



## Larry Joe "Gunsmoke" Gillespie

April 6, 1942 - July 22, 2025

Coleman Funeral Home of Oxford

Larry Joe "Gunsmoke" Gillespie, 83, of Abbeville, Mississippi, passed away peacefully on July 22, 2025, at the Oxford Cancer Clinic, surrounded by the love of his family.

A visitation will be held Friday, July 25, 2025 from 5:00PM until 7:00PM at Coleman Funeral Home of Oxford (601 Commerce Parkway, Oxford, MS, 38655). A funeral service will be held Saturday, July 26, 2025 at 3:00 PM also at Coleman Funeral Home with a visitation an hour prior to the service.

Born on April 6, 1942, in Pontotoc, Larry grew up with a deep love for family, friends, and the simple joys of life. After graduating from Randolph High School, he attended Itawamba Junior College and went on to serve as a proud Mississippi Highway Patrolman, a career where he earned the respect of all who worked beside him. Larry also served his country for 16 years in the National Guard.

Larry lived life with purpose and heart. He loved camping trips with Fay, his wife of 63 years, fishing adventures with his son, lazy afternoons gardening, and peaceful days by the river with his daughter. He was a friend to many, both near and far, even building lasting connections on Facebook with people

he never met in person.

Family was the center of Larry's world. He held high expectations for his children and grandchildren, teaching them to be self-sufficient, to respect others, and to live with integrity. One of his greatest joys was anticipating the arrival of his first great-grandson, Ryder Busby, a little one he so looked forward to meeting.

Larry's legacy of love, loyalty, and laughter will continue to live on in all who knew him.

He leaves behind a family who will forever cherish his memory: his devoted wife, Fay Gillespie; his children, Melissa Anderson (Will Cooper) of Columbus, MS, and Larry II Gillespie (Wendy Gillespie) of Abbeville, MS; grandchildren, Hunter Anderson, Tyler Anderson, Taylor (Jacob) Busby, Claire Gillespie, and Robert May; his brother, Tommy (Debbie) Gillespie of Randolph, MS; and a host of extended family and dear friends.

Larry was welcomed into heaven by his parents, Thomas Delain and Volene Gillespie, and his brother, Barry Gillespie.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorials be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital ( <https://tinyurl.com/3zhr64wx> ) or Le Bonheur Children's Hospital ( <https://tinyurl.com/e3dyb86w> ) , causes close to Larry's heart

The staff at Coleman Funeral Home of Oxford is honored to serve the family during this challenging season of life. Condolences may be expressed online on his Tribute wall at [www.colemanfuneralhomeox.com](http://www.colemanfuneralhomeox.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Garden of Memories Cemetery

295 Mississippi Highway 7 North  
Oxford, MS 38655

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL **25**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Coleman Funeral Home of Oxford  
601 Commerce Parkway  
Oxford, MS 38655  
(662) 234-3900  
info@colemanfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.colemanfuneralhome.com/>

## Funeral Service

JUL **26**. 3:00 PM (CT)

Coleman Funeral Home of Oxford  
601 Commerce Parkway  
Oxford, MS 38655  
(662) 234-3900  
info@colemanfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.colemanfuneralhome.com/>

# Tribute Wall



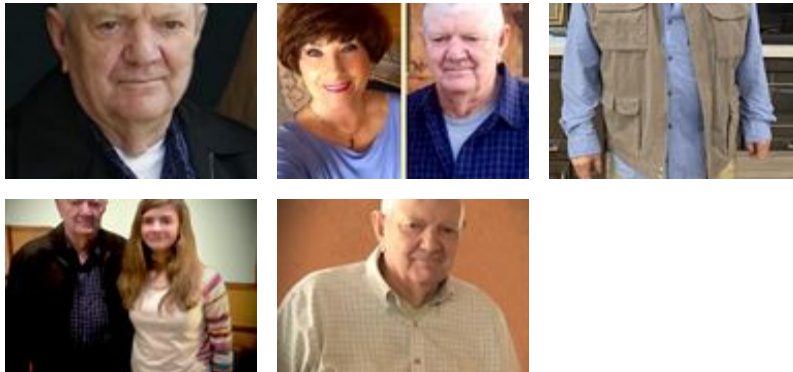
“ Coleman Funeral Home of Oxford created a Webcast in memory of Larry Joe "Gunsmoke" Gillespie



Coleman Funeral Home - July 26, 2025 at 03:29 PM



“ 104 files added to the album LifeTributes



Coleman Funeral Home - July 24, 2025 at 11:35 AM



“ Was never fortunate enough to meet Larry in person. But I enjoyed reading his FB page. He was a FB friend and he is going to be missed by his followers. Although I have never met him I have always pictured him as a real gentleman. R.I.P Larry.



Sylvia Mease - July 23, 2025 at 08:50 PM

MA

*Thank you for your kind words. He loved his Facebook community, which allowed him to meet people all over the world. Daddy, was so genuine and loyal. His love for his family and friends was like no other. I'm sorry you never got to meet him. You would have loved him even more.*

Melissa Anderson - July 24, 2025 at 04:34 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Larry Joe "Gunsmoke" Gillespie.*



July 23, 2025 at 07:35 PM

RH

“ *It is a lucky person that could call him "friend" "!!!!!!!!!!!!!!*

*ron huckaby*

ron huckaby - July 23, 2025 at 07:28 PM

CH

“ *I wish there were words that could adequately express my love for your Dad and Husband. From the first time I met him he stole a place in my heart. Nothing but the Love of Christ could have planted that seed. Randy and I will be praying for all of you in the difficult days ahead. I pray the Lord will be more real and comforting on the days ahead. Thank you for sharing a way we can honor his impact on our lives. The children of St. Jude and LeBoneur will be blessed by his memory. We love you. ❤️❤️*

Cheryl Hope - July 23, 2025 at 06:39 PM

JJ

*I have known Smoke for over 50 years, and considered him one of my best friends. He was one of the best Highway Patrol Officers I ever met. He used to come by the Fired Department especially on Sundays when we fixed some great meals and he would eat with us. But he never got out of his car without locking it, he knew Butch Babb would get in it and get his shotgun if he left it unlocked. We always had something going on we loved Smoke. He was one of us. Rest in Peace my dear friend. I d we ill keep you and you Family in my thoughts and prayers.*

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**James M. "Mickey" Jenkins** - July 23, 2025 at 08:29 PM