



## Donnie Ellison

June 26, 2013

Donnie Ellison, 70, of Hot Springs went to be with the Lord on Wednesday, June 26, 2013. Donnie was born on November 13, 1942 the son of Corine Ward and William Ellison who preceded him in death. He was of the Christian faith.

Donnie worked for Oaklawn Jockey Club where he dedicated over 50 years of his life as one of the premiere track superintendents in the nation. Donnie received numerous awards during his 50 years at Oaklawn including, Golden Heart Service Award, several Manager of the Year awards and Horseman Benevolent Protective Association (HBPA) award in 1997 and 2004. He was recognized by his peers and horsemen for his commitment in keeping the track safe and open for the horses. Donnie loved the sport of horse racing. He is survived by his loving wife, Carolyn Ellison of Hot Springs; sons, Donny (Sherry) Ellison of Mt. Ida, Devin Ellison of Hot Springs; daughter, Brittney Carloss of Hot Springs; stepsons, Danny (Tiffany) Cottrell of Bismarck and Brent Cottrell of Hot Springs; step-daughter, Amanda Baker of Hot Springs; three sisters, Billie (Rick) Tabor of Midwest, Oklahoma, Lynda Ruth Albright of Hot Springs and Marilyn (Rocky) Smith of Hot Springs; one brother, Paul (Sandy) Baldwin of Pueblo, Colorado; grandchildren, Korbin Cottrell, Jennifer (Jeff) Warden, Josh (Brittney) Ellison, Mikayla Ellison and Alexis Shanek; great grandchildren, Jayden Warden and Jax Ellison; several loved nieces, nephews and friends. His extended family was the Oaklawn Jockey Club maintenance crew.

Visitation will be 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM Sunday June 30th at Hot Springs Funeral Home.

Celebration of Life services will be 10:00 AM Tuesday July 2nd at Oaklawn Jockey Club infield with Pastor Ben Wiles officiating.

Honorary pallbearers are Oaklawn Jockey Club staff, Charles Cella, Ismael (Smiley) Sanchez, and Johnny Breckling. Also, Arkansas Hospice and a special thanks to Dr. Martin Koehn, Brenda, Zann, Jarrod and Renea, Mt. Olive Community Church and River of Life Church of God.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Arkansas Hospice – 628 Malvern Avenue – Hot Springs, Arkansas 71901.

# Tribute Wall

JW

“ *To Carolyn and family: So very sorry for your loss. He was a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather. Our prayers are with you. Todd, Janice Walker and children*

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**Janice Walker** - June 30, 2013 at 06:51 PM

BA

“ *Bobby and I are so sorry to hear about Donnie. Bobby spent many years working with Donnie at Oaklawn. Our thoughts and prayers are with Donnie's family during this difficult time.*

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**Bobby and Jan Andry** - June 30, 2013 at 02:04 PM

ST

“ *Dearest Carolyn, I am so sorry to hear of the passing of your beloved Donnie. May God comfort you and carry you in His love and peace. May you know His presence more than ever before. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Love from the Galilee.*

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**Sarah Tyler** - June 29, 2013 at 09:22 AM

DC

“ *We are sorry to here of Donnie's passing! I remember so well visiting as a child how good Donnie was to me taking me to play baseball at the municipal field and especially taking me to the cafeteria with the jockeys and trainers and then to the rail to watch the horses race until I was old enough to get in the stadium. Condolences to the family and especially my cousin Donnie and Sherry. God bless Don and Carol Collins.*

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**Donald Collins** - June 28, 2013 at 05:48 PM