



Talmage Van Spence

August 12, 1951 - January 13, 2018

Talmage Van Spence, age 66, of Wynne, AR passed peacefully from this world on Saturday evening, January 13th, 2018.

He was born in the Wynne on August 12th, 1951 to T. O. and Mar-Jo Spence of Wynne. Despite a car-wreck leaving him a paraplegic and requiring a wheelchair at age 16, he graduated with his class from Wynne High School in 1969. A music lover from an early age, he worked as a disk-jockey at KWYN in Wynne during his last 2 years in high school. He attended Arkansas State University and started a record and tape store named White Dog during his sophomore year. Upon graduation, he branched White Dog into home and automotive stereo systems and some of the first giant screen projection TVs. Branching into concert promotion and as a ticket sales vendor in the early 1970s, White Dog quickly became an iconic hub of the music scene for Northeast Arkansas with people of all ages. Van "White Dog" Spence loved people and developed a loyal following of customers from college kids to many of Jonesboro's business movers and shakers. Van opened a second White Dog store in Fayetteville, AR and later Hog Dogs in the former Indian Mall. He enjoyed reflecting back on the many talented and "hip" men and women who had worked in the stores over the years and the musicians he came to know during this time. He sold the stores in the 1980s and moved to Little Rock for a few years before moving back to his favorite place, the family lake house and woods at Hunter's Rest Lake right outside of Wynne. There,

he enjoyed watching raccoons, squirrels, and flying squirrels that he fed on the deck. He had floor to ceiling windows and a glass door that allowed him to watch the large number of raccoons that visited every night and even during the day.

Despite being wheelchair bound, in his younger years Van was active in outdoor sports. He enjoyed duck hunting on the family farms, trout fishing on the Norfolk and White Rivers, whitewater canoeing, camping, and off-roading in his 6-wheel ATV. He enjoyed driving across the country visiting with old friends and seeing national parks. In his youth, he had been very involved in the Boy Scouts and served on camp staff at Camp Cedar Valley at Hardy. He was very proud that before his wreck he had completed trips to the Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico, the Charles L. Sommers Wilderness Canoe Base in Ely, MN, and the 1964 National Scout Jamboree at Valley Forge, PA. In later years he completed the Master Gardeners program, volunteered with the Cub Scouts, and enjoyed reading to classes at the Wynne Primary School. Van was noted for being non-judgmental of others and was always willing to do anything he could to help a friend in need.

Van was preceded in death by his parents and by his brother-in-law Stan Langley. He is survived by one sister, Sharon Spence Langley of Jonesboro, AR, and his “baby” brother Greg Spence and wife Alisa. Van loved his niece Katie Langley of Chicago and was especially close to his two nephews, Tal and Cole Spence of Wynne. Van was blessed to have a truly phenomenal friend and caregiver, Jazmine Mathis of Forrest City, who became a part of the whole Spence family.

There will be visitation from 2:00 to 3:00 on Sunday, January 21st in the Martha Murray Hall at First United Methodist Church of Wynne followed by a brief Celebration of Life ceremony. For those wishing to leave a lasting memorial, the family suggests making a donation to the Cross County Library

or the Good Shepherd Center in Wynne or a charity of your choice. Kernodle Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. You may sign an online guest book at www.kernodlefh.com

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 21. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church of Wynne
800 Falls Blvd
Wynne, AR 72396

Celebration of Life

JAN 21. 3:00 PM (CT)

First United Methodist Church of Wynne
800 Falls Blvd
Wynne, AR 72396

Tribute Wall

KJ

“ *Kathy Williams Jones lit a candle in memory of Talmage Van Spence*



Kathy Williams Jones - January 21, 2018 at 09:30 PM

KJ

My sister Nola was one of Vans classmates and she thought Van was a great guy. Prayers for the family.

Kathy Williams Jones - January 21, 2018 at 09:35 PM

CB

“ *Van was a force among the children who grew up in our neighborhood in the 1960's. Even then he displayed traits of leadership. He had a sharp wit & was always one of the organizers of any neighborhood football or baseball game. The night of his car wreck was traumatic for all of us at Wynne High. As horrible as that was for Van, he still returned to WHS and remained part of his class. I rarely saw him after we went separate ways for college, but when I did, it was if no time had passed. He was still the "same ol' Van." I'll miss him, but I know he's now able to walk and to do it in a better place.*

Chip Baker - January 20, 2018 at 09:22 AM

MD

“ Van was a wonderful person. I remember him well during his early days in Jonesboro at his music store. He always had a smile for everyone. I know he will be greatly missed. Sorry for your loss. Martha Boeckmann Dooley



Martha B Dooley - January 17, 2018 at 03:14 PM

MF

Sharon and Greg, I'm so sorry for your loss. I hadn't seen Van in years, but Barry kept in touch with him and spoke of him often to me. My prayers are with your family. Marla Henson Fergus

Marla Henson Fergus - January 19, 2018 at 08:33 PM

GW

“ Sorry for all the families loss ... Van was one of a kind....he will be missed....

Greg Wilson - January 17, 2018 at 02:57 PM

EB

“ Van was one of a kind. Of the many memories I have the best was when he took me and my late dad, Harrell duck hunting. We hunted out of a boat and Van needed no help. He was amazing! My love to Sharon and Greg and their families.

Eldridge Brawner - January 16, 2018 at 09:45 PM

LT

“ *Linda Thomas lit a candle in memory of Talmage Van Spence*



Linda Thomas - January 16, 2018 at 04:52 PM

LT

I'm so sorry to hear about Van. May God be with you & your family.

Linda Thomas - January 16, 2018 at 04:56 PM

MS

“ *I had so many wonderful memories with Van. Several of us would ride around all the time. I had several visits to the Spence house and your Mother was also a sweetheart. I would go out to the radio station when he was working at night. Van was always upbeat and fun to be with. I visited him in Jonesboro at Whitedog. There was never a dull moment when we would hang out with Van. One day I will see my friend again. So sorry for Greg and Sharon Jo's loss. I know Van will be missed by many.*

Mary C. Skaggs - January 16, 2018 at 09:20 AM

TG

Yes I remember Van well when he was in Wynne. There was nothing he would try to do because of his handicap. Prayers go out to Greg and Sharon's families.

Tommy Graff - January 17, 2018 at 11:50 PM