



Mr. Billy Ray Kirby

April 23, 1933 - January 8, 2019

Billy Ray Kirby, 85, of Plant City, Florida, born on April 23, 1933 in Lakeland, entered into eternal rest on January 8, 2019. He was a veteran of the United States Army. Billy was a rural letter carrier with the United States Postal Service for 33 years, retiring in 1990. He was a longstanding elder and member of GracePoint Church in Plant City. For 35 years he was a High School Football Official with the Lake Region Officials Association and served as Head Linesman. He liked watching college football, especially the Florida Gators. Billy liked to garden, grow plants, grill and barbecue. His greatest joy was his family and the times they spent together. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Claudia Kirby; children, David R. Kirby (Danise) and Lynn Tharrington (Lee); grandchildren, Steven Kirby, Sarah Kirby, Jennifer Tharrington and Cynthia Tharrington; and many loving extended family and friends. A funeral service will be held on Saturday, January 12 at 11:00 AM at Hopewell Funeral Home, 6005 S County Rd 39, Plant City, where the family will receive friends beginning at 10:00 AM. Interment in Hopewell Memorial Gardens, Plant City. Expressions of condolence at HopewellFuneral.com

Cemetery Details

Hopewell Memorial Gardens

6005 County Road 39 South
Plant City, FL 33567
(813) 737-3128
office@hopewellfuneral.com
<https://www.hopewellfuneral.com>

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 12. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Hopewell Funeral Home
6005 County Road 39 South
Plant City, FL 33567
(813) 737-3128
office@hopewellfuneral.com
<http://www.hopewellfuneral.com>

Celebration of Life

JAN 12. 11:00 AM (ET)

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Tribute Wall



“ Hopewell Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Billy Ray Kirby



Hopewell Funeral Home - January 10, 2019 at 12:26 PM

RH

“ Worked with Billy Ray for over thirty years.we shared same birthday and usually ran into each other at steak house in Lakeland on our birthdays. One of the happiest and friendliest person I knew. Sorry this is late we live in north GA. now.

Roger Harmon - November 01, 2020 at 09:33 AM

PR

“ Polly Rhoden lit a candle in memory of Mr. Billy Ray Kirby



Polly Rhoden - January 15, 2019 at 04:28 PM

HS

“ Sending our prayers to the Kirby family. Billy was one of those people who was loved by everyone he met. He will be missed. ~ Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Snapp

Hubert Snapp - January 13, 2019 at 05:57 PM



“ Farewell to a great postman

Franklin Oneal - January 13, 2019 at 01:59 PM



“ I have such wonderful memories of times with your family! He was always full of fun and joy and my father would say that he had no better friend than Billy Ray. I have no doubt that they are rejoicing in heaven together! Love and prayers, Jan Hauptert Haskins

Jan Hauptert Haskins - January 12, 2019 at 10:33 AM



“ Sending prayers and wishes to Mrs. Kirby and the family. Mr. Kirby (what I always called him) was a special friend and neighbor to my parents. Moving in when they got married, I have known them a long time. I even had Mrs. Kirby for PE in Junior High School. There are many memories over the years with Mr. Kirby from chatting over the hedge to having him give us a special dish. Of course, always a conversation about the "Fighting Gators!" He was an avid Gator fan! He was a special man always with a warm friendly smile and welcoming greeting. Wishing the family the best - Charlene

Charlene - January 12, 2019 at 08:52 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mr. Billy Ray Kirby.



January 11, 2019 at 02:59 PM

BH

“ We send our Condolences to this family(Lee Tharrington) From
Pembroke Labs

Beulah Harvey - January 11, 2019 at 12:36 PM

DR

“ To the family of Billy,

*We will all miss the smiling face of Billy. He always was a uplifting
guy whom we all loved to be around. I knew Billy thru many years of
high school football. The latest time I spent with Billy was for the last
ten years or so, three days a week at rehab. We all had some real
enjoyable times while we worked hard to get stronger.*

*May all whom knew Billy lean closer to God in these very difficult
times and remember the good times that we knew with Billy..*

*Dave Robbins
Dover, Fl.*

Dave Robbins - January 11, 2019 at 11:14 AM

WM

“ I grew up getting hair cuts from his dad. Got to have his wife as
teacher and his service to plant city was not given enough credit. He
was a great man and friend.

William Meriwether - January 11, 2019 at 09:08 AM

MB

“ When my husband and I first started going to GracePoint, I went to a bible class that the Kirby's attended....and what a wonderful way to learn more about our faith and God's love shared by getting to know Billy. Such a good sweet Christian man, who will be missed I am sure by all who knew him.

Maggie Beard - January 11, 2019 at 08:43 AM

GC

“ Our family and the Kirby family share many memories attending church and serving in many activities together. Billy Ray was an example for all who knew him, loving and serving his Lord. His faith was contagious and he was a mentor to countless others as he led by by example. We will miss him.

Gail Crutchfield - January 10, 2019 at 11:41 PM

MC

“ Billy Ray, a precious man a wonderful friend. Claudia and family my heart and prayers go out to all of you. George so enjoyed Billy Ray's friendship. Love you all

Marylyn Contner - January 10, 2019 at 07:51 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Billy Ray Kirby.



January 10, 2019 at 11:33 AM



“ 46 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Hopewell Funeral Home - January 10, 2019 at 11:19 AM

PA

“ *My sincere sympathy for the loss of Mr. Billy. My Dad, H.S.Gardner, had a wonderful connection with Mr. Billy, especially in their younger years. They were both US Post Office mail carriers and High School football referees. Mr. and Mrs. Kirby's were a big part of my parent's life when I was growing up and were well respected. I remember they enjoyed eating at the Red Barn in Lakeland after many of the games they officiated. My Dad spoke of Mr. Billy and the times they had together throughout his lifetime. Mr. Billy was such a fine man. Many prayers to his family and friends! With Much Love.....*

Peggy Gardner Adams - January 10, 2019 at 12:55 AM