



Mr. Elmer H. Gillespie

March 8, 1938 - May 24, 2025

Elmer Harrison Gillespie, affectionately known to many as Sonny passed away on Saturday, May 24, 2025. He was born March 8, 1938, in Washington College, Tennessee, and is the son of the late Thelma Daniels and Allen Dickson.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 53 years, Claretha, and his brother, Stevie Daniels.

Elmer leaves to cherish his memories and celebrate his life, three daughters, Keitha Thompson, Donna Gillespie Olujani (Kaaria), and Angie Gillespie; four grandchildren, Erik Davis (Andrea), Doniqua Joyner, Essence Joyner (Maria Soto) and Ronquille Joyner; two great-grandchildren, Deon and Lyla; and a host of nephews, nieces, cousins, other family members and friends.

Elmer was a member of Bethel Christian Church, where he served faithfully over the years in various roles, including Deacon, Sunday School Superintendent, and Board Chair. He is a Navy Veteran and retired US Postal Worker. Because of his loyal service to the Jonesborough Area Ministerial Alliance's Food Pantry, the Jonesborough Community Chest recommended him for the Governor's Award, and the Town of Jonesborough named a building after him. His hobbies were fishing, gardening, and carpentry. We were blessed to learn many valuable lessons from Elmer during his 87 years. The family would like to express their sincere gratitude for all expressions of kindness and love shown during this most difficult time. We greatly appreciate your support and prayers now and in the days to come.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 31. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Bethel Christian Church
701 Depot St
Jonesborough, TN 37659

Celebration of Life

MAY 31. 12:00 PM (ET)

Bethel Christian Church
701 Depot St
Jonesborough, TN 37659

Interment

MAY 31.

Lane Memorial Cemetery
Limestone, TN

Tribute Wall

PA

“ *Phyllis Askew sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Elmer H. Gillespie*



Phyllis Askew - June 12, 2025 at 10:44 PM

MD

“ *My heart goes out to the family. Prayers and Love*



Margo Drakeford - June 09, 2025 at 06:11 AM

VR

“ *Vangelina Rollins sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Elmer H. Gillespie*



vangelina Rollins - June 01, 2025 at 11:51 AM

SA

“ *Sidney Adams lit a candle in memory of Mr. Elmer H. Gillespie*



Sidney Adams - May 30, 2025 at 07:53 PM

TD

“ Tommy Daniels purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Mr. Elmer H. Gillespie.



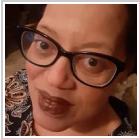
Tommy Daniels - May 30, 2025 at 02:32 PM

BW

“ Sweet man. My condolences to his family.



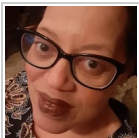
Beverly White - May 30, 2025 at 11:40 AM



“ Joe and Diane Hardin



Diane Hardin - May 29, 2025 at 09:31 PM



“ Diane Hardin lit a candle in memory of Mr. Elmer H. Gillespie



Diane Hardin - May 29, 2025 at 09:30 PM

JW

“ *Janice Wells lit a candle in memory of Mr. Elmer H. Gillespie*



janice wells - May 29, 2025 at 08:27 PM

SS

“ *Sandra Sylvers lit a candle in memory of Mr. Elmer H. Gillespie*



Sandra Sylvers - May 29, 2025 at 06:52 PM

CR

“ *I would be impossible to name all the individuals whose lives have been touched in some way by Sonny. Yes, he is a cousin; however, there is another reason my husband and I chose him to be our eldest son's (Gene) godfather, and it was quite simply Sonny's character. He “walked the talk” and I have compared him to a modern day Apostle Paul. He led with humility, integrity, diligence, patience, dedication, compassion and courage. In other words he had a servant's heart. Although he will be missed by many his time here on earth will be his legacy whether it is through his Biblical teaching or community service. He has earned the declaration “well done my good and faithful servant”. May God bring comfort and peace beyond all understanding to his daughters, grandchildren, extended family, community friends and members of his church family, Bethel Christian Church.*



Cecil and Faye Rutledge - May 29, 2025 at 06:19 PM

SJ

“ *Sylvia Jackson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Elmer H. Gillespie*



Sylvia Jackson - May 29, 2025 at 05:11 PM

AR

“ *Annette, Eric and Randell purchased the Divine Light for the family of Mr. Elmer H. Gillespie.*



Annette, Eric and Randell - May 29, 2025 at 11:07 AM

AR

“ *Annette, Eric and Randell planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Elmer H. Gillespie.*

Annette, Eric and Randell - May 29, 2025 at 11:07 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Elmer H. Gillespie.*



May 29, 2025 at 01:12 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mr. Elmer H. Gillespie.

May 29, 2025 at 01:12 AM



“ I have fond memories as a child living in Mr. Gillespie's apartment building in Jonesborough. During that time I became friends with his youngest daughter Angie. I loved spending the night at their home. My thoughts and prayers are with the Gillespie family during this difficult time.

Sharmaine Montague Johnson - May 29, 2025 at 12:42 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Elmer H. Gillespie.



May 28, 2025 at 11:42 PM



“ I worked with Sonny when he worked at the JC Post Office. He was a wonderful friend and a dedicated Christian who lived his faith each day. May God bless his family.

Dave Umbarger - May 28, 2025 at 07:18 PM

FC

“ Fred & Janice Cash purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Mr. Elmer H. Gillespie.



Fred & Janice Cash - May 28, 2025 at 06:21 PM

FT

“ From the Materiel Readiness Team purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Mr. Elmer H. Gillespie.



From the Materiel Readiness Team - May 28, 2025 at 10:57 AM

FT

“ From the Materiel Readiness Team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Elmer H. Gillespie.

From the Materiel Readiness Team - May 28, 2025 at 10:57 AM

AR

“ Annette Daniels Rouse lit a candle in memory of Mr. Elmer H. Gillespie



Annette Daniels Rouse - May 28, 2025 at 10:36 AM

CB

“ Carol Bradley lit a candle in memory of Mr. Elmer H. Gillespie



Carol Bradley - May 28, 2025 at 09:48 AM

VB

“ Vanessa Babb lit a candle in memory of Mr. Elmer H. Gillespie



Vanessa Babb - May 27, 2025 at 11:33 PM

LB

“ Lee & Lydia Bridwell sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Elmer H. Gillespie



Lee & Lydia Bridwell - May 27, 2025 at 11:29 PM

VP

“ Viola Patton sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Elmer H. Gillespie



Viola Patton - May 27, 2025 at 11:20 PM

SB

“ *Sherry Broyles lit a candle in memory of Mr. Elmer H. Gillespie*



Sherry Broyles - May 27, 2025 at 06:51 PM

VR

“ *Victoria Rogers lit a candle in memory of Mr. Elmer H. Gillespie*



Victoria Rogers - May 27, 2025 at 05:52 PM

RG

“ *Renea Hall & Girls sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Elmer H. Gillespie*



Renea Hall & Girls - May 27, 2025 at 04:57 PM

LM

“ *Lorianne M. lit a candle in memory of Mr. Elmer H. Gillespie*



Lorianne M. - May 27, 2025 at 03:49 PM

GS

“ Ron and I greatly admired Sonny. He was an asset to the community and church. We send our sincere condolences to all of you during the loss of your patriarch.
Love in CHRIST,
Ron and Gwendolyn Smith

Gwendolyn Smith - May 27, 2025 at 02:30 PM

SB

“ Sylvia Bachman lit a candle in memory of Mr. Elmer H. Gillespie



Sylvia Bachman - May 27, 2025 at 01:38 PM

FL

“ Frazier Lyons sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Elmer H. Gillespie



Frazier Lyons - May 27, 2025 at 01:15 PM

MR

“ Mary Rollins lit a candle in memory of Mr. Elmer H. Gillespie



Mary Rollins - May 27, 2025 at 07:22 AM

PB

“ *Our prayers and condolences to the family.
Gonna miss Him and the spiritual wisdom he
so willingly shared.*



Paul&Vanessa Braxton - May 26, 2025 at 10:56 PM

CG

“ *Claudia Goines lit a candle in memory of Mr.
Elmer H. Gillespie*



Claudia Goines - May 26, 2025 at 09:20 PM

CG

Praying for the family

Claudia Goines - May 26, 2025 at 09:21 PM

TH

“ 🙏



Tayyaba Hammonds - May 26, 2025 at 09:16 PM

PD

“ *Pauline Douglas lit a candle in memory of Mr. Elmer H. Gillespie*



Pauline Douglas - May 26, 2025 at 07:11 PM

CR

“ *Deepest Condolences Family, Cousin Elmer was a kind man, loved by many. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*



Cheryl Rhea Family

Cheryl Rhea - May 26, 2025 at 04:42 PM

CB

“ *Calvin Keith Bridwell lit a candle in memory of Mr. Elmer H. Gillespie*



Calvin Keith Bridwell - May 26, 2025 at 04:22 PM

CB

It was good to know Elmer (Sonny) and we've had such great times together that are too numerous to mention. I will miss him dearly.

Calvin Keith Bridwell - May 26, 2025 at 04:26 PM

CA

“ *Crystal Anderson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Elmer H. Gillespie*



crystal anderson - May 26, 2025 at 03:35 PM

ML

“ *Mary Latham lit a candle in memory of Mr. Elmer H. Gillespie*



Mary Latham - May 26, 2025 at 03:32 PM

CD

“ *My condolences to the family! He will truly be missed! I have too many great memories to name! Keeping the whole family uplifted in prayer!* 🙏👉💔



Cheryl Dyer - May 26, 2025 at 03:14 PM

JL

“ *Julia Anderson Letcher lit a candle in memory of Mr. Elmer H. Gillespie*



Julia Anderson Letcher - May 26, 2025 at 01:28 PM



“ *Charles Bufford sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Elmer H. Gillespie*



Charles Bufford - May 26, 2025 at 01:05 PM