



Mr. Brooks Lee Payton

April 25, 1947 - April 27, 2026

Brooks L. Payton, a beloved father, brother, partner, and man of faith, peacefully transitioned from this life on April 27, 2026, at the age of 79. Born on April 25, 1947, Brooks lived a life centered on love, laughter, and the bonds he shared with his family. He was also known for his joyful spirit, always a joker who loved to keep people laughing and bring light into any room he entered.

At an early age, Brooks accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior, establishing a strong spiritual foundation. He carried himself with dignity, resilience, and a deep sense of love for those around him. Brooks also took pride in his appearance and loved to dress fashionably, always stepping out with confidence and style. Whether through his words, his humor, or his presence, Brooks left a lasting impression on all who knew him.

Brooks had a deep love for sports and was a devoted fan of the Dallas Cowboys. He enjoyed spending time watching games and cheering on his team. In his quieter moments, he found great joy in watching Western television shows, especially his favorites, Gunsmoke and Have Gun – Will Travel. He also enjoyed trying his luck with lotto scratch-offs, a pastime that brought him excitement and a little extra fun. These simple pleasures brought him comfort and reflected his easygoing and joyful spirit.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Detroit Payton and Freddie Mae Smith; his sisters, Ollie Mae McNutt and Naomi Gumthrope; his brothers, Tommy Jackson, Alonzo Payton, Lonnie Payton, Willie Payton, and Robert Payton; and his beloved grandchild, Jason Payton.

Brooks leaves to cherish his memory his loving partner, Darlene Gowder; his children, David Williams, John Williams, Felicia Hilliard, and Sharde Wilson, who were the pride and joy of his life; and his stepchildren, Yvonda Jackson, Catherine McCoy, and Bruce Wallace. He also leaves to cherish his memory his beloved grandchildren: Courtney Hilliard-Peters, Johnitter Williams, Andre Hilliard, Faith Williams, Deja Hilliard, Shelby Payton, Jennifer Payton, Mary Alice Payton, Tiffany Payton, Jonathan Williams, Kendale Williams, Dion Jackson, Chardonnai' Williams, Lattaria Williams, and Lattarin Williams.

He is also survived by his siblings: Mary Burgess, Burn Eva Akins, Detroit Payton, Wiley Payton, and Willie Mae Burgess, along with a host of great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, extended family members, and dear friends.

Brooks will be remembered for his laughter, his storytelling, his sense of style, and his ability to bring joy to others. He found happiness in making people smile, spending time with loved ones, and sharing moments that turned into cherished memories.

Though he has departed from this earthly home, his legacy of faith, joy, and love will live on in the hearts of all who knew him.

Cemetery Details

Forrest City Cemetery

1399 Fletcher Road
Forrest City, AR 72335

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 2. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Miles J. Kimble Mortuary & Cremation
1900 South Washington Street
Forrest City, AR 72335
(870) 633-1914
mjkimble@yahoo.com
<http://www.mjkmortuaryandcremation.com>

Service

MAY 2. 2:00 PM (CT)

Miles J. Kimble Mortuary & Cremation
1900 South Washington Street
Forrest City, AR 72335
(870) 633-1914
mjkimble@yahoo.com
<http://www.mjkmortuaryandcremation.com>

The family will meet at the funeral home on the day of the service. There will be no formal processional.

Tribute Wall



“ Lee Williams Jr. sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Brooks Lee Payton



Lee Williams Jr. - May 05 at 04:54 AM



“ I did not know Mr. Payton however he is my granddaughter's Grandpa (Faith Williams) and so nice she could attend the service & meet the family! Sending all our condolences & Gods peace for you all, he sounds like a real good man!!!! 🙏🙏💕

Marsha Bonfiglio - May 02 at 01:05 PM



Thank you so much. We enjoyed meeting Faith and she is welcomed to the family with open arms.

Felicia Hilliard - May 03 at 06:20 PM



“ Alice Taylor sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Brooks Lee Payton



Alice Taylor - May 01 at 06:10 AM



Thank you

Felicia Hilliard - May 01 at 08:46 AM

B(

“ *Bernice Mitchell (K-K) lit a candle in memory of Mr. Brooks Lee Payton*



Bernice Mitchell (K-K) - April 30 at 11:19 PM

FH

Thank you

Felicia Hilliard - May 01 at 08:46 AM

LJ

“ *My friend u got me with this one I just can't believe that ur gone!! Im going to miss our conversations about ur dt appointments and just life period. I send my condolences to family and friends. RIP GO COWBOYS*



Lee Williams Jr. - April 29 at 12:39 PM

FH

Thank you

Felicia Hilliard - May 01 at 08:47 AM

AW

“ *Prayers, Sympathy & Condolences to the family.*



Anita Wilson - April 28 at 11:25 PM

FH

Thank you

Felicia Hilliard - May 01 at 08:47 AM

DM

“ *A word of comfort and of hope, that in your deepest sorrow, you will find new strength and peace of mind and courage for tomorrow.” Please know that you are in our prayers.*



Sending condolences to the family of Brooks Lee Payton on behalf of The Lincoln High School - Maroon & Gold National Alumni Association, Inc. (MGNAAI), Forrest City, Arkansas. Brooks was a member of the Forrest City High School Class of 1966.”

*Delores Farr Morelon
MGNAAI President*

Delores Morelon - MGNAAI - April 28 at 09:07 PM

ST

“ *Payton family and friends, Condolences to you at this most difficult time. Sending I 🙏*



Shirley Williams Thorn - April 28 at 05:14 PM

IG

Sending Condolences and Prayers to the Family!!! ❤️

Icyphine & Danny Green - April 29 at 03:56 PM



Thank you

Felicia Hilliard - May 01 at 08:48 AM