



## Billy Joe Ballard

March 14, 1932 - September 5, 2017

Billy Joe Ballard, age 85, of Tavares passed away on Tuesday, September 5, 2017. He was born March 14, 1932 in Altoona, AL and moved to Tavares in 1998 from OH. He was a retired Tech Sergeant with the U.S. Air Force and was a member of the Free Masons. He is survived by his present wife, Marilyn Ballard of Tavares, FL; son, James Ballard of Chesapeake, VA, daughter, Karel Johnson of Enon, OH; 4 granddaughters and 2 great-granddaughters. He is also survived by his first wife Gloria Ballard, son William John of Toronto, Canada, daughter Constance Joan of Toronto, Canada and two granddaughters Michelle Lee and Shayla. Arrangements have been entrusted to Steverson, Hamlin & Hilbish Funerals and Cremations, 226 E. Burleigh Blvd., Tavares, FL 32778, (352)343-4444. Online condolences may be left at [www.steversonhamlinhilbish.com](http://www.steversonhamlinhilbish.com)

# Comments

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“ From his humble beginnings, through to his 20 year military career with the USAF; my dad had a core strength that few men today can match. To say humble beginnings is actually a major under statement. But dad didn't let this determine his future. He enlisted in the USAF, served his country with pride and with determination. After his time with the USAF, he went on to a thriving career in the food industry. He worked hard, to provide for his family. My mother often told me of how proud she was of his many strengths. He was a natural leader, an engaged father, and a present husband.

No one person's life is perfect, and this is true for dad. He had his battles and he fought them with the same strength and determination that he showed throughout the rest of his life. Although things may not have worked out for my father and mother; through the years, they remained very close friends; showing mutual respect for one another.

It wasn't until after his death, I realized the strength and determination my dad had, and the sense of humour he possessed. Dad wasn't given to easy laughter, but what he found funny, was contagious when he did laugh. My dad was the last of his siblings to pass away, and I know, through conversations I'd had with him, that he missed his siblings very much. Dad was a young man when he lost his parents. First his mom passed in 1958 and then his dad in 1964. Though he didn't speak much about his parents; when he did speak of them it was always with love and respect; even though I know that dad's childhood was not an easy one, he never once put blame anywhere near his parents for this fact.

I know that dad loved his children, grand-children and great-grand-children equally and there was never any favourites in his mind between any of us. He always saw us as individuals and loved us all.

I cannot speak about dad without the connection to my mom Gloria. They were in each others lives in one capacity or another for 64 years. From their courtship in 1953 through their marriage in 1954, and well beyond the end of their marriage. They were the once constant in each others lives other than their children. So, for me any thought or memory I have about my dad has a connected thought about my mom.

I'm happy that when his time came, dad was at home and not hospitalized. I know that is what he would have wanted.

As for his life after death; while he and mom were together in their very early years, both of them committed their lives to Christ and that's something that no one can ever take away from dad, so I know that he is safe with God now. No more pain or strife from this life, only peace in the presence of God.

I'm writing this to acknowledge my father and his life.

Love your son William John



“ The more life moved on for dad the more often I heard him joke "if I had known I was going to live this long, I'd have taken better care of myself". This said, as he enjoyed the rarest of steaks and the southern cooking he was so famous for. I smile every time I think of him and his little inside joke. I really miss him.

Son

**John Ballard** - October 25, 2017 at 10:42 AM

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“ As a child I always remember thinking "I wonder how dad keeps his uniform looking like he just put it on, not a wrinkle or spot on it, even at the end of the day when he came home". I also remember thinking how much i really liked him in his summer issue.

John Ballard

**John Ballard** - October 10, 2017 at 11:52 AM

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“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



**JOHN** - October 04, 2017 at 12:21 PM

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“ I remember Bill at his sons home in Chesapeake, he always had a smile and a big hug to welcome everyone for whatever event we were gathering for. He loved to cook for everyone and had a big heart. He will be missed by us all. Rest in peace Bill.

**Debbie Retzlaff** - September 23, 2017 at 08:42 PM

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“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



**Aundra Hess** - September 19, 2017 at 04:02 PM

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“ Aundra Hess lit a candle in memory of Billy Joe Ballard



**Aundra Hess** - September 19, 2017 at 03:58 PM

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“ Denise Williams lit a candle in memory of Billy Joe Ballard



**Denise Williams** - September 09, 2017 at 07:49 PM