

## PEOPLE WHO LOVED RALPH'S DONUTS

Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN

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### Walter Luther Bennett Obt.

b. 3 March 1920, Bessmer, AL – d. 25 February 2010, Nashville, TN, md on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November 1959, White Co., TN to **Veleda (Netherton) Morgan Bennett**, b. 5 October 1912. Walter Luther Bennett, s/o **Grover Cleveland Bennett**.

(Source: Tennessee State Marriage record, White Co., TN, pg. 251: Walter Luther Bennett married 28 November 1959, White Co., TN, age 39, b. 3 March 1919, address; 121 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Cookeville, TN to Veleda Morgan, age 47, b. 5 October 1912, address: 132 S. Cedar St., Cookeville, TN, name of parent, guardian or next of kin of female: Fain Netherton).

**COOKEVILLE** -- Funeral services for Walter Luther Bennett, 89, of Cookeville, will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 28, at Crest Lawn Funeral Home. Interment, with full military honors, will be in Crest Lawn Memorial Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 4-8 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 27, and from 1 p.m. until time of services on Sunday at the funeral home. Mr. Bennett died Thursday, Feb. 25, 2010, in Kindred Hospital in Nashville after a brief illness. He was born March 3, 1920, in Bessmer, Ala., to the late Mr. and Mrs. Grover Cleveland Bennett. Mr. Bennett was a resident of Cookeville since the end of World War II.

He was a veteran of World War II, having served in the European Theater. He was also a lifelong sheet metal mechanic who enjoyed doing great work in ornamental copper. Mr. Bennett loved to travel, fish and garden. He enjoyed the outdoors and just "hung out" with his many friends at **Ralph's Donut Shop**.

His family includes a stepson, Bill Morgan of Sparta; a granddaughter, Kim Morgan White of Brentwood; four nieces, Ruth Harrell McCullough of Morrison, Brenda Bennett Johnson of Cookeville, Martha Bennett Brown of Houston, Texas, and Patsy Netherton of Nashville; seven nephews, Melvin Bennett Harrell of Florida, Grover Bennett Sr., Rankin P. Bennett, William H. Bennett, Ronald (Smitty) Bennett and Richard Dale Bennett, all of Cookeville, and Bobby Luke Bennett of Nevada; numerous great and great-great nieces and nephews; many in-laws who he considered as family; and very special friends and companions Sharon Martin and Rose Pinkston. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Veleda Netherton Morgan; a sister, Ruth Bennett Harrell of Morrison; two brothers, Hubert Sr. and Burl H. Bennett; and a nephew, Hubert Bennett Jr.

Friday, Feb 26, 2010: Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN

### Clifford L. Davis

b. 10 April 1917 – d. 21 December 1993, md **Geneva (Baldwin) Davis**.

'Sleep on and take thy rest, for Jesus called when he thought best'

\*See Frankie Wayne "PeeWee" Davis Obt.

\*See Fredrick D. Davis buried in Cookeville City Cemetery.

\*See Jerry Eugene Davis Obt.

\*See Teddy Lee Davis Obt.

\*Note: See Claude Thomas "Tommy" Davis Obt.

\*Claude Thomas "Tommy" Davis, 64 of Cookeville passed away Tuesday, November 23, 2021 at Cookeville Regional Medical Center. He was born December 31, 1956 in Monterey to the late Clifford and Geneva Baldwin Davis.

Tommy was a graduate of Clarkrange High School. **He worked in sales, and was a baker at Ralph's Donuts along side his good friend Ralph for over 20 years.** He enjoyed football and politics.

Tommy leaves behind his son: Cory Davis; daughter: Amy Davis (Brad) West of Cookeville; sisters: Diane Goins of Muncie, Indiana and Donna Davis of Cookeville; grandchildren: Hayden Western, Ellie Davis, Gaitlynn Davis, Kaydee Davis, Sylvia Grace Davis and Knox Caperton.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a son: Tommy Lee Davis; five brothers: Freddie Davis, Teddy Davis, Jerry "Cotton" Davis, Clifton Davis, Pee Wee Davis.

A Celebration of Life service was held Tuesday, November 30, 2021 from the Dyer Chapel of Hooper, Huddleston & Horner Funeral Home with Bro. Jimmy Bivens officiating.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 26 November 2021

**Oscar William Gaw Jr. Obt.**

b. 12 July 1934, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN – d. 31 July 2020, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN, md on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January 1959, Ringgold, GA to **Bettye (Simmons) Gaw**. Oscar William Gaw Jr., s/o **Oscar William Gaw Sr.** (1903-1967) & **Lola Mae McDaniel** (1907-1979), both buried in Smyrna Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN.

\*See Oscar William Gaw Sr. buried in Smyrna Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN.

Mr. Oscar William Gaw Jr., age 86 of Cookeville, passed away Friday morning July 31, 2020, at Cookeville Regional Medical Center.



He was born July 12, 1934, in Cookeville to the late Oscar William Sr. and Lola McDaniel Gaw.

Mr. Gaw formerly served the TN National Guard. He graduated from Tennessee Polytechnic Institute (TTU) in 1957 with a bachelor's degree in business management. He owned and operated grocery businesses including Tech Food Market and later Spring Street Supermarket until his retirement. He also was a cattle farmer.

Mr. Gaw served as a volunteer firefighter with the Cookeville Fire Department from 1953 until 1980. He was a member of Cookeville Masonic Lodge #266 F&AM and Al Menah Shrine Temple. You could frequently find him enjoying coffee with friends at Bob's Body Shop, **Ralph Donuts** and Hardee's.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Bettye Simmons Gaw; they married January 3, 1959, in Ringgold, GA; daughter, Shawna (Jim) Peace; son, Monte (Michelle) Gaw all of Cookeville; and grandson, Matthew Gaw of Lynchburg, TN.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a brother, Willis Lee Gaw; and infant brother, Zery Thomas Gaw.

Private graveside services and interment were held Sunday, August 2, 2020 at Cookeville City Cemetery.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 3 August 2020

**Fate Lloyd Quillen Obt.**

b. 1951, Russellville, AL – d. 6 October 2017, md on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 1974, Lawrence Co., TN to **Deborah Kay (Davis) Quillen**. Fate Lloyd Quillen, s/o **Charity Katie Lee Quillen**.

(Source: Tennessee State Marriage record, Lawrence Co., TN, pg. 289 – Fate Lloyd Quillen married 1 July 1974, Lawrence Co., TN, age 23, address: 219 Tipton St., L'burg to Deborah Kay Davis, age 23, 219 Tipton, L'burg. Name of parent, guardian or next of kin of female: Elizabeth. 219 Tipton St., L'burg).

**COOKEVILLE**-Funeral services for Mr. Fate Lloyd Quillen, 66, of Cookeville, will be held Sunday October 8 at 3 p.m. in the Chapel of Hooper-Huddleston & Horner Funeral Home. Interment will follow in Cookeville City Cemetery. Pastor Steve Chatman will officiate.



His family will receive friends Sunday from 1:00 p.m. until service time at the funeral home.

Lloyd peacefully passed away Friday afternoon October 6, 2017 in Signature Health Care of Putnam County in Algood.

He was born and raised in Russellville, Alabama by his mother, Charity Katie Lee Quillen and grandmother, Kate Quillen.

More than anything in life, he loved being a dad and a Papaw. Alongside his wife of 30 years, Deborah Quillen, he helped raised 353 foster children. In 2005 he moved to Cookeville, TN. In his spare time, he could be found either spending time with his family or talking with friends **at Ralph's Donut Shop**. He loved telling a good story and making people laugh.

He was preceded in death by many loved ones including his mother, Charity Katie Lee Quillen and first grandchild, Michael Lloyd Quillen.

He is survived by his three children, Michael W. Quillen, Melissa Creek and husband Andrew, and Michael A. Quillen, all of Cookeville; four grandchildren, Nicholas Quillen of Columbia, TN, Erik Quillen, Ruby Creek, and Isaac Creek, all of Cookeville and one great-grandchild, Wyatt Quillen.

Family and friends will serve as pallbearers.

In lieu of flowers, Lloyd wanted memorials to be given to Rising Above Ministries (PO Box 222 Cookeville, TN 38503) in honor of his grandson, Michael Lloyd, who had special needs.

He fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith.

Hooper-Huddleston & Horner Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements (931) 526-6111. You may share your thoughts and memories at [www.hhhfunerals.com](http://www.hhhfunerals.com)

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 8 October 2017

**Evelyn Maggie (Elam) Smith Obt.**

b. 22 February 1928, Overton Co., TN – d. 24 June 2010, Nashville, Davidson Co., TN, md on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November 1957, Overton Co., TN to **James Ralph Smith**, b. 23 April 1926, Carthage, Smith Co., TN – d. 15 October 2010, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN, (Cpl US Army WWII), s/o **Columbus Benton Smith** (1894-1989) & **Allie T. Nabors** (1895-1969). Evelyn (Howard) Smith, d/o **Harvey Ray Elam** (1906-1944) & **Pearl Astra (Watkins) Howard** (1905-1986), she is buried in Okalona Cemetery, Okalona, Overton Co., TN. Pearl md on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November 1926, Overton Co., TN to **Harvey Ray Elam** (1906-1944), s/o **John William Elam** (1870-1960) & **Mildred Alma Langford** (1887-1972). Harvey is buried in Old Walnut Grove Cemetery, Livingston, Overton Co., TN. Pearl also md on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May 1951, Putnam Co., TN to **Bernely George Howard** (1906-1997), buried in Okalona Cemetery, Okalona, Overton Co., TN.

*(A picture of Ralph Donut Shop is on the back of Evelyn's tombstone).*

“The love you gave us is like no other, we could never have had a more perfect mother”

\*See James Ralph Smith Obt. buried in Crest Lawn Cemetery.

(**Source:** Tennessee State Marriage record, Overton Co., TN, pg.482, #1482 – James Ralph Smith married 16 November 1957, Overton Co., TN, age 31, address: Chestnut Mound, Smith Co., TN to Evelyn Maggie Elam, age 29, address: Livingston, TN. Name of parent, guardian or next of kin of female: Mrs. Pearl Howard, Rt. 5, Livingston, TN).

(1940 census 1<sup>st</sup> Civil Dist., Overton Co., TN: Dwl: 200 – **Ray Elam** is head of household, 33 yrs. old, TN, (Occupation: Truck Drive, Road Project), md to **Pearl**, 34 yrs. old, TN. Children: **Evelyn**, 12 yrs. old, TN & Bille Elam, 5 yrs. old, TN).

(**Source:** Tennessee State Marriage record, Overton Co., TN, pg. 392 – Bernely George Howard married 12 May 1951, Putnam Co., TN age 45, b. 15 April 1906, address: Rt. 5, Livingston, TN to Astra Pearl Elam, age 45, b. 23 September 1905, address: Rickman, TN. Name of parent, guardian or next of kin of female: A. V. Watkins, Livingston, TN).

**COOKEVILLE** -- Funeral services for Evelyn M. Smith, 82, of Cookeville, will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday, June 28, from the Cookeville Chapel of Hooper-Huddleston & Horner Funeral Home. Interment will follow in Cookeville City Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 6-8 p.m. today, Sunday, June 27, and from 10 a.m. on Monday at the funeral home.

Mrs. Smith died Thursday, June 24, 2010, in Vanderbilt Medical Center in Nashville.

She was born Feb. 22, 1928, in Overton County to the late Ray and Pearl Watkins Elam Howard.

**Mrs. Smith was a founder and former co-owner of Ralph's Donut Shop in Cookeville.**

Her family includes a son, Jimmy Dale Smith of Cookeville; a daughter, Cynthia Jones of Cookeville; a brother and sister-in-law, Bill and Faye Elam of Centerville, Ohio; three grandchildren, Hillary and Jessica Jones and Jamye Smith; and special friends Ruby Geer, Juanita Harris and Christine Hickey.

Pallbearers will be Stacy Burton, Josh Waddell, Howard (Huck) Luck, Blake Houston, John Mark Walter and Kenny Ray.

Honorary pallbearers will be Dallas Frazier, Logan Houston and Drake Anderson.

Pastor David Corley will officiate at the services.

You may share your thoughts and memories at [www.hhhfunerals.com](http://www.hhhfunerals.com).

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville: 27 June 2010.

**James Clay "Rusty" Russell**

b. 2 May 1936 – d. 20 October 2017, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN, (US Air Force), md on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December 1962, Putnam Co., TN to **Betty Jean (Ledbetter) Russell**, b. 12 October 1941 – d. 1989. James C. "Rusty" Russell, s/o **Buford Clay Russell & Bertha Lou Knight**.

(**Source:** Tennessee State Marriage record, Putnam Co., TN, pg. 105 – James Clay Russell married 2 December 1962, Putnam Co., TN, age 26, b. 2 May 1936, address: 429 Sycamore, Cookeville, TN to Betty Jean Ledbetter, age 21, b. 12 October 1941, address: 214 Keaton Ave., Livingston, TN. Name of parent, guardian or next of kin of female: Otto Ledbetter, father, 214 Keaton Ave., Livingston, TN).

Funeral Services for James "Rusty" Russell, age 81, of Cookeville will be held 11:00 am, Tuesday, October 24, 2017 from the chapel of Presley Funeral Home with Bro. Willard Kelley officiating.



Burial will follow in Crest Lawn Memorial Cemetery with full Military Honors.

The family will receive friends on Monday from 4:00-8:00 pm and again on Tuesday from 9:00 am until time of services at the funeral home.

Mr. Russell passed away on Friday, October 20th, 2017 at NHC Healthcare in Cookeville.

He was born May 2, 1936 to the late Buford Clay and Bertha Lou Knight Russell.

Rusty was a US Veteran and served his country for several years in the United States Air Force. He worked at Wilson's Sporting Goods for a number of years and was also a skilled woodworker. He coached softball from 1975-1981.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret Miranda Howard Russell; daughter, Kristie Leigh Bradley and husband Darryl of Murfreesboro, TN; son, Henry Shane Allison and wife Paula of Cookeville, Olen Dee Allison and wife Shelley of Baxter; grandsons, Dee Allison and wife Misty of Cookeville, Bret Lee Jones of Murfreesboro, Christian Dale Horn of Cookeville, Levi Austin Flatt of Cookeville and Jasper and Justin Allison of Cookeville; granddaughters, Cammy Sunshine Allison, Shiann Payea Allison and Mindy Nichole Bumbalough; great-grandchildren, Daniel and Devon Allison of Cookeville and La' tyra and La'tavius Bumbalough; brother, Glen Rodgers Russell and wife Betty of Cookeville; nephews, Ronnie and Tommy Jacques; special friends, Whit Whittaker, Bill and Suella Neal and **all the friends from Ralphs Donut Shop** and Hardees on Jefferson.

In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his first wife, Betty Jean Ledbetter Russell; 2 sons, and his sister, Wilma Jacques.

Pallbearers will be Dee, Daniel and Devon Allison, Levi Austin Flatt, Olen Allison and Brett Jones.

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN: 22 October 2017

#### **James Ralph Smith Obt.**

b. 23 April 1926, Carthage, Smith Co., TN – d. 15 October 2010, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN, (Cpl US Army WWII), md **Shelby Jean (unknown) Smith**. James Ralph Smith, s/o **Columbus Benton Smith** (1894-1989) & **Allie Tea Nabors** (1895-1969), both buried in Gordonsville Cemetery, Smith Co., TN. **James Ralph Smith** also md on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November 1957, Overton Co., TN to **Evelyn Maggie (Elam) Smith**, b. 22 February 1928, Overton Co., TN – d. 24 June 2010, Nashville, Davidson Co., TN, d/o **Harvey Ray Elam** (1906-1944) & **Pearl Astra (Watkins) Howard** (1905-1986).

\*See Evelyn Maggie (Elam) Smith Obt. buried in Cookeville City Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN.

(Source: Tennessee State Marriage record, Overton Co., TN, pg. 482, #1482 – James Ralph Smith married 16 November 1957, Overton Co., TN, age 31, address: Chestnut Mound, Smith Co., TN to Evelyn Maggie Elam, age 29, address: Livingston, TN. Name of parent, guardian or next of kin of female: Mrs. Pearl Howard, Rt. 5, Livingston, TN).

**COOKEVILLE** -- Funeral services for James Ralph Smith, 84, of Cookeville, will be held at 2 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 18, at Crest Lawn Funeral Home. Burial will follow in Crest Lawn Memorial Cemetery, with full military honors provided by the Veterans Honor Guard.

The family will receive friends from noon until 6 p.m. today, Sunday, Oct. 17, and from 1 p.m. until time of services on Monday at the funeral home.

Mr. Smith died Friday, Oct. 15, 2010, at his residence.

He was born April 23, 1926, in Carthage to the late Columbus Benton and Allie T. Nabors Smith.

Mr. Smith served in the Army during World War II, receiving the Good Conduct Medal. He was a member of Faith's Chapel Church.

**He was best known and admired as the owner/operator of Ralph's Donut Shop in Cookeville for 48 years.**

(This photo was taken in the mid 1970s at Ralph's Donut Shop. From left are Ralph Smith, owner; Jimmy, son; Evelyn Smith, co-owner and Ralph's wife; and Cynthia, daughter).



He was a devoted husband and a loving father, grandfather, brother and friend.

His family includes his wife, Shelby Jean Smith of Cookeville; a daughter, Cynthia S. Pullum and husband of Cookeville; a son, Jimmy Dale Smith of Cookeville; a stepdaughter, Tammy Jo Atkins and husband Rodney of Brentwood; a stepson, Roger Dale McDonald and wife Susan of Cookeville; six granddaughters, Ginger Stout and husband Darrin, Lindsey Herren, Morgan Herren, Hillary Jones, Jessica Jones and Jamye Smith, all of Cookeville;

two grandsons, Michael McDonald of Cookeville and Elijah Atkins of Brentwood; two great-grandsons, Caleb and Ian Stout, both of Cookeville; three sisters, Virginia Glover of Buffalo Valley, Robbie Upchurch of Indianapolis, Ind., and Mildred Anderson of Lebanon; a brother and sister-in-law, Fred and Evelyn Smith of Buffalo Valley; two dear friends, Misty and Bud Daniels; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Nita Wood, and a brother, Junior Smith.

Pastor Steve Warren will officiate at the services.

Please go to sign the online guest book and send a message to the family.

Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN: 17 October 2010

**Dallas Lee Frazier Obt.**

b. 20 May 1930, Putnam Co., TN – d. 8 September 2025, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN, md on the 24th of December 1949, Jackson Co., TN to **Ethlean (Langford) Frazier**, b. 4 February 1931, Jackson Co., TN – d. 1 December 2014, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN, d/o **George D. Langford** (1874-1967) & **Avie Lee Smith** (1911-2002). Dallas Lee Frazier, s/o **Clarence Blanton Frazier** (1908-1976) & **Mattie E. Daniels** (1911-1995).

\*See Clarence Blanton Frazier buried in Cookeville City Cemetery.

(**Source:** Tennessee State Marriage record, Jackson Co., TN, pg. 37 – Dallas Frazier married 24 December 1949, Jackson Co., TN, age 19, address: Cookeville, TN to Ethlean Langford, age 18, address: Rt. 3, Cookeville, TN. Name of parent, guardian or next of kin of female: George Langford, Rt. 3, Cookeville, TN).



Funeral services for Mr. Dallas Lee Frazier, age 95 of Cookeville, TN, will be held on Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 5:00pm from the Chapel of Whitson Funeral Home with Bro. Dow Allen officiating. Visitation with the family will be held on Thursday from 3:00-5:00pm. Burial will follow the service at Cookeville City Cemetery.

Dallas Lee Frazier was born on May 20, 1930, in Putnam County, TN to the late Mattie (Daniels) Frazier and Clarence B. Frazier. He passed away on Monday,

September 8, 2025, at age 95. **Dallas was a baker at Ralph's Donut Shop for 46 years**, an avid golfer and loved bluegrass music. He especially enjoyed playing his mandolin for the congregational singing every Sunday at Algood Presbyterian Church.

He is preceded in Death by his Wife Ethelean Langford Frazier, and special friend Nell Brown.

He is survived by daughters & sons-in-law: Carolyn (Jackie) Farris and Kathy (Kenneth) Oakley.

Grandchildren: Stephanie (Scott) Winfree, Chris (Kelly) Farris, and Eddie Farris

Great Grandchildren: Kristopher (Dakota) Jones, Tyler (Kayla) Winfree, Benjamin (Monica) Winfree, Addison Kate Farris, and Halle Claire Farris, Morgan Farris, and Brooke (Justin) Roberts.

Great Great Grandchildren: Crue Rivers Jones, Leia Jane Winfree, and Landry Winfree

He is also preceded in death by Brothers: Daniel Frazier, Billy Howard Frazier, Bobby Frazier, Buddy Frazier, and Roger Frazier. Sisters: Betty Ruth Thompson and Brenda Quick.

Pallbearers will be Chris Farris, Scott Winfree, Eddie Farris, Kristopher Jones, Tyler Winfree, and Benjamin Winfree.

\*Read more about the people & places in Putnam Co., TN & surrounding areas at:  
<http://www.ajlambert.com>