTS, JAZZ MUSIC, AND ATTENDING MONSTER TRUCK EVENTS. HE CHERISHED FAMILY GATHERINGS AND CREATING MEMORIES. HIS PASSION FOR FARMING LED HIM TO DEVELOPING GARDENS. HE WOULD DEVELOP GARDENS WITH A VARIETY OF VEGETABLES AND BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS.

WILLIAM LEAVES TO CHERISH HIS MEMORIES, HIS WIFE, ELEANOR "BABY DOLL" BORDEN FRANKLIN, HIS SEVEN (7) CHILDREN, DONNA "RENITA" SUMPTER, WAYNE (LISA) TURNER, DEWONG (TONYA)

FRANKLIN, CHARLES (KIMBERLY) GARRETT, CADARRYLL WATKINS, TURSHESIA (DEXTER) MARBURY, AND COREY WATKINS. HIS BELOVED EIGHTEEN (18) GRANDCHILDREN, FOURTEEN (14) GREAT GRANDCHILDREN, AND ONE (1) GREAT GREAT GRAND. HIS BROTHER LEON FRANKLIN, SISTERS LEETA (STEVE) HENRY, MAURICE (MAURICE) GRIMES, TAMELA FRANKLIN, TWO (2) AUNTS, THELMA FRANKLIN & PERLIE FRANKLIN AND A HOST OF NIECES, NEPHEWS, COUSINS, FRIENDS, AND WONDERFUL COWORKERS.

WILLIAM WAS PRECEDED IN DEATH BY HIS PARENTS LEONARD & BEULAH FRANKLIN, HIS DAUGHTER DONNA RENITA SUMPTER, HIS SISTER BETTYE HENRY, BROTHERS JOSEPH FRANKLIN AND GREGORY FRANKLIN.

Cemetery Details

S.M. Goodson Funeral Home and Crematory

217 Coosa St. E
Talladega, AL 35160

Previous Events

Memorial Service

DEC 5. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Pine Grove Baptist Church
1587 Pine Grove Road
Sylacauga, AL 35150

Tribute Wall

DB

“ Desteni Bond purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of William Franklin.



Desteni Bond - December 04, 2025 at 08:13 AM

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“ -- purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of William Franklin.



-- - December 03, 2025 at 10:11 AM

BP

“ We like to send our condolences to Eleanor and family we are praying for the family. I will miss playing bid whiz with Franklin who always loses. I am going to miss you Cuz

Beulah Parker - December 02, 2025 at 03:22 PM

TB

My condolences to my family and friends. We will never forget what our love ones leave us with.
" Grief is the price we pay for love"

Thelma Boyd-Winston - December 02, 2025 at 06:27 PM

GT

Sending condolences to Eleanor and family in the loss of your husband.

Geraldine Twyman - December 03, 2025 at 11:05 AM