



Buddy Gentry

May 17, 1934 - August 24, 2025

On August 24, 2025, Buddy Gentry received his reward and entered the gates of Heaven, where he was met by his wife, Jean, who left us a little over a year ago. James Eli (Buddy) Gentry was born to Joe Ivan and Mary Gentry on May 17, 1934 in Brownstown, AR. If the story is right, Buddy moved from the farm to Ashdown around 1938. After graduating high school, buddy joined the US Army and proudly served from 1958 to 1962, when he was honorable discharged. He married Errol Jean Simmons in 1963, a marriage which lasted 61 years, until her passing. As a result of this union, Marceia Lynn was born in 1967 and Buddy was ruined for life. Buddy spent his working years employed in the maintenance division of Coke Cola Bottling Company in Texarkana. This partnership lasted 37 years before his retirement. Buddy and Jean were faithful members of Central Baptist Church in Ashdown. When Buddy was not working, you could find him and Jean on a local golf course. If Jean was not around, Buddy could always be found with a group of men that included Jerry Burnett, Howard Stinnett, Bink Spigner, Fred Wright and many others. Most have gone on before Buddy and are waiting at the 19th tee for him. Not that he will have any reason to get mad in Heaven, cause all the tee shots will be straight, but we hope that they have a good supply of straw hats and baseball caps. More than a few have witnessed what Buddy could do to a hat with a 5-iron after a wayward shot. Buddy was a verry meticulous man. Whether it was about his golf game, grass cutting around the house or his tray at the hospital, he wanted everything a certain way. This included having the hospital TV on

channel 30 in order to watch every episode of Gunsmoke or The Rifleman. A quality that he has most definitely passed on to his daughter. Besides his parents and wife, Buddy was also preceded in death by his brother, Joe Gentry, sister and brother-in-law, Clyde and Mary Jo Green and brother-in-law, Herman Brown.

He is survived by his daughter, Marcy Shelley and her husband, Steve, along with their children, Colin and Eli, sister Pearl Brown along with several cousins, nieces and nephews and extended family.

Funeral services will be Wednesday, August 27, 2025 at 2:00 at Madden Funeral Home with Bro. Don Embry officiating. A visitation will begin at 1:00 prior to the service. Interment to follow at Ashdown Cemetery. Donations in remembrance of Buddy may be made to Central Baptist Church 261 Commerce Street Ashdown AR 71822.

Cemetery Details

Ashdown Cemetery

Peyton Avenue
Ashdown, AR 71822

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 27. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Madden Funeral Home - Ashdown
371 N 3rd Street
PO Box 428
Ashdown, AR 71822
(870) 898-3331
<https://maddenfuneralservice.com/>

Funeral Service

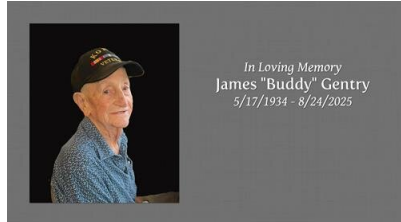
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Tribute Wall



“ *Madden Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Buddy Gentry*



Madden Funeral Home - August 26, 2025 at 02:07 PM



“ *Marcy, I want you to know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. Your classmate '86, Scott Stevens*

Scott Stevens - September 19, 2025 at 07:32 PM



“ *Buddy was great to work with him at Coca Cola for many years. I always enjoyed talking to him and visiting with him. prayers for the family.*

Lantz Lurry - August 27, 2025 at 01:24 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Buddy Gentry.*



August 27, 2025 at 08:41 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Buddy Gentry.

August 27, 2025 at 08:41 AM



“ Suzie Saulsbury lit a candle in memory of Buddy Gentry



Suzie Saulsbury - August 26, 2025 at 11:29 AM



“ He was a great man to work with at Coca Cola. He was quite the character and always had a smile on his face. Praying for the family.

Neil Jones - August 25, 2025 at 05:00 PM



“ This obit captures the real Buddy Gentry. There must be great rejoicing in Heaven as Jesus greets all these family members & friends. Our condolences extend to family & all friends 🙏. There are so many fun memories! 🥳🎉

Sara & Herman Barnett - August 25, 2025 at 02:25 PM



“ Bobbie L Schuetz lit a candle in memory of Buddy Gentry



Bobbie L Schuetz - August 25, 2025 at 02:06 PM



“ *Prayers for all of you!*

Sherry Grimes - August 25, 2025 at 01:42 PM