



Wayne Bennett

December 1, 1947 - February 1, 2024

Wayne Bennett, 76, went to be with the Lord Feb. 1, 2024.

Wayne was born in Hot Springs on Dec. 1, 1947 to L.E. “Shorty” and Rosie Bennett.

He attended Lakeside High School where he played trumpet in the band, and graduated in 1965. He graduated from Henderson State University in 1971 with a degree in chemistry and biology and was a member of the ROTC Pershing Rifles.

He grew up working for his family’s business, Shorty Bennett’s, and continued serving the community through Bennett’s Auto Service and Towing with his sister Linda and brother Mark following Shorty’s death in 1979.

He met his wife Debbie and they married on November 5, 1983. They were happily married for 33 years and had two daughters, Sarah and Kathryn.

Working with his dad, he collected many cars over the years and was a charter member of the National Street Rod Association.

He was a longtime member of the Hot Springs Executive Association and served on the advisory board for National Park College’s career academy automotive program.

Wayne always had a joke or clever quip to share with customers and friends. People often stopped by the shop with questions for Wayne about their vehicles — opting to “Wayne it” instead of “Google it.”

Wayne is preceded in death by his wife Debbie, his parents and his brother Mark.

Left to cherish his memory are his daughters Sarah (Zach) Miller, and Kathryn Bennett; his grandson Bennett Miller; his sister Linda (Greg) Bright; nephew and nieces, John Bright, Beth Reed and Aubree Impson; and many cousins, friends and loyal customers who became friends through the years.

Weather permitting, the visitation will be an informal car/motorcycle/tow truck show at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 10, at First Baptist Church. Guests are encouraged to bring their favorite ride in Wayne's honor. A memorial service will follow at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Wayne Bennett Memorial Fund at any Bank OZK location benefitting students pursuing a career in automotive technology.

The family thanks the staff at DaVita and CHI St. Vincent for their care

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **10**. 10:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church
2350 Central Ave.
Hot Springs, AR 71913

Memorial Service

FEB **10**. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church
2350 Central Ave.
Hot Springs, AR 71913

Tribute Wall

MS

“ My sincere condolences to the family and to all that knew and loved him. Praying for the family. 🙏

Mary Ann Smith - February 15, 2024 at 11:07 PM

ML

“ My family and I entrusted Wayne and his family with our cars for over 40 years. I knew to never second-guess his advice as he had earned our trust time and time again. I couldn't count the number of times he and Linda have come to our rescue, and we appreciated each and every one. I will truly miss his wry smile and jokes every time I walked into the shop.

A guy like Wayne Bennett comes along only once or twice in a lifetime - wishing him Godspeed and peace for his family. I missed his service today and I'm very sorry I did. Rest in peace, my friend.

Matt Lewis - February 11, 2024 at 12:16 AM

MW

“ Wayne was such a good Samaritan, he even worked on Sundays if needed! One of my favorite memories: I got my lawnmower stuck one Sunday afternoon in a drainage ditch behind my house. Then I got my old Chevy pickup stuck trying to pull my lawnmower out of the ditch. Mark came out with his small wrecker and proceeded to get it stuck trying to pull out my pickup and lawnmower. Finally, Wayne showed up with a great big wrecker. Hooked on to his small wrecker which was hooked on to my old pickup, which was hooked on to my riding lawnmower and pulled everything out of the ditch. I don't recall him charging me a cent, but he should have, it was a sight to see! Many thanks for many favors over many years!

Mike Wolf

Mike Wolf - February 09, 2024 at 10:53 PM

SJ

“ Our deepest sympathy and prayers goes to the Bennett Family. Mr. Wayne always had a smile on his face when you walked in to his establishment. And the jokes.....he had a bunch to tell. He had an unbelievable book of knowledge on cars in his mind.....you could ask him everything and if he didn't know the answer...he would soon. He was about as honest as they come.

Mr. Wayne...you will truly be missed.

Sam & Tiffany Jones - February 09, 2024 at 01:10 PM

JB

“ Wayne has taken care of our cars and our parents’ cars for over 50 years. He will be so missed. I trusted his knowledge and loved his jokes. Thankful for his Christian witness and stand for what was right.

Janis and Marc Bremer - February 07, 2024 at 12:39 PM

SR

“ Linda, Tom & I will never forget the many kindnesses you & Wayne showed us over the years, from the time we arrived in Hot Springs in 1980 to the time we moved in 2013! Thank you for your integrity & honesty through the years & your willingness to help however & whenever needed. Know you & Wayne’s whole family are in our prayers. -Sue Rupp

Sue Rupp - February 07, 2024 at 12:28 PM

JM

“ Wayne was a great friend to so many and a huge supporter to the entire Hot Springs Community. He was always ready to help a friend and he always helped me and my family through the years. My deepest condolences to his Family. But take comfort because he rejoices with his Lord in Heaven.

Jim McAdams - February 06, 2024 at 08:45 AM

HD

“ Such an honest, kind man. Everyone could trust Wayne to give a truth and a fair evaluation. He never made fun of my obsession with “I think my tire is low”. He and Linda shared that kindness to continue/create an outstanding business. We were happy that he trusted us enough to seek information for a new business by asking our experience. As much as his family will miss and remember him, so will we. Hilarie & Tony Dziaott

hilarie Dziaott - February 06, 2024 at 08:23 AM

RT

“ On any given day and at one’s moment Wayne was there for you...(amen); and best of all ya didn’t have to wait for the call screener of The Tappet Bros. to give you access while waiting 30 min. for a response. As a gear head at heart, Wayne was the glue for many of us enthusiasts in our quest to solve the unsolvable Detroit dilemmas our transportation would often fall victim to. He loved to take on your challenge...best of all: either in shop or to be pointed in the right direction for the solution. Fellowship ran through his veins as he lived out his faith behind the desk, out on the shop floor or a rescue run to hook your ride in the very classic and timeless tow truck. Oh...and yes the very latest magazine library was always available to which the honor system was in full force. Thank you Lord for all the moments with Brother Wayne...if hole shots are allowable in the heavenly: I bet he smoked up the entrance to the pearly gates...and who knows? Was “Big Daddy” Don Garlits the first to shake his hand? Or other legends of the 1420? One day if we have trusted in the blood of Jesus (like Wayne did) I know we’ll find out too.

Roman Terlecki - February 06, 2024 at 07:54 AM

JJ

“ He was a great friend to my late husband "Doc" Jolly ,he became my friend as well, Doc always said go see Wayne he will take care of your auto needs. Since I drive by the shop many times a day I shall miss seeing him as I watched him going into the shop until the end. Loved exchanging stories with him , I will miss you Wayne. Jane Jolly

Jane Jolly - February 05, 2024 at 11:32 AM

JR

We will miss Wayne for many reasons. His kindness, integrity and sense of humor helped make Hot Springs a warm and supportive community. Going way back to Shorty Bennett’s, meeting him through our family store, and relying on him for timely reliable help, we saw the same generous beaming personality with every circumstance. God blessed us through you, friend. Jerry and Fran Rephan

jerry rephan - February 11, 2024 at 06:02 PM