



William Gilbert Winkler

May 25, 1945 - March 11, 2026

William Gilbert Winkler, 80, of Wynne, Arkansas, went home to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on March 11, 2026. Born May 25, 1945, in Perryville, Missouri, Bill lived a life defined by faith, service, and love for others.

A devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, Bill's greatest joy was his family and his faith in Christ. He was a faithful member of Wynne Baptist Church for over 40 years, where he served the Lord and encouraged others in their walk with Christ. Bill believed his purpose on earth was simple and clear—to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with anyone and everyone he met.

Bill worked for 27 years at Halstead Industries, where he was known as a dedicated and hardworking employee. Beyond his career, he poured 25 years of his life into mentoring young people as a respected Scout Master with the Boy Scouts of America and as Lodge Advisor of the Hi'LO HA CHY' A-LA Lodge 413 in the Order of the Arrow and was the second person ever to be inducted to the Lodge Hall of Fame. His leadership and example left a lasting impact on many lives.

Bill was also an active member of Gideons International and was rarely seen without a stack—or even a box—of Bibles ready to give away. He faithfully

distributed Bibles wherever he went and often gave them to people who were grieving, also purchasing Bibles in memory of their loved ones so that God's Word could continue to reach others.

Bill took the initiative to learn Spanish to broaden his ministry to the Hispanic community, and faithfully served in a Hispanic prison ministry, sharing the Gospel and bringing hope to justice-involved individuals. He believed deeply that God's love and forgiveness were for everyone, and he never hesitated to bring the message of hope and salvation to those who needed it most.

Bill was known for his warm hospitality and generosity. Many friends and family fondly remember the sourdough bread and homemade biscuits he loved to bake and share. For Bill, sharing food was simply another way of sharing love.

Bill is survived by his beloved wife of 57 years, Mary Helen; his children, Mandy (Christopher) Trickey, David (Melanie) Winkler, and Allen (Stacey) Winkler; his grandchildren, Anna Johnson, Owen Winkler, Braiden Trickey, and Brady Swaite; his great-grandchildren, Virginia Ann and Addilynn Piper. He is also survived by his brother Roger (Judy) Winkler, his sister Margie Goodwin, his brother Tom Winkler and brother-in-law Bobby Taylor.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents, Herbert Herman and Bernetta Juanita Winkler, and by his sister, Dorothy Taylor.

Though his family and friends mourn his passing, they rejoice knowing Bill is now in the presence of the Savior he faithfully served. His legacy of faith, kindness, and unwavering dedication to sharing the Gospel will continue to live on through all who knew and loved him.

"Well done, good and faithful servant." Matthew 25:23

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Gideons International at <https://gideons.org/donate>.

Visitation will be held at Kernodle Funeral Home on Saturday, March 14, 2026, from 10 AM until 12 PM. Funeral Services will follow at 12 PM with Rev. Matt Dunavant and Rev. Brad Branham officiating. Burial will be in Cogbill Cemetery.

Kernodle Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. You may sign an online guestbook at www.kernodlefh.com.

Cemetery Details

Cogbill Cemetery

Airpark Rd
Wynne, AR 72396

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 14. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Kernodle Funeral Home
315-325 E. Union Avenue
Wynne, AR 72396
(870) 238-2323
kernodlefuneralhome@gmail.com
<https://www.kernodlefh.com/>

Funeral service

MAR 14. 12:00 PM (CT)

Kernodle Funeral Home
315-325 E. Union Avenue
Wynne, AR 72396
(870) 238-2323
kernodlefuneralhome@gmail.com
<https://www.kernodlefh.com/>

Interment

MAR 14 (CT)

Cogbill Cemetery
Airpark Rd
Wynne, AR 72396

Tribute Wall

TB

“ *The Winkler attended St. Peter’s Catholic School when they moved to Wynne & our student body remained friends throughout our lives. May God give peace & comfort to his family & friends.*

Tanya Kinman Baldwin - March 16 at 09:43 AM

KS

“ *Bill was a wonderful example of what a Christian man should be. He always had scripture, jokes, advice and a hug to share every time I ran in to him. He was a great friend to me and all that knew him. I know he was ecstatic to meet his Holy Father!!!! Good job faithful servant!!! Love you my friend!*

Karen Seabaugh - March 13 at 10:15 PM

TB

“ *Terry & Debbie Barnes purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of William Gilbert Winkler.*



Terry & Debbie Barnes - March 13 at 02:49 PM

TB

“ *Terry & Debbie Barnes planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Gilbert Winkler.*

Terry & Debbie Barnes - March 13 at 02:49 PM

JP

“ *Mr. Bill was a true light in this world. I am forever grateful of the times we shared. The prayers, the conversations, the jokes that led to much laughter. You were a true friend to everyone you met. Thanks for being my friend.*
-Justin and Maggie Peeler

Justin Peeler - March 13 at 11:47 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of William Gilbert Winkler.*



March 13 at 11:04 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of William Gilbert Winkler.*

March 13 at 11:04 AM

EH

“ *Sorry for your loss*

Eddy Hill

Eddy Hill - March 13 at 10:44 AM

DF

“ *What a Godly man Bill was. A great husband dad granddad and friend. Worked with him in Boy Scouts visited on the ball field, the grocery store always the same friendly fun loving guy. He and Mary Ellen will always hold dear places in our hearts. Thankful for the opportunity to know him. Rest in Peace my friend*

Debbie Fuzzell - March 13 at 07:13 AM

SP

“ *Mr. Winkler was my Scoutmaster when I was in the boy scouts back in the 1970's. He was dearly loved, and respected by all of his scouts, and will be sorely missed.*

Sean Palmer - March 12 at 11:28 PM

JR

“ *I worked with Bill all the years he was at Halstead. I was in the national guard and had to be gone for several months. He filled in for me while I was gone. Great person and good friend.*
Jimmy.Richardson

Jimmy Richardson - March 12 at 10:08 PM

TL

“ *I will truly miss Bill. I remember all the memories we hold. True man of God.*

Tresha Light - March 12 at 08:48 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of William Gilbert Winkler.



March 12 at 07:44 PM



“ Kayla Davis (WHBC Mandy trickey) planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Gilbert Winkler.

Kayla Davis (WHBC Mandy trickey) - March 12 at 05:37 PM



“ Kayla Davis (WHBC Mandy trickey) purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of William Gilbert Winkler.



Kayla Davis (WHBC Mandy trickey) - March 12 at 05:37 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William Gilbert Winkler.



March 12 at 05:05 PM

BF

“ Mandy we are sorry to hear of your dad passing. It was such a joy to get to know your dad and mom as we attended church in Wynne. May the Lord wrap his arms around your family to give you comfort.
Bill and Dianne Farris

Bill and Dianne Farris - March 12 at 04:50 PM