



Vernon Leroy Williams

March 2, 1940 - April 5, 2026

Vernon Leroy Williams was born March 2, 1940, in Newalla, Oklahoma, to Oral Lee Williams and Martha Lena Hill Williams. He went to be with his Lord and Savior Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, at the age of 86 years. Vernon completed his education in McLoud, Oklahoma, with McLoud High School. He met Harlene Vannosdoll at the Shawnee Round Up Club and they married in 1960 in Newalla, Oklahoma and raised 3 children. He spent most of his working life as a truck driver with Sun Oil, Chief Freight Lines and Yellow Freight Lines. He retired from Yellow Freight Lines in 1998 and soon started Williams Dozer Service. Vernon enjoyed a variety of pastimes, but rodeoing was his passion. He had been a member of the International Professional Rodeo Association, Southwest Cowboys Association, American Cowboys Rodeo Association, Cowboys Regional Rodeo Association, and the Rodeo Cowboys Association. He was the 1968 Southwest Cowboys Association Year End and Average Bull Riding Champion. He was selected as a judge for multiple Association Finals which he did with great pride. He taught several bull riding schools for area cowboys. He also taught one of the first rodeo schools for women. Many of his students went on to compete at the professional level. In 2009 he was awarded the Willie Mendell Lifetime Achievement Award. Vernon loved the Lord and his family and friends. He had an incredible impact on many people right up to the end with his doctors, nurses and other staff members. He loved telling old rodeo stories and if you loved a good joke, well he was your guy, but he may be laughing too hard to

tell the punch line, but it didn't matter because you were laughing with him. His favorite line was "Let er rip" and he said it to his grandkids in the hospital, because he was ready to break out and go home. He loved his life right up to the end. He wasn't ready to leave behind his loved ones and dear friends, but the Cowboy knew it was his time to ride away.

Those he leaves behind who hold a lifetime of memories include
Children; Paul Williams and wife Rhonda, of Bartlesville, Oklahoma
Robin Backward and husband Carey, of Talala, Oklahoma
Kim Adcock and husband Burke, of Miami, Texas
Grandchildren; Michael Williams and wife Jaci, of Edmond, Oklahoma
Ryan Williams and wife Sara, of Sperry, Oklahoma
Jake Williams, of Sacramento, California
Regan Morgans and husband Justin, of Claremore, Oklahoma
Sarah Roberts and husband Ryan, of Collinsville, Oklahoma
Chad Backward, of Inola, Oklahoma
Cale Backward and wife Jamie, of Verdigris, Oklahoma
Katie Rice and husband Tarin, of Poolville, Texas
Ty Adcock, of Miami, Texas
Siblings; Zelah Kear of Prattville, Oklahoma
Jackie Gust of Prattville
Dear Friend; Delores West of Lenapah, Oklahoma
He also leaves behind many great grand-children, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by Harlene, his parents, Oral and Martha Williams, brother, Bob Williams, sister Ellen Tiff, and son-in-law, Scott Hendricks.

Visitation will be held from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at Mowery Funeral Service in Owasso. Funeral service will be 10:30 Thursday, April 9, 2026, at the Talala First Baptist Church with Pastor Lester Orwig, Wendell Abbott, and Tony Keese officiating. Serving as casket bearers will be David Wesson, Mike Neely, Dennis Keys, Jerry LaValley, Jerry Wright, and

Steve Abernathy. Honorary casket bearers will be Jim Mudd, Eldon Day, Mark Owen, Jim Turnbull, Raymond Griffin, James Calico, Shorty Garten, and Steve Gann. Graveside service will be held 2:30 p.m. Thursday afternoon at the Oak Hill Cemetery in Mannford, Oklahoma. Arrangements and services were entrusted to Mowery Funeral Service of Owasso. www.moweryfs.com

In lieu of flowers you can donate to the Justin Cowboy Crisis Fund in Vernon honor. www.justincowboycrisisfund.org/

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 8. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Mowery Funeral Service Chapel
9110 North Garnett Road
Owasso, OK 74055

Funeral Service

APR 9. 10:30 AM (CT)

Talala First Baptist Church
203 S Oak
Talala, OK 74080

Graveside Service

APR 9. 2:30 PM (CT)

Oak Hill Cemtery
OK-48
Mannford, OK 74044

Tribute Wall

DC

“ *Sincere sympathy and prayers to all the family.
Dwayne & Julana Clay*

Dwayne & Julana Clay - April 08 at 11:24 PM

EB

“ *I'll always have great memories of Vernon as a great bull rider. He was like an other dad to me and Wauthena. We all loved rodeoing and visiting. We all been a lot of miles together and I will cherish all the memories the Williams family. Vernon you will be missed!*



Earlene Barlow - April 08 at 07:22 PM

TF

“ *The Hill and Tanner family purchased the Sweete st Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Vernon Leroy Williams.*



The Hill and Tanner family - April 08 at 04:31 PM

SH

“ I was lucky enough at the age of 12 to attend Vernon's very first bullriding school, at what was called Cajun Stables at the time. He taught us many things, not just about bullriding, but about life in general. I carry alot of the things Vernon taught us with me today, but my favorite lesson from Vernon was him teaching me how to pinch my bottom lip and bray like a donkey! I still do it to this day and it cracks me up everytime! Good bye Vernon, you will never be forgotten.

Scott Huchteman

Scott Huchteman - April 08 at 11:52 AM

AB

“ Art & Cynthia Branham purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Vernon Leroy Williams.



Art & Cynthia Branham - April 08 at 10:07 AM

MF

“ Mike and Johnie Neely and family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Vernon Leroy Williams.



Mike and Johnie Neely and family - April 07 at 11:04 PM

MF

“ Mike and Johnie Neely and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Vernon Leroy Williams.

Mike and Johnie Neely and family - April 07 at 11:04 PM

JK

“ Jayna, Hannah, and Kathy purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Vernon Leroy Williams.



Jayna, Hannah, and Kathy - April 07 at 08:50 PM

TW

“ Talala Grocery/Joe and Heather Wells purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Vernon Leroy Williams.



Talala Grocery/Joe and Heather Wells - April 07 at 08:48 PM

JF

“ My favorite rodeo judge, we go back many' years. We had daily visits when you picked up freight at Sun along with the rodeos I entered and you were judging. Rest in peace friend..



jo anne foreman - April 07 at 04:19 PM

KH

“ Kathleen H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Vernon Leroy Williams.

Kathleen H. - April 07 at 12:34 PM

YF

“ *Your ASPS Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Vernon Leroy Williams.*



Your ASPS Family - April 07 at 10:23 AM