

RICHARD WAYNE MCCONNELL



Richard Wayne McConnell, 75, of Hilliard, went home to be with the Lord February 19, 2024, surrounded by his loving family. He was born December 24, 1948, in Kingsport, Tennessee to the late Henry Webster (Mac) and Mildred Culbertson McConnell. Throughout his life, he embodied the values of faith, service, and leadership, leaving an indelible mark on all who knew him. As a devout Christian, Richard lived his life guided by the principles of love, compassion and humility. His unwavering faith served as a beacon of light, inspiring those around him to seek goodness and grace in every aspect of life. Richard found solace and strength in his relationship with God and his spiritual journey enriched the lives of countless individuals. He spent many years serving as Sunday School Superintendent at the Callahan Church of God and Boulogne Holiness where he facilitated many programs and activities that served the community as well as the church.

Richard had a profound impact on the community as a dedicated Boy Scout leader for over five years. He believed in the power of mentorship and spent countless hours nurturing the next generation of leaders. Through his guidance and unwavering support, he instilled in his Scouts the values of integrity, perseverance and service to others. Richard's legacy lives on in the hearts of the many young men whose lives he touched.

Richard had a strong work ethic, and at the age of 9, he eagerly began his career by working odd jobs to help support his family. However, it was his passion for the open road that truly defined his life's work. Richard was a lifelong truck driver and enjoyed hauling cars for Centurion Auto Transport where he was lovingly known as, Eight Ball. He cherished having his wife accompany him for long trips and enjoyed the camaraderie of fellow drivers. When he retired from Centurion, Richard started a firewood business which he operated for 15 years. His friendly demeanor and warm smile left a lasting impression on all who crossed his path. Beyond his career, Richard was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He cherished moments spent with his family, creating memories that will be valued for generations to come. Richard is preceded in death by his parents; and sister Victoria McConnell.

Richard is survived by his wife of 56 years, Janet McConnell; sons Ricky (Nicole) McConnell and Brett (Carol) McConnell; six grandchildren Brianna (Shawn) Chafin, TaRanda McConnell, Caleb (Brooke) Daugherty, Morgan Wilson, Tanner (Erica) McConnell and Gage McConnell; as well as five great-grandchildren Teagan Guzman, Memphis, Mallory, McKenna and Maeby Chafin; siblings Rhonda Daughtry and Donald (Kathy) McConnell; and several extended family members and a multitude of lifelong friends.

A celebration of Richard's life was held Thursday, February 22 at Boulogne Holiness Church with Pastor Andrew Gillis and Pastor Dwight Allen officiating. Interment followed at Jones Cemetery in Callahan. The family received friends February 21 at Nassau Funeral Home.

Pallbearers were Terry Bell, Curtis Gaus, Scott Daughtry, Shawn Chafin, Dalton and Dylan Liddell. Honorary pallbearers were Richard Nitowitz, Phillip Thompson, Dale Rowan, Alexander Herrington, Jimmy Mears, Mike Kelly, Randy Kelly, Marty Kelly and Joey Liddell.

In lieu of flowers, monetary donations may be made directly to the funeral home in Richard's name to help cover the costs of services.

Arrangements under the direction of Nassau Funeral Home, Callahan, 904-879-1770.