



## Eldon Willbanks

August 27, 1928 - August 14, 2020

Eldon Willbanks was born on August 27, 1928, in Oakland, Arkansas, to William McKinley Willbanks and Eva May (McNeil) Willbanks. He died on Friday, August 14, 2020, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, at the age of 91 years. He was raised in the Yellville and Flippin, Arkansas area. Eldon served his country honorably in the United States Navy Reserves for 5 years. He was married on February 18, 1951 in Texarkana, Texas to Patsy Ruth (Nelson) Willbanks. Eldon spent most of his working life as an Expeditor with McDonnell-Douglas, but before that he helped work on construction of the dam in Bull Shoals, Arkansas. He was a longtime faithful member and Deacon of Owasso First Baptist Church since moving to Owasso in February 1979. Eldon was also a 32nd Degree Mason with the Yellville, Arkansas Blue Lodge #117. He enjoyed a variety of past times such as playing golf and solving word search puzzles. He served as a Naval Reserve. Those he leaves behind who hold many cherished memories include:

Daughter;

Tracy Willbanks, of Owasso

Two Granddaughters;

Morgan Willbanks, of Nevarre, Florida

Taylor Willbanks, of Fenton, Michigan

Sister;

Blanche Dickey and husband James, of Springfield, Missouri

Brother;

Max Willbanks, of Flippin, Arkansas

He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Eva, wife, Patsy, son, Brian, 2 brothers, Travis and Johnny, and sister, Pat.

Visitation will be held 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at Mowery Funeral Service in Owasso. Graveside service will be held 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 19, 2020 at Memorial Park Cemetery in Tulsa with Pastor Chris Wall officiating. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in Eldon's memory to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

# Cemetery Details

## Memorial Park Cemetery

5111 South Memorial Drive  
Tulsa, OK 74145

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 18. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Mowery Funeral Service  
9110 N. Garnett Rd.  
Owasso, OK 74055  
(918) 272-6244  
<https://www.moweryfs.com/>

## Graveside Service

AUG 19. 10:00 AM (CT)

Memorial Park Cemetery  
5111 South Memorial Drive  
Tulsa, OK 74145

# Tribute Wall

KB

“ I was saddened to read of Eldons passing as I was searching for another obituary on the website. Eldon was a kind and gracious man. He always took time to greet me as I entered the church and often slipped a folded bill in my hand just when I needed it. I will miss his sweet smile, kind words and warm embrace. I feel blessed to have known him.

Karen Beisel - September 12, 2020 at 12:10 AM

Taylor  
Doubleyew

“ Grandpa was one of the best, most prolific storytellers I've ever known. He had the most amazing, impressive life, and I felt so blessed every time he'd share one of his unbelievable stories with me (like the story of the bus full of kids!). He was always such a quiet and gentle presence in my life, and I will miss him and our monthly phone calls dearly. Rest easy, grandpa 💕 Say "hi" to grandma and dad for us.



Taylor Doubleyew - August 28, 2020 at 09:30 AM

SW

“ *What a wonderful man!! So glad I got to have him in my life. He was the best father-in-law ever. I always thought his modesty was so cute. It certainly wasn't passed onto his son!*  
😊 *Will always cherish memories of Eldon*

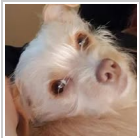


Susan Willbanks - August 25, 2020 at 06:52 PM

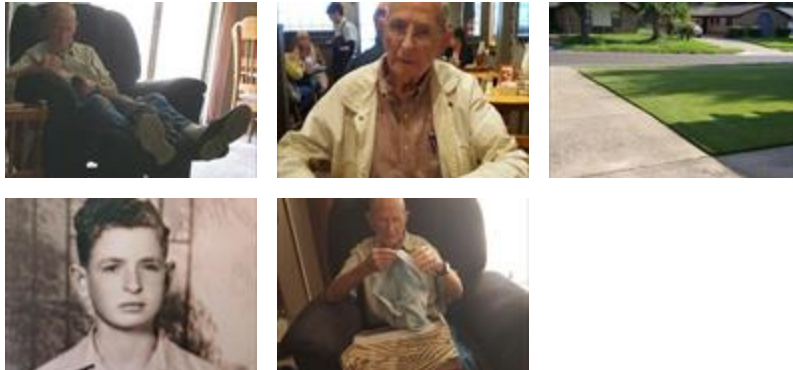
SA

“ *I pray the peace of Lord Jesus will be a comfort to Eldons loved ones and that Eldon is safe in his tender loving merciful care.*

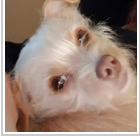
Sandy - August 23, 2020 at 06:25 PM



“ *9 files added to the album Dad*



Lea Willbanks - August 23, 2020 at 03:20 PM



“Dad, I'm sorry it's taken a few days to write on your page here. Please forgive me. I've just had a really hard time finding the words and keeping them long enough to write down while trying to not burst into tears! That last part, I've not yet conquered. I miss you daddy! You were my life! You and our pups! Over the years, you've done so much for me! You held me up when I was sick, you patted a rhythm on my back so I would stop coughing from pneumonia and you taught me my multiplication tables to rhythm; from that, you taught me rhythm. I know now, your listening to the angels sing, probably singing with them.



You taught me love in so many ways, courage, strength. You were my rock and after my stroke you welcomed me into your home! You were always there for me! Even if within my stubbornness I didn't see it at the time. We were buddies for so long, a lady the other day said we were "two peas in a pod". I remember growing up, you taught me to "pick myself up by my bootstraps" stand tall, be strong, and keep going on. I'm trying to daddy, I am!

You, mom, and bubba are all up there, in heaven together, I hope you see me waving at you all. My heart is broken and at the same time, happy for you because I know you are where you wanted to be, with them. I'm trying to listen more to that side and not be so selfish. I'm trying to be strong like you would want me to be!

I keep thinking you'll walk in here and want me to smell your cologne and bury my nose there and nestle for a few minutes. Daddy, I am so very proud to have been able to call you!!!  
(underline) my dad. The best I could possibly hope for! Wish I had more moments to tell you that and to hold you. Life is shorter than we realize! Bless you daddy, Take good care of yourself, mom, and bubba up there you are all in the best hands imaginable (unimaginable really) .If at all possible, send me a sign from time to time so I'll know you're there, somehow watching over me.

*Thank you for everything you did for me, taught me, were as my daddy, were as the man you were, such a devout christian, a honest man, hard-worker, you made so many people smile! Even me!*

*I love you daddy times infinity, forever. Tracy Lea*

---

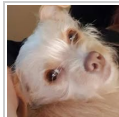
**Lea Willbanks** - August 23, 2020 at 02:54 PM

KL

“ Tracey, and all the family: so very sorry to hear of uncle eldon's passing. He was such a sweet man! There was a huge reunion when he got to heaven though! My dad, his dad, grandmother, patsy and Brian waiting for him! He always made my dad's eyes light up when he would call. Living in washington state made it very difficult to visit more often than we did. I saw him last in 1997 and he was as gracious as can be. When he called on my 60th birthday I cried through the whole conversation. What an amazing life he had,. He will be missed...but heaven gained an amazing,man!

---

**Kathy Lyczewski** - August 19, 2020 at 09:33 PM



*Thank you Kathy, yes they did!*

---

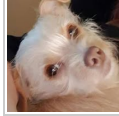
**Lea Willbanks** - August 23, 2020 at 05:02 PM

BW

“ So many memories of my cousin, Eldon! He lived a quiet, respectable life of faith from his youth. After his father passed when Eldon was a teenager, he became head of the household. He and Patsy, who later became his wife, took me to my first movie. Having grown up together in MO and AR, it was a delight for both our families to end up in Owasso, OK. Eldon and Patsy were the first to invite Corky and me to attend church. We will miss him greatly and look forward to seeing him again in Eternity. - Burl & Corky Wilbanks

---

**Burl D Wilbanks** - August 17, 2020 at 06:51 PM



*Thank you! and God Bless.*

---

**Lea Willbanks** - August 23, 2020 at 05:03 PM

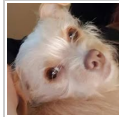
WC

“ We recall both Elden and Patsey being very encouraging to us when we served on staff at FBC, Owasso. Our thoughts and prayers are with their family at this time, May god grant you peace and remembrances of all they did to encourage and support you individually as well.  
*Bill and Linda Caudle*



---

**William Caudle** - August 17, 2020 at 01:04 PM



*Thank you for the prayers.*

---

**Lea Willbanks** - August 23, 2020 at 05:04 PM

TR

*So hard to believe dad, it's been 5 years. I miss you so much! I love you. I just found out that I have another friend that will be joining you any day, week, anytime now. I hope when the day comes that you will welcome her. She's been a huge help to me and a great friend! Please hug mom and bubba for me. I love you all! Being here without you all is lonely. I try to talk to you every day. Boe says hello too.*

---

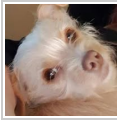
**Tracy** - August 19, 2025 at 07:53 PM

BD

“ We as a sister and brother-in-law to Eldon loved him and will miss him greatly. Our father was killed when he was a young teenager which required Eldon to grow up quickly to assume responsibility for his younger siblings. He was a strong and gentle man that loved the Lord. We will miss our telephone visits with him and listening to his many stories. We love you, Eldon. Will see you again soon. James & Blanche Dickey

---

**Blanche Dickey** - August 17, 2020 at 12:56 PM



*Thank you Aunt Blanche and Uncle James, praying for you both.*

---

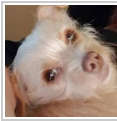
**Lea Willbanks** - August 23, 2020 at 05:05 PM

TA

“ Very sorry to hear of Eldon s passing but I know he and Patsy are reunited. A man that many were served by and benefited by his sweet spirit and love of the Lord. Without fanfare Eldon showed folks how to live through the word as God intended. Our loss is heaven s gain!

---

**Thomas Austin** - August 16, 2020 at 08:46 AM



*So very true! Thank you!*

---

**Lea Willbanks** - August 23, 2020 at 05:06 PM

TW

*Dad, I can't believe it's been 5 years. The anniversary was on the 14th. You have a birthday coming up on the 27th. I had a vision of you, mom, and bubba the other day. You were standing tall and strong on a hill with your arms outstretched palms touching each other. As if in a chain while you radiated. The song I was listening to was "Like a Rock" by Bob Seger. The vision was so amazing, it brought tears to my eyes.*

*Dad, I have a very dear friend of mine that has a terminal illness. She doesn't know how much time she has left here. When the time comes, I am certain that she will be coming to heaven. Please dad, welcome her when she arrives like a member of our family. She has been wonderful to me. She is being a life coach to me and has been there for me like none other here on earth. She's 82 and just a little bit taller than I am. I gave her your name so she can find you. Thank you dad!*

*I love you so deeply dad, please give mom and bubba hugs from me.*

---

**Tracy Willbanks** - August 24, 2025 at 09:07 AM