



## Billy Ray Marcum

September 18, 1935 - September 15, 2024

Billy Ray Marcum was born September 18, 1935, in Byars, Oklahoma, to Leroy Glenn and Ruth (Freeman) Marcum. Bill peacefully passed in his home on September 15, 2024.

Bill graduated from Washington High School in 1953. On January 21, 1955, he married his best friend and the love of his life, Cherie Ann (Emerson) Marcum. Together, the couple farmed, ran a dairy, raised their three children, and started Marcum's Nursery on the same land on which he was raised. In retirement, he didn't slow down. He worked diligently day after day tending the pecan grove of over 250 trees he planted behind his house.

Bill loved his family. He adored Cherie, and their strong relationship set the standard for their children. He was the rock for his family as they grieved the loss of Marcia, and he was a devoted partner and tremendous caregiver to Cherie as her health declined. When his sons took over the family business, he continued to mentor and guide them, always their biggest fan and encourager. He enjoyed spending time with his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He had a special connection with each member of his family, he was proud of them, and he made it a point to tell them regularly.

Bill had an entrepreneurial spirit and an incredible work ethic. Bill and Cherie established Marcum's Nursery at their home in 1975. The business began as a wholesaler of annual hanging baskets and hydroponically grown tomatoes. They opened their original retail location in Goldsby in 1982. When his first grandchild was born, he built a childcare center so his family could work and

still be together. A typical workday for Bill and Cherie included feeding calves, welcoming the first arrivals at the childcare center before heading to their “full-time job” at Marcum’s Nursery, and ending the day with many other farm-related tasks. He was a great nurseryman and was recognized as Nurseryman of the Year by the Oklahoma State Nurserymen’s Association in 1998. Perhaps more importantly, Bill cultivated rich relationships with his Marcum’s Nursery coworkers, vendors, and customers, whom he considered as family.

Bill was a pillar in the community. He was a proud supporter of the Washington Warriors, loved watching games from inside the Beller Indoor Facility, and, at the age of 88, he managed to watch away games online. He enjoyed connecting with people and especially savored time with his Althea’s Vault Coffee Crew and the Libby’s Café Crowd. He loved and supported his community, and as a result he was known and loved by so many across multiple generations.

Bill was a man of faith. He first started attending church, not for his love of Jesus, but because he was chasing Cherie. However, he went on to become a Christ follower and a longstanding member of First Baptist Church Washington. In the last years of his life, Bill spent Sunday mornings on his usual pew surrounded by four generations of Marcums. He instilled his Christian values in his family, encouraged them in their faith, and was unashamed to share his love of Jesus.

Bill is preceded in death by his wife, Cherie; his daughter, Marcia Tadlock; his parents, Ruth and Leroy Glenn Marcum; his sisters, Reba Louise Ratliff, Virginia Hall, and Joann Owen; and his brother, Leroy.

Bill is survived by two sons, Monty Marcum and wife Carol of Goldsby and Kelly Marcum and wife Jennifer of Norman; a brother-in-law, Billy Owen; nine grandchildren, Crystal Bacon and husband Tommy, Monty Glenn Marcum and wife Cassie, Candace Benson and husband Ryan, Caitlyn Farrell and husband John, Grace Anne Harshbarger and husband Caleb, Maggie Marcum and husband Tobias Röding, Chloe Ferguson and husband Kyle,

Tyler Tadlock and wife Maddie, and Jake Tadlock; 15 great-grandchildren and one on the way.

Family will be available to greet relatives and friends Wednesday evening from 5-7pm at Wilson-Little Funeral Home.

Funeral services are scheduled for Friday, September 20, at 10:00 a.m. at Goldsby Church. Interment will follow at Washington Cemetery. You may send condolences to the family at [www.wilsonlittle.com](http://www.wilsonlittle.com). In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Before & After School Care program at First Baptist Church Washington. Donations can be mailed to First Baptist Church Washington, P.O. 86, Washington, OK 73093 or given online at <https://fbcwashington.com/give>

# Cemetery Details

## Washington Cemetery

Washington, OK 73093

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

SEP **20**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Goldsby Church  
153 W. Center Rd.  
Washington, OK 73093

*Family will be available to greet relatives and friends Wednesday evening from 5-7pm.*

# Tribute Wall

RA

“ Bless all of Bill and Cherie's family during this tough time of life.

Ronald & Deborah Allison - September 20, 2024 at 02:02 PM

EH

“ Entire Marcum Family...it was with profound heartache when I heard of Bill's passing. It was my honor and pleasure to get to know him and work with him through my association with Roger Cudd and I know you all are grieving greatly. My apologies at not being able to attend his services due to illness, but you all have been in my prayers and will continue to be so. Blessings and Grace for Peace and Comfort...Elaine Howsley

Elaine Howsley - September 18, 2024 at 01:43 PM

GH

“ Hello Kelly and Jennifer..Lexie and Tyson and I are sending our heartfelt condolences for the loss of a father, a grandfather and a father-in-law. We are sure Billy Ray wore many other hats, but we bet "Dad" and "Grandpa" were his two favorite hats! Please know we are with you in prayer and you are in our hearts. Gary and Lexie and Tyson Hadley

Gary Hadley - September 17, 2024 at 06:07 PM

BR

“ There are so many things I could say about Bill Marcum but I will just say he was one of the kindest people I ever met. He loved to talk about his family and his pecan trees. We had lots of talks and I loved every minute. There are very few people like him and I feel honored to have known him and to call him my friend. He will be missed.

Brenda Royse - September 17, 2024 at 11:47 AM