



William "Bill" Gibson

April 15, 1934 - January 19, 2024

William "Bill" Gibson, 89 of Athens, passed away on Friday, January 19th, 2024, at Floyd E "Tut" Fan Veteran's Home. Mr. Gibson was born on April 15th, 1934, in Cool Springs, Kentucky, to Woodard and Lula Hensley Gibson.

Mr. Gibson is survived by his wife Leonel White; children Alexas McGee, John David McGee, Skyler McGee, Dale Gibson (Armie), David Gibson (Donna), and Deborah Kauffman (Richard); step-daughter Brittany Harper (George); 11 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his parents; wife Earline Faye Gibson; and sons Donald Lamar Miller and Clifford Darrell Gibson.

Bill grew up in Manchester, Kentucky, the youngest of 12 children. He joined the air Force at 18, serving in the Korean and Vietnam Wars. He retired after 21 years as a Master Sargeant. He was married to Faye for 50 years until her death 19 years ago. They had 5 children. They enjoyed camping, fishing, and hunting.

Bill has been married to Leonel White for 13 years, helping to raise their 3 grandchildren. Life was full of travel and enjoying things with young children. He has touched many lives. We have been blessed to have him in our lives.

Funeral services for Mr. Gibson will be Tuesday, January 23rd, 2024, at 11:00am at Limestone Chapel Funeral Home, with David O'Connell officiating. Visitation will be Tuesday from 9:00-10:45am at the funeral home. Burial will be at Malone Cemetery.

Cemetery Details

Malone Cemetery

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **23**. 9:00 AM - 10:45 AM (CT)

Limestone Chapel Funeral Home
322 Hwy. 31 N.
Athens, AL 35611
(256) 232-1051
info@limestonechapel.com
<https://www.limestonechapel.com/>

Funeral Service

JAN **23**. 11:00 AM (CT)

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Athens, AL 35611
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Tribute Wall



“ Limestone Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of William "Bill" Gibson



Limestone Chapel Funeral Home - January 22, 2024 at 02:21 PM

DK

“ Hi good morning. For those of you who don't know me I am Deborah, Bill's daughter. Thank you all for coming to say goodbye to my sweet daddy this morning. We really appreciate you all being here with us.

I don't even know where to begin but to say we have all lost the most beautiful soul that ever walked this earth.

My daddy had a heart of gold and I truly mean that. He was the kindest, most generous and loving man you could ever meet.

There was never any judgement ever on his part. He loved unconditionally, he loved big and he loved long. He loved all of his family, Jesus Christ Our Lord.

I know where he is today, he's rejoicing in heaven with my mama, our 2 brothers Donald and Darrell, his parents, brothers, sisters and cousins.

My dad was a military man. He spent almost 22 years in the Air Force.

He was born in the hills of Kentucky. He grew up a coal miners son. He mined the coals when he was 14. But he decided early on he wanted a better life for himself. So he joined the Air Force. And oh boy, he knew not to tell his mama until AFTER he had joined, because he knew his mama would have been so upset and would have talked him out of it. He always told me that she cried and cried when he told her. He was the baby of the family but most importantly he was HER baby.

He served with honor in 2 wars, the Korean War and Vietnam War. He retired a MSGT.

And he was so proud of his service to our country. But I have to tell you, his kids were even more proud of him. He made a lot of sacrifices for us when we were growing up. Because of deployments, he had to spend time away from his us because it was just too hard to move all of us overseas. So he would be gone for a year at a time. He would send us letters back home and tape recorded messages that my mama would play for us. Oh how we loved to get those in the mail. He would write letters to me outside

of my mamas letters. He knew how much I loved and needed those because I was his only little girl. And speaking of that I don't know how many of you know that my daddy tried real hard not to have any more kids past my brother David. He had 4 boys and they never thought they would ever have a baby girl. So he had decided he was going to get "fixed" but he didn't get to make that appointment because he got sent overseas. Then while overseas he tried again to no avail. He then found out my mom was pregnant. They just knew they were going to have another boy. Boy did I surprise them!! God had other plans for my mama and daddy when I came along.

I can remember when daddy was gone over seas and something special would be going on in town like the county fair, he would contact one of his service buddies to come and take us kids to the fair. I mean who does that? The man that loves his family more than himself is the one that does. The one that's thinking of his family no matter how far away he is. The one that wants to put smiles on our little faces. That was my daddy. He was so very special to me and I am so heartbroken he's gone. I was his baby and he was my first love.

I can remember him sitting at the kitchen table on the sewing machine making me little halter tops for the summer. What man makes his little girl summer tops? He did! When we played outside and he wanted us home, all he had to do was whistle and we came running. We all knew that whistle and we knew we had to get home. Another time I had an ear ache one Christmas. I was in bed and my daddy and mama told my brothers that they couldn't have Christmas until my ear stopped hurting. They all begged their Bubba to tell them it had stopped so they could open their presents. And I painstakingly did. Christmas were the best with my mama, daddy and my brothers! They always made it special. They made everything special.

My dad and mom were married for 50 years before her death in 2005. They loved each other and we knew how much they loved us. Growing up they use to take us camping every weekend in the

summers. We would have everything packed to leave on Friday afternoons after school. We always went to Tim's Ford Lake to go camping and water skiing. Or we would go to Tim's Ford Dam to go fishing. It didn't matter to us which we did because we were going with our mama and daddy and that's all that mattered. My brothers always went hunting with daddy growing up. He was a big outdoorsman.

As we got older, moved out and had our own families they would take the grandkids camping and fishing with them. I know MY kids loved this. It was one of the best parts of their life getting to go camping/fishing with their Mammy and Pa. They loved them so very much. They spent a lot of time with my mama and daddy. Especially while I was working.

A couple big highlights each year for us growing up was going to daddy's sisters house (aunt Loma) for Memorial Day weekend to decorate the family's graves in Kentucky and going to the Gibson Reunion each year. There was always a poker game at aunt Loma's house and daddy, his brothers and cousins would play. I always wanted to play with them. Daddy would give me the money to start and tell me whatever I won was mine. I could stay or leave the game whenever I wanted. I would always leave with a pocket full of money. And when I didn't, it didn't matter. It was who I was with that mattered. The next day daddy would tell me (because he stayed up all night playing poker), take us home to the penderosa Deborah. And that I did.

One of the most special things I will always remember, him and mama would do on weekends was to go into the den at home and put on country music. I'd find my way in there and daddy would take me by the hand and we would dance. My little feet on top of his, me in his big arms and then over the years I graduated to not having to dance on his feet. It was the most special and loving thing a dad could do with his daughter. I knew all the way up until the end how much he loved me. That I never doubted. He loved us unconditionally and without fault.

My mama would say to me Deborah I couldn't have looked the world over and have found a better husband or father. And that was so true. He was the very best husband, father, father in law, brother, son and Pa. You couldn't have asked for a better friend either. He would have given you the shirt off his back if you needed it. That's just the man he was. He was proud of his family, his wife and children.

A few years after my mamas death my daddy found love again with Leonel. At the time she was raising her 3 small grandchildren. After a while Daddy was finally able to talk Leonel into marrying him. They were married for 13 years. He adopted her three grandchildren, Lexi, JD And Skyler and he made them his own. He loved those kids and I know they loved my daddy. He also loved Leonel's daughter Brittany. He was a selfless man. A giver. After all he raised 2 families. I know he loved Leonel and I know she loved our daddy. They had 13+ wonderful years together taking care of one another and the kids. Leonel thank you for taking such good care of my daddy. It means the world to me to know you both took great care of each other.

I guess it's about time for me to close. I bet you all didn't know I was going to read a book when I walked up here this morning. There's just too many countless memories of this wonderful man to list. I'd be here all week listing them.

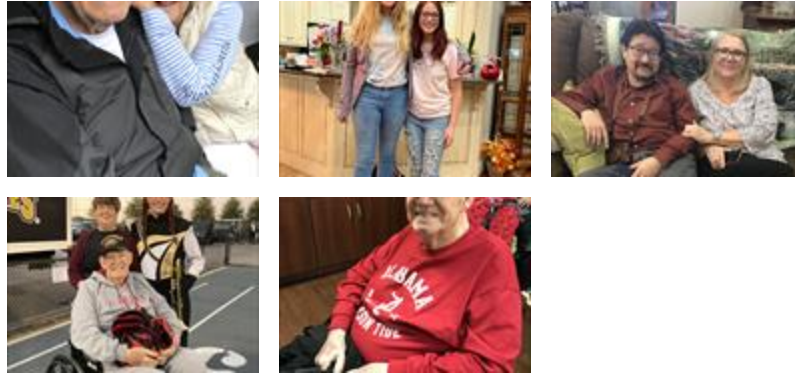
I do know daddy is in a much better place, no more pain and suffering from the cruel disease of dementia. And I thank Leonel for all that she did to help him with this. Daddy did know all of us up until his death. I am so thankful to Our Father above for the time we got to spend with him before his passing. I don't know how to say goodbye other than to say I will love and miss you my sweet daddy all the days of my life. I am so incredibly proud of the life you lived. You did everything you were suppose to and more. I love you.

Thank you all for coming and sharing your memories with us today.

Deborah Gibson Kauffman - January 24, 2024 at 01:37 PM

DK

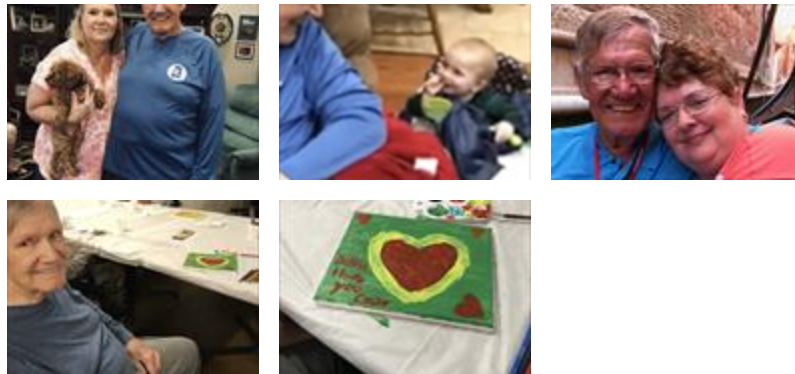
“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



Deborah Gibson Kauffman - January 23, 2024 at 08:45 AM

DK

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



Deborah Gibson Kauffman - January 23, 2024 at 08:43 AM

DK

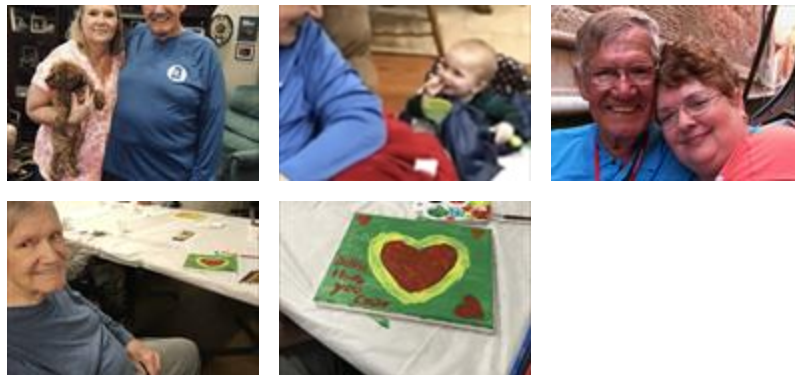
“ 7 files added to the tribute wall



Deborah Gibson Kauffman - January 23, 2024 at 01:30 AM

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“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



Deborah Gibson Kauffman - January 23, 2024 at 01:28 AM

DK

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Deborah Gibson Kauffman - January 23, 2024 at 01:05 AM

DK

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Deborah Gibson Kauffman - January 23, 2024 at 12:59 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of William "Bill" Gibson.

January 22, 2024 at 10:33 PM

DK

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Deborah Gibson Kauffman - January 22, 2024 at 10:32 PM

DK

“ 13 files added to the tribute wall



Deborah Gibson Kauffman - January 22, 2024 at 10:29 PM

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“ 8 files added to the tribute wall



Deborah Gibson Kauffman - January 22, 2024 at 10:23 PM

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“ 10 files added to the tribute wall



Deborah Gibson Kauffman - January 22, 2024 at 10:21 PM

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“ 10 files added to the tribute wall



Deborah Gibson Kauffman - January 22, 2024 at 10:20 PM

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Deborah Gibson Kauffman - January 22, 2024 at 10:19 PM

DK

“ 9 files added to the tribute wall



Deborah Gibson Kauffman - January 22, 2024 at 10:18 PM

DK

“ *Fathers Day lunch at Mildred's 2022.*



Deborah Gibson Kauffman - January 22, 2024 at 10:09 PM

JF

“ Jo F. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William "Bill" Gibson.

Jo F. - January 22, 2024 at 09:23 PM

JF

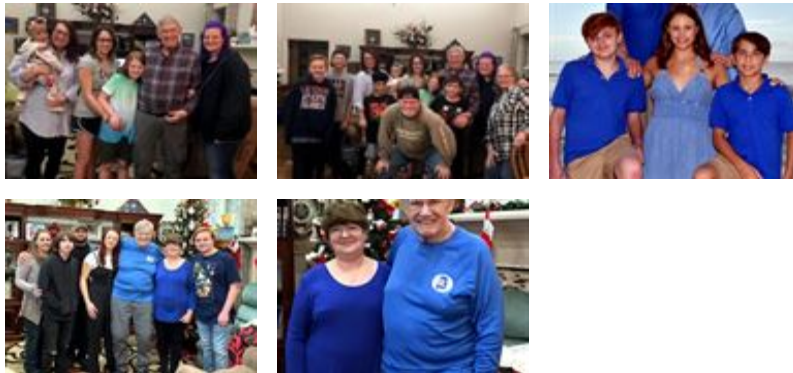
“ Jo F. purchased the America the Beautiful for the family of William "Bill" Gibson.



Jo F. - January 22, 2024 at 09:23 PM



“ 23 files added to the album Life Tributes



Limestone Chapel Funeral Home - January 22, 2024 at 02:20 PM

DK

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Deborah Gibson Kauffman - January 22, 2024 at 01:57 PM

DK

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Deborah Gibson Kauffman - January 22, 2024 at 06:58 PM

DK

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Deborah Gibson Kauffman - January 22, 2024 at 06:58 PM

DK

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Deborah Gibson Kauffman - January 22, 2024 at 06:58 PM

DK

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Deborah Gibson Kauffman - January 22, 2024 at 06:58 PM

DK

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Deborah Gibson Kauffman - January 22, 2024 at 09:11 PM

DK

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Deborah Gibson Kauffman - January 22, 2024 at 09:12 PM

DK

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Deborah Gibson Kauffman - January 22, 2024 at 09:20 PM