



William D. Vines

December 25, 1936 - December 10, 2025

William D “Bill” Vines went home to the Lord on December 10, 2025, just 15 days short of his 89th birthday. Bill was born on Christmas Day, December 25, 1936, in Monett, Missouri, to William and Ava Vines. He attended Fort Smith High School and the University of Arkansas, where he was a member of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity. He married his college sweetheart, Carolyn Sue Dickson, and worked for her father at Homer Dickson Dental Laboratory in Fort Smith, Arkansas. He later went on to handle public relations and advertising for several other companies.

Bill had been in the ROTC in high school, then joined the Army and later went on to join the Air Force. He was a patriot who loved our country and served in the military with pride, becoming a major in the Air National Guard. He served the 188th Wing unit of the Arkansas Air National Guard for more than 40 years. He was very involved in civic affairs, serving on the Fort Smith City Council and as Mayor of Fort Smith for 2 terms. Bill was a past Commander of the American Legion Post 31 and also established Q&A, an ongoing open forum featuring local, state and national leaders. He cofounded Crimestoppers of Fort Smith and Van Buren, and helped launch the General William O. Darby Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America. Bill was a graduate of the City of Fort Smith Citizens Academy, the Sebastian County Citizens Academy, and the FBI Citizens Academy.

Poppy, as he was called by his beloved grandchildren, had a zest for life and a big personality. He loved laughing, had a positive outlook and was always thankful for his friends and family. He loved riding around in his convertible with the top down getting his famous tan, going to the beach, playing tennis, eating at buffets, jogging around the Hardscrabble Country Club golf course, dancing with and bragging about his daughters, and caroling every Christmas in the neighborhood with Laura and Elizabeth and their friends. He was a devoted father, attending all of his daughters' tennis matches and performances. When his girls went off to Baylor University, he and Sue never missed an opportunity to travel to Waco to see them and spend time with their friends. Poppy was proud of his five grandchildren and loved time with them. He moved to Tyler the last year and a half of his life to be closer to his daughters and their husbands and his grandchildren.

Left to cherish his memory is his loving family including daughters Laura Vines Lodwick and husband, Pete; three children, Matthew, Leslie, and Caroline and husband Jack Taylor, all of Dallas, Texas; and Elizabeth Vines Sharkey and husband, Paul of Tyler, Texas, and two children, Katherine Sharkey of Tyler, Texas, and William and wife, Abigail, of North Carolina. He is also survived by beloved sisters, Diana Vines Yandell of Sandy, UT, and Vicki Vines Jamison and husband Charles of Bartlett, TN, and numerous nieces and nephews.

His family is grateful for the loving care of the staff at Brookdale East and the Hospice of East Texas.

A memorial service honoring Bill will be held on Friday, April 10 at 2 p.m. at the Fort Smith National Cemetery. Arrangements by Stewart Family Funeral Home.

Bill was an enthusiastic member of Calvary Baptist Church in Fort Smith, Arkansas, and memorial contributions may be made to Calvary Baptist Church, 2301 Midland Boulevard, Fort Smith, AR 72904 or Hospice of East

Texas, 4111 University Blvd., Tyler, TX 75701.

Previous Events

Graveside Service

APR 10. 2:00 PM (CT)

Fort Smith National Cemetery
522 Garland Ave.
Fort Smith, AR 72901

Tribute Wall

SH

“ He was a sweetheart and a dear friend,I only just now learned of his passing. He will be greatly missed new of him thru Dr. Bob Kent whom I I worked for in the early 70’s. Sorry for your loss of a wonderful man.

Sharon Huff - April 30 at 08:34 PM

-F

“ -Your Turtle Creek Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William D. Vines.

-Your Turtle Creek Family - April 08 at 04:53 PM

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“ -Your Turtle Creek Family purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of William D. Vines.



-Your Turtle Creek Family - April 08 at 04:53 PM

NC

“ Nicole & Helena Chang purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of William D. Vines.



Nicole & Helena Chang - March 11 at 04:21 PM

LE

“ Dear Betsy n Laura n Family, Sorry 4 ur Dad's loss. He was a Wonderful Person. Our families have been friends 4 a long time. He will be missed by all down here. Keeping u all in my Prayers. Luv u all bunches, Lisa Beattie Evans



Lisa Beattie Evans - January 15 at 05:20 PM

ES

Thank you much sweet girl. You have been a lifetime friend and a lifetime encourager. It was a blessing to have your hand on my shoulder at the service on Friday. Love you very much thank you sweet friend.

Elizabeth Sharkey - April 13 at 03:38 PM

DP

“ Dear Bill Vines,

We became friends a few years ago when I visited Fort Smith. I live in Tulsa, Oklahoma, but I am originally from Cisterna di Latina, Fort Smith's sister city. You were an amazing person and a true friend.

I remember with love the last time you came to visit me for the meeting of Italians who live here in Tulsa. Those moments will always remain in my heart.

I know that now you are with Jesus, in happiness and joy. One day, we will see each other again. 🙏❤️

With this message, I would like to extend my deepest and most sincere condolences to the Vines family.

*Sincerely,
Devis Possagno*



Devis P. - January 13 at 02:33 PM

ES

Oh my goodness how incredibly kind. Thank you for your lovely message and this wonderful photo. Our father was endlessly enthusiastic about his time in your city and especially about all the wonderful people he met. Thank you so much for your kindness.

Elizabeth Vines Sharkey - April 13 at 03:35 PM

DI

“ *Mayor Vines & I became good friends in the last years of his life. He remembered me of my older brother who also was a Bill.*

David Ingram - January 10 at 04:22 PM

ES

Thank you so much for your kind words. Daddy talked about his friends often with great affection and very happy memories.

Elizabeth Sharkey - April 13 at 03:37 PM

CP

“ *We are deeply saddened by the news, and our thoughts are with you.
On this sad occasion, I offer my most sincere condolences.
We share your grief and are close to you.
The memory of his wonderful soul will always remain in our hearts.
A good friend of his
From Cisterna di Latina, Italy, Carlo Perinelli*

Carlo Sante Perinelli - January 05 at 11:10 AM

ES

Thank you so very much. Dad was so fond of y'all and loved to talk about his time there and how kind everyone was to him. Thank you so much for remembering him. His service Friday was truly a celebration of his life with family and friends.

Elizabeth Sharkey - April 13 at 03:40 PM

JL

“ There are so many wonderful memories to share that there is not enough room. Bill and I grew up together and we have been close friends all these years. Big Bill boogie the kid Magoo Vines was an all star in all of lives games. He got me to pledge Kappa Sigma Xi. He bought me my first car a 32 Chevy coupe and way too many favors to count. I knew you two girls in Ft Smith, but you were so young you may not remember me. But he could go nowhere without bragging about his daughters. I will miss your Dad greatly! Jim Kay Limberg

Jim k Limberg - December 30, 2025 at 12:22 PM

ES

Yes Mr. Limberg I remember! Thank you so much for your kind memories- Dad loved his friends and loved all the crazy fun memories y'all made when you were young!

Elizabeth Sharkey - April 13 at 03:44 PM

JR

“ A deep bow of respect to the father of one of the greatest joys in my life, his daughter Laura. Sending great love to the whole family.

Jana Rentzel - December 29, 2025 at 09:23 AM

ES

Oh my goodness what a lovely thing to say. Thank you so much.

Elizabeth Sharkey - April 13 at 03:45 PM

LE

“ Dear Betsy, Laura, n Family, Sorry about the death of ur dad. He was a Sweet n Kind Person. He always did a lot 4 the Fort Smith Community while he was mayor 4 2 terms. He will be missed by all down here. Keeping u all in my prayers. Lisa Evans (Beattie)



Lisa Evans - December 29, 2025 at 03:26 AM

ES

Thank you so much, sweet friend. He did a lot for Fort Smith because he loved Fort Smith so much and all the friends who became family there including yours. God bless you.

Elizabeth Sharkey - April 13 at 03:46 PM