



William Harold Vann

September 20, 1931 - September 13, 2025

William Harold Vann, was born on September 20, 1931, in Huntsville, Texas. He was the youngest of three children born to Willie Aminus Vann and Fannie Naomi Kittrell Vann. William and his two sisters were lovingly raised in a Christian home, where faith and family were guiding principles.

He received his early education at Rosenwald School and graduated in 1950 from Samuel Walker Houston High School. William went on to attend Prairie View A&M University before relocating to California with his uncle. Upon returning to Huntsville, he answered the call to serve his country by enlisting in the United States Army during the Korean War era. He trained and was stationed at Fort Bliss, TX; Camp Crowder, MO; and Fort Sheridan, IL. He was assigned to D Battery, 86th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Missile Battalion in Chicago, IL. William was awarded both the National Defense Service Medal and the Good Conduct Medal in recognition of his dedicated service.

Following his military career, William worked at Delta Airlines, where he retired after 13 years of service. One of his greatest joys during retirement was the ability to travel freely with his beloved wife, Bennie Mae. Together, they shared a beautiful life filled with love, service, ranching, traveling, and countless cherished friendships.

A devoted man of faith, William was a long-time member of St. Paul United

Methodist Church (now St. Paul Methodist Church), where he faithfully served for many years as a Trustee.

Known for his generosity and devotion, William, (“Brother”) considered it both a blessing and an honor to care for his parents, grandmother, aunt, and others when they could no longer care for themselves.

He also had a deep passion for ranching, caring for his cows and horses, and participating in the Huntsville Juneteenth Parade.

In later years, William found joy in new activities, including Yoga for Veterans and Seniors, playing Bingo, and serving with the Huntsville Lions Club.

On the morning of September 13, 2025, in Huntsville, William peacefully entered eternal rest, releasing him of all pain.

William was preceded in death by his parents; his beloved wife of 49 years, Bennie Mae Vann; his son, Rufus Earl Vann; and his sister, Willie Florine Woods.

He leaves to cherish his memory two daughters, Harold Marie Vann Mathis of Atascocita, TX, and Toxie (Benny) Oliphant of Huntsville; one sister, Fannie Earline Irving of Huntsville; four grandchildren, Vanetta Vann-Matteer, Cory Lee, Kelbee (Jasmine) Oliphant, and Kelsee Oliphant; great-grandchildren, nieces, and a host of other relatives and friends.

Among those who miss him are his entrusted friend and caregiver, Liesa Hackett, along with others who cared for him during his illness, including DeKeenan Bell, Therese Bell, Mattie Doris Sowell, and Ocia Cottrell.

His legacy of faith, service, and love will live on in the hearts of all who knew

him.

A visitation will be held on Saturday, September 20, 2025 at 10:00 AM and services will begin at 11:00 AM at St. Paul Methodist Church in Huntsville, TX. He will be laid to rest at Kittrell-Wilson Cemetery in Huntsville, TX. Memorial condolences may be made to the family at www.shmfh.com.

Cemetery Details

Kittrell-Wilson Cemetery

Pine Prairie, TX

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 20. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Paul Methodist Church
322 Horace Smith Rd.
Huntsville, TX

Funeral Service

SEP 20. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Paul Methodist Church
322 Horace Smith Rd.
Huntsville, TX

Burial

SEP 20. 12:30 PM (CT)

Kittrell-Wilson Cemetery
Pine Prairie, TX

Tribute Wall

BS

“ *Toxie, I'm so sorry for your loss. May God hold you close and comfort you and the rest of the family at this time.*

*Love you,
Bridgette*

Bridgette Sandles - September 21, 2025 at 01:00 PM

RE

“ *Ramona Edney lit a candle in memory of William Harold Vann*



Ramona Edney - September 20, 2025 at 11:19 AM

RE

“ *Toxie and Marie my heart is with you all this morning as you say goodbye to Uncle Vann. I pray that our Father God walk with you all, that he touches in a way that you all can feel him. I pray that you all can feel him cradling you all in his arms as you all walk this journey. In Jesus Precious and Mighty name, amen.*

Ramona Edney - September 20, 2025 at 11:17 AM

RE

“ Hello my name is Ramona Edney growing up it was Ramona Gaines. Aunt Bennie was my dad's sister and she would come and get me every summer almost. I remember uncle Vann would come in and he would have his cowboy hat, blue jeans, belt buckle, and boots all matching. Im sure his shirts did too! I used to think I had the coolest Uncle in the world! Rest well Uncle Vann.

Ramona Edney - September 18, 2025 at 11:55 PM

MF

“ Lifting up the family and friends of William Harold Vann for comfort, strength, and healing from our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you fellow Huntsville Lion Club member for your service to our nation, community and our Lord.



Marvin Hyvl & Family - September 17, 2025 at 12:11 PM

KF

“ Your contagious smiling spirit always greeted us at yoga and at Creekside when our paths were blessed to cross. I will hold the warmth of our shared hugs close to my heart. May the Lord's loving arms embrace Mr. Vann's family at this time. We'll miss you my friend. ❤️

kathy & Max Farris - September 17, 2025 at 10:36 AM

LM

“ One of my mom Bessie Carter 's childhood friends. Always looked out for her children as he promised her before she passed. We'll all miss him, especially his laugh.
REST IN HEAVEN

Linda Moten - September 17, 2025 at 10:14 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of William Harold Vann.*



September 16, 2025 at 10:04 PM



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

September 16, 2025 at 10:04 PM



“ *Sending hugs and peace to the family! Blessings*



Lottie Harrison - September 16, 2025 at 05:27 PM



“ *Praying for comfort, strength, and peace for his family and friends 🙏🙏🙏*



Gayle Kelly - September 16, 2025 at 02:59 PM