



Matthew Douglas Gilley

October 18, 1983 - September 25, 2025

Matthew Douglas Gilley, 41, of Ashdown, AR passed away September 25, 2025. Matt was born on October 18, 1983, to Mark & Jackie Gilley in Texarkana, TX. Matt is the owner of Big Gilley's Smokehouse & Herb's in Ashdown, AR and Gilley's Place in Foreman, AR. He was an active member of the Little River Chamber of Commerce and very active in the community by donating money, food, and his time. Touching many lives through the years with his big heart, he was always willing to help anyone, giving the shirt off his back even if he wasn't wearing one. Family was everything to him, including the traditions they shared, he loved big, and was an avid Arkansas Razorback fan.

Matt is preceded in death by his paternal grandparents Dan & Betty Gilley and his maternal grandparents James & Barbara Davis.

Left to cherish his memory is his wife Shae and their three children Cheyenne, Grace & James. His parents; Mark & Jackie Gilley, one sister; Kacie and husband Matt Metzger, one niece; Emma Metzger, and three uncles; Bryant (Toni) Davis, Chris (Michelle) Davis, and Mike (Mary) Gilley. Two aunts; Jodie (Tommy) Dutton and Michelle Bonner, seven cousins; MJ, Ashley, Zack, BJ, Chelsea, Kara, and Cooper. Also including more friends that could ever be named.

Though his time was cut short on this earth something that will never be forgotten was Matt's favorite saying "I hearddd that! I'll catch you on the flip side!"

A visitation will be held Sunday September 28, 2025, from 4-6pm at the Madden Funeral Home Chapel in Ashdown, AR. Funeral will be Monday September 29, 2025, at 10am at the Church of Christ in Ashdown, AR with David Formby officiating. Interment to follow at Ashdown Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Ashdown, AR.

Cemetery Details

Ashdown Memorial Gardens

148 Little River 29
Ashdown, AR 71822
(870) 898-3331

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **28**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

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

Funeral Service

SEP **29**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Church of Christ
270 W. Main Street
Ashdown, AR 71822

Interment

SEP **29** (CT)

Ashdown Memorial Gardens
148 Little River 29
Ashdown, AR 71822
(870) 898-3331

Tribute Wall



“ *Madden Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Matthew Douglas Gilley*



Madden Funeral Home - September 27, 2025 at 04:30 PM

JF

Beautiful! Sure will miss Brother Matt. Praying for all family and friends. We were blessed to get to visit with him in the restaurant. He is in Jesus's arms.

Johnston Family - September 29, 2025 at 01:19 PM

JF

“ *My husband and I and our parents really enjoyed going to eat at Matts restaurant! What made it better than all others, was the family feal and k owing that when Matt walked in, he was going to greet you as family and always asked how the food was! Just listening to him talk, you knew eat was most important, and that was Jesus Christ first and foremost and his wife and kids! He was a blessing and still is ,because He is in Heaven waiting for us all! What a glorious day, it will be when we are all kneeling at our Saviour feet! We love and miss you Brother Matt!*

Johnston Family - September 29, 2025 at 01:23 PM

KG

“ Matt was a good friend. Many great moments and stories. Never a dull moment. Prayers of PEACE for family. Always kind and friendly. Will be missed by all.

Kent Gentry - September 28, 2025 at 04:56 PM

LC

“ Love, Cardinal Care Clinic purchased the "Cardinals" Black 36" Cylinder Sonnet for the family of Matthew Douglas Gilley.



Love, Cardinal Care Clinic - September 27, 2025 at 05:28 PM

SN

“ Sam & Kristy,-Casey-Daniel & Nolan purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Matthew Douglas Gilley.



Sam & Kristy,-Casey-Daniel & Nolan - September 27, 2025 at 02:33 PM

SN

“ Sam & Kristy,-Casey-Daniel & Nolan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Matthew Douglas Gilley.

Sam & Kristy,-Casey-Daniel & Nolan - September 27, 2025 at 02:33 PM

SD

“ Sarah Klocke, Marshall Carby, and Dilly purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Matthew Douglas Gilley.



Sarah Klocke, Marshall Carby, and Dilly - September 27, 2025 at 01:32 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Matthew Douglas Gilley.



September 27, 2025 at 10:25 AM

LH

“ Love you cuz, Shane and Paola Hickman purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Matthew Douglas Gilley.



Love you cuz, Shane and Paola Hickman - September 27, 2025 at 09:36 AM

LH

“ Love you cuz, Shane and Paola Hickman planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Matthew Douglas Gilley.

Love you cuz, Shane and Paola Hickman - September 27, 2025 at 09:36 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Matthew Douglas Gilley.*



September 27, 2025 at 09:35 AM



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

September 27, 2025 at 09:35 AM



“ *Our family's prayers go out to Gilley's family. I was so heartbroken when I heard. The memories of him as a teenage boy at our house. I would come home and there would be Adam an Gilley. First thing Gilley would say was what's up zMs. Tammie. I'm so proud of the man he became. We loved him and he will be missed. Lunsford Family*



Tammie Lynn Lunsford - September 27, 2025 at 07:09 AM



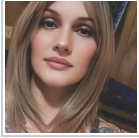
Well Gail you're sitting up there with Amber having some good old talks the night before I left Ashdown and I've been in Russellville now nine years you come over to tell me bye and you tell me that you love Amber and me that met so much because I knew we had always loved you They have always said the good die you were you and Amber had some good and some wild times and just rest in peace.

linda brown - September 28, 2025 at 03:55 PM



We called him gilley

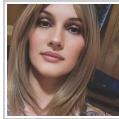
linda brown - September 28, 2025 at 03:56 PM



“ *Philana Schuetz lit a candle in memory of Matthew Douglas Gilley*

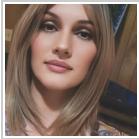


Philana Schuetz - September 27, 2025 at 01:05 AM



Hold it down til we get their...

Philana Schuetz - September 27, 2025 at 01:06 AM



“ *I will never forget when we all went camping and you, Heith, Heather, and me went down to hang out by the lake. It was late and dark. Then Heith out of nowhere say, "Hey guys, look at the trees across the lake." There were so many fireflies the trees looked like somebody dumped glitter on them. We decided that night that we would always hold that memory. There are so many more, like when Duck left the pins out of my break pads and we thought I was dragging a stick along, or the time you drove Heith crazy with my guitar, and I will never forget that anytime everybody turned their back on me, you didn't. You were always a true friend and I am gonna miss you dearly home slice!*

Philana Schuetz - September 27, 2025 at 01:02 AM

RA

“ I met Matt in Tulsa Oklahoma in 2010. We were both attending a welding school at the time and got to know each other quickly. It was obviously from what he had told me that he was in the process of turning his life around. From what he had told me he had been in some trouble and was trying to do better and it showed. He often talked about Jesus and his faith but most of all it was clear that he was a lover of people. We hung out quite a bit and he eventually moved back to Arkansas. I talked to him several times throughout the years and seen him a couple times. It was Always good to hear from Gilley and he always had some positive things to say. I had a bad drinking problem and he really helped me get sobered up and that is something that I deeply appreciate. I'm not sure if he knew about it or not but some of the things he told me stuck with me and definitely motivated to get cleaned up. He never met a stranger and it's clear to see that everything he did involved helping someone out. I believe that God puts people on earth to help others and I believe that Matt Gilley was one of those people. Matt was an inspiration to me and a Man that I was proud to call a friend. He was a prime example of someone that had made some mistakes and went down the wrong road but had turned around and had become an excellent father and had made something of himself. If there is anything that can be taken away from Matt's life is that no matter what we've done it can be fixed and we can be successful. I pray that Matt's family is able to find peace in knowing that Matt has left this world physically but has moved on to be with his lord and savior. Rest in peace buddy and thank you. God bless

Reed Avent - September 26, 2025 at 10:05 PM



“ Matt was a good friend to all , He will be missed by all I will be praying for his family.He was a ride or die friend to his Hogs For Gilley Woo Pigg

Jason Lovewell - September 26, 2025 at 08:35 PM

CC

“ *Cardinal Care Clinic purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Matthew Douglas Gilley.*



Cardinal Care Clinic - September 26, 2025 at 08:32 PM

TF

“ *Mr Gilley , Your loss is deeply felt. Our thoughts are with his wife and children. May the memories of Gilley bring comfort to us all as a community we mourn. I'll catch you on the flip side Mr Gilley . So Blessed to have got to know you. Fly high and rest in our Fathers arms.*

Tammy Flowers - September 26, 2025 at 06:56 PM

JM

My heart goes out to you Mark and Jackie. I will always remember Matt's sweet smile and kindness, Love you all always . Your friend, Jeri McCulley ❤️🙏❤️🌸

Jeri McCulley - September 29, 2025 at 12:11 PM

LB

“ *Love Billie & Mitch Baker purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Matthew Douglas Gilley.*



Love Billie & Mitch Baker - September 26, 2025 at 02:19 PM

LB

“ Love Billie & Mitch Baker planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Matthew Douglas Gilley.

Love Billie & Mitch Baker - September 26, 2025 at 02:19 PM

YT

“ Your whole team purchased the Simply Elegant S pathiphyllum for the family of Matthew Douglas Gilley.



Your whole team - September 26, 2025 at 01:46 PM

DB

“ Dr. Thane, Rebeka, Sancha and Brandy purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Matthew Douglas Gilley.



Dr. Thane, Rebeka, Sancha and Brandy - September 26, 2025 at 01:45 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Matthew Douglas Gilley.



September 26, 2025 at 10:31 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Matthew Douglas Gilley.



September 26, 2025 at 10:15 AM



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

September 26, 2025 at 10:15 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Matthew Douglas Gilley.



September 26, 2025 at 09:26 AM



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

September 26, 2025 at 09:26 AM



“ Shae, There are no words to express how sad I am for you and your family. There is so much love in your family. Continued prayers for you and your family. Love Rhonda Bailey

Rhonda Bailey - September 26, 2025 at 09:15 AM

CA

“ Matt not just helped the people here in Little River he also helped the Animals at A&B Animal Rescue here in Little River His support of the Animals will forever be missed. Rest Easy Matt we will see you on the other side.

Corinna June Alexander - September 26, 2025 at 09:07 AM

SS

“ Scott and Jessica Simcox purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Matthew Douglas Gilley.



Scott and Jessica Simcox - September 26, 2025 at 08:54 AM

SS

“ Scott and Jessica Simcox planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Matthew Douglas Gilley.

Scott and Jessica Simcox - September 26, 2025 at 08:54 AM



“ I grew up with Matt aka Gilley aka Big Gill. Since kids on bikes riding wayyyy farther than we should have to backroads letting our gray hairs fly in the wind. He never changed as a friend. Always there though the good times and the bad. He especially showed up for any occasion. He was the definition of LOVE! If he knew ya he loved ya! Our community will never be the same. I LOVE YA YOU BIG GOOFY CHILI BOWL HAVIN TURD! Can't wait to raise hell with ya next go around! Catch ya on tha flip side my brother!

Danny Oden - September 26, 2025 at 01:58 AM

RM

“ Matt was one of the very best of us, growing up. Of the names I held onto over the decades, his was one I spoke of often, and fondly. Adventure on, my friend.

Ryan Miller - September 26, 2025 at 12:41 AM

BG

“ Words can not express the hurt and sorrow we have in my heart for Matts family and all of his hundreds of friends knowing we have all lost one of Little River Counties finest. A true legend as Misty would refer to Matt as. My children and I have so many great memories of Matt's time at our house during high school. He would call me momma Bev. I loved him big just like he loved me and everyone else.

While on the lake today sitting in the boat with a clear blue sky and with a heavy heart and tears of sorrow I looked up to the heavens and told Matt how much I love and miss him and as if he were sitting right beside me I heard him say, “momma Bev you know where I am and then he did the head up motion like a what's up movement. I had chills all over me. I lost it and it was so real!

I am so sorry for your loss and pray our prayers and friendship help carry you through this devastating trial in your lives. I thank God that He blessed each and everyone of us with the love Big Gilley had for everyone and I pray we can all be an example of what we were honored to witness even though his life was taken way too soon.

We love you all and are so sorry. Beverly, Tony, Dillon and Brittany Beaird

Beverly Glanville - September 25, 2025 at 11:00 PM

PL

Praying 🙏 for the family. Matt was truly a great man with a big heart .

Patsy little - September 26, 2025 at 09:18 AM

TM

Prayers for this wonderful family. Matt always made me smile. Love you all and hugs aplenty.

Tracy Moreland - September 26, 2025 at 10:16 AM

PT

I'll miss the hugs I got every time I saw you Matt. I'm so sorry for your great family's loss

pat thrash - September 26, 2025 at 06:07 PM