



Mr. David Earle Ayers

January 15, 1939 - July 16, 2024

David Earle Ayers - beloved husband, father, grandfather, successful businessman, and dedicated bus driver, passed away peacefully on July 16th, 2024 at the age of 85.

Born on January 15th, 1939, David grew up in Grant as the youngest of 11 children. He graduated from KDS DAR High in 1957 and went on to build a successful career as the owner and operator of Western Auto and later Grant Hardware. His dedication and experience in the Grant business community earned him the respect and admiration of many. In addition to his business pursuits, David loved watching sports, especially DAR basketball and the Braves baseball team. He found great fulfillment as a bus driver for KDS DAR school, where he loved transporting athletes to their sporting events. His kind and supportive nature endeared him to students and colleagues alike, making a lasting impact on the school community.

David loved his family above all else. He married his sweetheart, Peggy Keel Ayers and they shared 66 years together. Their bond was a source of strength for the family, and was marked by countless cherished memories. As the father of two children, he instilled in them values of kindness, charity, honesty, & perseverance. He was their unwavering supporter through every triumph and challenge. To his grandchildren he was a constant and loving presence, always ready with a smile, candy, and a story. They brought him immense joy,

and he appreciated every moment spent with them.

David's kindness and generosity touched the lives of all who knew him. He had a passion for people & loved visiting with his customers and friends. His warm spirit & sense of humor brightened any room he was in. He will be most remembered for his smile and slogan of "Have a great day today and a better one tomorrow."

David was preceded in death by his beloved son, Bentley Ayers, his parents Emmett Ayers & Mary Case Ayers, and 10 siblings, Bernice Ledbetter, Ola Wright, Aline Schutz, Ruby Burrell, Edward Ayers, Emmett Ayers, Sherman Ayers, Roland Ayers, Lila Kate Lucille Ayers, Mary Jean Smith, and several nieces and nephews whose memory he cherished dearly. He is survived by his devoted wife, Peggy Keel Ayers, his loving daughter, Angie Ayers Meadows (Gerry), grandchildren, Allen Ayers, Ashley Meadows Weems (Chris), Brentley Ayers Webb (Cody), Alex Meadows, & LaShonda Smith, and 8 great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, July 20th, at Grant Memorial Chapel from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm with the service immediately following. Rev. Anthony Barnes and Rev. Joe Teal will officiate. Serving as pallbearers will be Alex Meadows, Chris Weems, Connor Weems, Cody Webb, Jimmy Ledbetter, and Joe Wright. Honorary pallbearers will be Allen Ayers, Donald Smith, Joe Bearden, Leonard Ledbetter, Casey Smith, and James Earl Ledbetter. He will be interred at Old Union Cemetery. The family will accept flowers, or donations may be made to The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research. Forever in our hearts, David Earle Ayers will be deeply missed and fondly remembered for his unwavering love and his warm presence in our lives. May he rest in peace.

Arrangements Entrusted to Grant Memorial Chapel.

Cemetery Details

Old Union Cemetery

Old Union Road
Grant, AL 35747

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 20. 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Grant Memorial Chapel
4930 Main Street
P.O. Box 484
Grant, AL 35747
(256) 728-2000
grantmemorial@nehp.net
<https://www.grantmemorialchapel.com>

Funeral Service

JUL 20. 3:00 PM (CT)

Grant Memorial Chapel
4930 Main Street
P.O. Box 484
Grant, AL 35747
(256) 728-2000
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Tribute Wall



“ 72 files added to the album *Life Tributes* ”



Grant Memorial Chapel - July 20, 2024 at 09:36 AM

KW

“ Just as Barney, Andy, Opie, Floyd, Aunt Bee, Goober, and many others made us treasure the small town blessings of Mayberry, Mr. David Ayers represented and served the Grant community with unconditional love, kindness, authenticity, and selflessness. Whether Mr. David and sweet Mrs. Peggy were faithfully helping others at his Grant Hardware Store (and Western Auto..) businesses, or Mr. David was spending many hours involved in his devoted DAR bus driving duties, Mr. David daily demonstrated his love for his family and Grant friends in a Godly, good-natured manner that made everyone feel welcomed and accepted. I attended Grant 1st Baptist with Angie and Bentley many moons ago and see now how God blessed me more than I ever deserved by being a part of a loving church family with the Ayers and others. Sadly, I visited Mr. David on July 10th in his Birmingham hospital room and realized that his days here were numbered. But, I saw in his kind eyes and his ever present grin that Mr. David was at peace with the Lord. I know Mr. David and Bentley are now helping Christ in finding the tools and hardware to build mansions in Heaven for us all. Mr. David, you will be forever missed but your life and witness will be forever remembered and appreciated. We love you and your loved ones, Kevin Waldrop

Kevin Waldrop - July 20, 2024 at 04:03 AM

LJ

“ To: Peggy & Family---We send our condolences to all the family. All of you provided TLC to David for years. May the good lord bless you. David was respected by many and will be missed.

Leonard Ledbetter & Jean - July 19, 2024 at 05:13 PM

DA

“ Always kind with a kind word and a big smile. Love you Uncle David. We will miss you so much.
Deb

debi alexander - July 19, 2024 at 03:15 PM

LF

“ Love Pat, Christine & Family purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Mr. David Earle Ayers.



Love Pat, Christine & Family - July 18, 2024 at 07:09 PM

CS

“ David was such a caring and loving person. When we moved to Kennamer Cove he was my boys buss driver. Luke took the bus his first day of school and I knew he and his brothers were in good hands. I loved going to the hardware store David and Peggy were always ready to help me. David always asked about the boys when they were grown. He is loved and will be missed. Praying for the family. ❤️🙏

Carol Steadman - July 18, 2024 at 05:07 PM

LJ

“ Peggy & Family:
We send our condolences at this difficult time. We pray for you and family and want you all to recognize that you provided TLC to David. He was blessed to have all of you to love and care for him

Leonard Ledbetter & Jean - July 18, 2024 at 04:39 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Mr. David Earle Ayers.*



July 18, 2024 at 11:29 AM



“ *David was my classmate and a good friend, always smiling and happy to share his math notes. I will miss him.*

Wanda Anderson Stricklin - July 18, 2024 at 11:12 AM



“ *"Arms of an Angel" Picture Perfect 27" Chime was purchased for the family of Mr. David Earle Ayers.*



July 18, 2024 at 08:14 AM



“ *Chris Esslinger and Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Mr. David Earle Ayers.*



Chris Esslinger and Family - July 18, 2024 at 07:10 AM

RR

“ Regina, Joni, Kaylee and Renae purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Mr. David Earle Ayers.



Regina, Joni, Kaylee and Renae - July 17, 2024 at 07:34 PM

RT

“ David was a very good man. He had a big heart and had time for everyone no matter who you were. He was a very close friend of my mom (Fran) and stepdad (David). He will be missed by many people.



Regina k Taylor - July 17, 2024 at 07:10 PM

RT

“ Regina k Taylor sent a virtual gift in memory of David Ayers



Regina k Taylor - July 17, 2024 at 07:04 PM

JG

“ Jamie Glasgow purchased the Simply Elegant Sp athiphyllum for the family of Mr. David Earle Ayers.



Jamie Glasgow - July 17, 2024 at 03:04 PM

TE

“ Every single memory I have of Mr. David revolves around his infectious smile. He and Mrs. Peggy were always so helpful and pleasant when I went in their store or saw them at a ballgame. He will always be an honored icon on the mountain.

Sending prayers and love to Mrs. Peggy, Angela, and all the rest of the Ayers family.

Teresa Keller England - July 17, 2024 at 01:02 PM

JL

Uncle David always was so nice and friendly and had a great sense of humor! He always welcomed me to their home and my Cousin Bentley would play games and have fun. My thoughts and prayers are with Aunt Peggy and Angie and the Ayers family. We Love you all 🙏🙏🙏

Jim Ledbetter - July 18, 2024 at 12:58 PM