



Mr. Jeremiah Billy Sullivan Jr.

February 12, 1935 - December 27, 2018

Jeremiah "Billy" Sullivan, Jr., 83, of Lithia, Florida, born in Mt. Dora on February 12th, 1935, entered into eternal rest on December 27th, 2018. He was retired from Hillsborough County Parks and Recreation. Not one to sit long, after retiring he continued to stay busy with his dumptruck and tractor business. He enjoyed fishing and playing card games with his family. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Joyce Sullivan; children, DeWayne Sullivan (Beth), Denese Williams (Steven), Delores Sullivan (Ron Jopek); grandchildren, Jennifer Sullivan, David Williams, Daniel Williams, Lauryn Leverenz, Tyler Jopek, and Amanda Joiner; and great-grandchildren, Seneca Amstutz-Sullivan, Syrianna Williams, Levi Williams, Riley Leverenz, and Harlow Leverenz. A graveside service will be held on Monday, December 31st at 11:00 AM at Alderman-Pelote Cemetery, 990 Cemetery Road, Lithia, FL. Expressions of condolence at HopewellFuneral.com

Cemetery Details

Alderman-Pelote Cemetery

Pelote Cemetery Road
Lithia, FL 33547

Tribute Wall



“ Hopewell Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Jeremiah Billy Sullivan Jr.



Hopewell Funeral Home - December 29, 2018 at 02:43 PM

PA

Joyce and family! We are so sorry for your loss! Praying for you in the days to come! Much love from The Hickey Family!

pat - December 31, 2018 at 10:03 AM

“ *Billy’s Story - as Told by His Kids...*

Jeremiah Billy Sullivan, Jr. was the youngest of 11 children.

He was a quiet man of few words, and devoted to his family and to God. Billy worked hard all his life, from selling strawberries and peanuts in downtown Plant City at only 6 years old, to working his landscaping business on the weekends and weeknights after his day job, and beyond retirement.

Billy served in the Army for two years. He attended boot camp in Texas, and was stationed in South Korea during peacetime. He worked as a cook, and for those of you familiar with military grub, his specialties were SOS and pancakes.

His first trade was carpentry, but he worked in farming for many years, and switched to Hillsborough County Parks and Recreation later in life. After retiring from Parks and Recreation, he continued working full-time with his landscaping business until age 78.

He was a jack-of-all trades. He engineered his own rig to drill two wells at their home in Lithia. He was also good with cars. He would adjust the valves while the engine was running--something that impressed his son when he was old enough to understand how difficult that was.

He found time over the years to build a huge, two-story barn, added two bedrooms to their home, as well as a living room with a fireplace. He took care of a couple dozen calves, one pig, two horses, two ponies, some chickens, and guinea hens. He built fences and pens for all of these critters.

Billy loved animals, but had a special fondness for cats his entire life. When he was four years old, his mom and siblings were out picking strawberries in the field behind their home. His sister Lucille, told him to keep the cats warm, so he bundled them in a blanket

next to the wood-burning stove. When his family saw the house was aflame, they rushed back. They were fortunate enough to save Billy, but neither the house, nor the cats survived.

On a lighter note, when I was in middle school, I once helped my Granddaddy feed the neighborhood cats. When the first one arrived, he called it "Tiger," which seemed appropriate for an orange tabby, but as a dozen or so felines began swarming the food, I realized he was calling ALL of them "Tiger," regardless of color or stripes. When asked why he didn't give them each a different name, he replied that it was easier to call them all "Tiger."

His latest cat is named Missy. Missy, however, is the second tabby with that name. The vet calls her "Missy 2."

Billy has always been a devout man, but he renewed his dedication to the church after Joyce had a serious medical issue back in 1976. He became an avid Bible reader, noting that he had read the Bible cover-to-cover 23 times. His ministry was to help their church with mowing and grounds maintenance.

In his free time, Billy liked to fish. He bought a motorboat back in the 60s. The first time he launched it, however, he forgot to put in the plug, and (of course) it started to sink. The entire family bailed out water until they could finally complete their maiden voyage down the Alafia River. He also liked to cast net for mullet - once catching 53 mullet in a single cast. He even built his own smoker, and enjoyed smoking the mullet for friends and family. Joyce made the grits. The Southerners among us will relate to this combination.

While relaxing at home, Billy would watch his favorite game show, Family Feud, but also gospel programs, and listen to gospel music. He regularly attended church, and traveled to revival services. With friends, Billy and Joyce enjoyed playing cards, and they were also members of a bowling league.

Family gatherings were also important to him. He enjoyed time with his wife of 60 years, his three children, five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. We celebrated birthdays, holidays, reunions,

and special occasions. January 1st would have been Billy and Joyce's 61st wedding anniversary.

He will be missed dearly.

DeWayne Sullivan - January 01, 2019 at 09:16 AM

CR

“*Dear Joyce. Wish I could be there to give you a hug and hold your hand. I didn't know your husband and your children, but I really enjoyed seeing them in the photos on this memorial page. They reminded me of the times we visited in your home when we were all children, before we grew up and life took us in different directions. With love and prayers,*
Carolyn Cribbs Roberts”



Carolyn Cribbs Roberts - December 30, 2018 at 07:46 PM



“*Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Jeremiah Billy Sullivan Jr..*”



December 29, 2018 at 01:59 PM



“ 48 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Hopewell Funeral Home - December 29, 2018 at 01:33 PM



“ *Basket of Memories* was purchased for the family of Mr. Jeremiah Billy Sullivan Jr..



December 28, 2018 at 10:58 PM



“ *Ellie and Al* purchased the *Glorious Grace Bouquet* for the family of Mr. Jeremiah Billy Sullivan Jr..



Ellie and Al - December 28, 2018 at 06:54 PM