



## William (Bill) Keith Thornton

March 28, 1938 - February 2, 2023

William (Bill) Keith Thornton, 84, of Elm Springs, formerly of East End in Saline County, passed away February 2, 2023.

He was born near McCrory, Arkansas, to Willard and Irene Thornton. Growing up the son of sharecroppers in the Grays community gave him the character and ideals that stayed with him his entire life. His first job on the farm was waterboy, taking drinks to his family in the field.

He had many adventures as a kid along the Cache River and returned often to remember those times. He loved to talk about joining his brothers at their favorite swimming hole. His curiosity and adventurous spirit led him to be one of the first to explore Half Mile Cave (now Blanchard Springs Caverns) with friends from Forrest City in 1956 and to join the United States Air Force in 1957.

He was an electrical engineer for 30 years at Southwestern Bell. In retirement he furthered his hobby as an artist and restored antique radios.

He and his wife traveled nearly every back road in Arkansas looking for old

barns and cotton  
gins to photograph and eventually paint. They also enjoyed classic country  
music, bluegrass  
concerts, flea markets and visiting family.

He is now reunited with his parents, his sister Emma Lou, and brothers  
Emmett, Hershel and  
Wayne.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Dalene; his children Kimberly  
(Brandon), Kyle (Amanda),  
Kevin (Megan) and Tina; sister Betty Sue Harwell (J.C) and ten grandchildren.  
His family is grateful to his caregivers Chronicle, Kaylin, Jessica and Jo Ann,  
and the staff at  
Circle Of Life. Per his wishes, there will be no service.

# Tribute Wall

BE

“ I would like to give my condolences to Bill's family. I worked for Bill at Southwestern Bell in Little Rock in the early 1980s. He was absolutely one of the nicest men I ever knew. I carried the utmost respect for Bill and he will be missed by all that knew him.

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**Bob Ellis** - February 11, 2023 at 05:09 PM

BB

“ My sincere condolences to the family. I worked at SWBT with Bill in Little Rock, he was the nicest person you ever met, and he always had a calm demeanor regardless of the situation. May God bless you all!

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**Bruce R Bailey** - February 11, 2023 at 11:27 AM

DZ

*I'm so sorry for your loss, Dalene and family. Bill was such a good man. He was always so willing when we needed some help from the Engineering Dept. on an order.*

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**Dolores Zajac** - February 12, 2023 at 06:24 PM