



## William Duane Gillis

February 2, 1954 - December 12, 2025

William Duane Gillis went home to be with his Lord on December 12, 2025, surrounded by his family. Duane was born on February 9, 1954, in Roane County, Tennessee. He graduated high school in Sarasota Florida. Coming back to back to Tennessee, Duane then married Melissa Easter but lost her to cancer in 1995. They have three children, Michelle, Michael, and Steven, who loved him dearly.

Duane was a skilled fisherman, a master gardener, renowned musician ,and giving was at the center of his heart. Anyone that knew him knew that's how he was. He also volunteered at the Midtown Fire Department and Tiger Haven.

Duane retired from TVA after 25 years, where he was highly recognized in his later years, for fire protection management.

Duane is preceded in death by his wife Melissa Gillis, his father Robert Gillis and his sister Nancy Gillis. He is survived by his mother Billie Gillis, his brother Terry Gillis and wife Shari, his three children Michelle Gillis, Michael Gillis, and Steven Gillis and wife Shawna, his six grandchildren, Kylie, Madalynn, Quillan, JJ, Cole, Gracie. Also a special Sister-in-law Ruthann Brummitt.

William Duane Gillis was a man of faith in his Lord Jesus Christ. Throughout his years of trials and challenges he remained faithful to his children and caring for his parents.

A celebration of life will be held at the Piney Grove Church Fellowship Hall

from 6-8 pm on Wednesday December 17th. Duane requested that those who could bring an instrument to the celebration of life to make a joyful noise to the Lord. On Thursday, December 18, family will begin meeting at 10 am at Kyker Funeral Home in Harriman. We will then proceed at 10:30 to Roane Memorial Gardens in Rockwood for the graveside service. Duane requested that in lieu of flowers contributions be made to his children.

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

DEC 18. 11:00 AM (ET)

Roane Memorial Gardens  
1400 N Gateway Ave  
Rockwood, TN 37854

# Tribute Wall

YF

“ *Your Care Hive Family purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of William Duane Gillis.*



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**Your Care Hive Family** - December 17, 2025 at 01:38 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of William Duane Gillis.*



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December 16, 2025 at 07:59 PM

JF

“ *J. C. Gillis, Jeff Gillis and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Duane Gillis.*

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**J. C. Gillis, Jeff Gillis and family** - December 16, 2025 at 07:59 PM

MM

“ *Matthew & Megan purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of William Duane Gillis.*



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**Matthew & Megan** - December 15, 2025 at 02:22 PM

RB

“ I want to say that I will be miss you I know you for a long time ok.i wish I can be at the family and friends of the Gillis family ? Ok.this is the Daughter of Virginia Beard is God's Bless you all. ST JOHN 3-16. ST.JOHN 14-6 Proverbs 17-17 - by Miss Regina Ann Beard



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**Regina Beard** - December 15, 2025 at 09:38 AM

AD

*Dear Billie and Terry and all the family. I am so sad to hear of Duane's passing. You all are in my prayers. God bless and keep you.*

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**Amanda Lynn Dotson** - December 15, 2025 at 03:37 PM