



William "Billy" Eldridge

October 4, 1940 - March 15, 2021

William "Billy" Jesse Eldridge, was born October 4, 1940 and passed away March 15, 2021.

A piece of life's beautiful music has been silenced with the death of singer and songwriter William "Billy" Eldridge of Fanning Springs, Florida, on Monday.

Eldridge was born to William and Gladys (née King) Eldridge on October 4, 1940, in Fort Pierce, Florida. He was the youngest of three children, with brother Robert "Bob" (d. 2012) and sister Melba Jean (d. 2001). A musician from an early age, Eldridge joined the local Fort Pierce group The Fireballs as a teenager in the late 1950s, where he recorded "Let's Go Baby," his first hit single. After a stint in a group called the Four Jades, Eldridge teamed up with local musician Gary Stewart of "She's Acting Single, I'm Drinking Double" fame. The two penned over 50 songs, becoming one of the most successful writing partnerships in country music. The Eldridge/Stewart team made the charts with songs performed by Roy Rogers, Billy Walker, Cal Smith, Jack Greene, Ernest Tubb, Nat Stuckey, and others. Eldridge and Stewart also worked at Nashville's first 16-track recording studio, Bradley's Barn, overseeing the sessions of performers such as Loretta Lynn, Conway Twitty, and Brenda Lee. Eldridge had a hand in almost every song on Stewart's 1973 *You're Not The Woman You Used To Be* album. A photo of Eldridge (and his '49 Ford truck) with Stewart is featured on the reverse of the album. When

Eldridge was not playing music, he was serving the community, first as a Fort Pierce Police Officer in the 1970s and then as a 911 operator in the 1990s. He was a life-long Florida Gators fan and a lover of the guitar and woodworking.

Eldridge is survived by his wife of 40 years, Myra (née Chesnutt), three daughters: Lynn (Michael) Whitaker, Jennifer Carter, Michelle Lindsey, and one son, Michael Gossett Sr. Additionally, he is survived by eight grandchildren: Bradley Whitaker, Lauren Whitaker, Josh (Denise) Gray, Kayla Whitaker, Michael (Sabra) Gossett II, Larissa (Marc) Romine, Laurie Carter, and Jayden Carter; and four great-grandchildren: Damien Monarch, Cesar Morales, Anastasia Gray, and Alexander Gray. He was beloved by his sister-in-love, Anita Walton, and his niece, Sebrina Schmidt, among others. Eldridge was predeceased by his parents and two siblings, as well as a grandson, Brandon Eldridge.

Billy, as he was known to almost everyone who met him, was a truly wonderful man, who loved many, and was loved by even more.

Funeral services for Billy will be held 2:00 PM Friday, March 19, 2021 at the Rick Gooding Funeral Home Chiefland Chapel, with Rev. Travis Hudson officiating. Interment will follow in Chiefland Cemetery. The family will receive friends at the funeral home Thursday evening from 6 – 8 PM.

Arrangements have been placed under the care of the Rick Gooding Funeral Home Chiefland Chapel, with locations in Cross City 352-498-5400 and Chiefland 352-493-0050. Please sign the online guest book at rickgoodingfuneralhomes.com

Cemetery Details

Chiefland Cemetery

520 Southeast 5th Avenue
chiefland, FL 32626

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 18. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Rick Gooding Funeral Home Chiefland
1301 N Young Blvd
Chiefland, FL 32626
(352) 493-0050
<https://www.RickGoodingFuneralHomes.com>

Service

MAR 19. 2:00 PM (ET)

Rick Gooding Funeral Home Chiefland
1301 N Young Blvd
Chiefland, FL 32626
(352) 493-0050
<https://www.RickGoodingFuneralHomes.com>

Tribute Wall



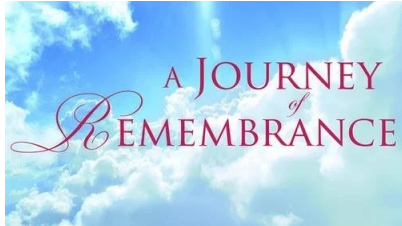
“ Rick Gooding Funeral Homes created a Webcast in memory of William "Billy" Eldridge



Rick Gooding Funeral Homes - March 19, 2021 at 04:38 PM



“ Rick Gooding Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of William "Billy" Eldridge



Rick Gooding Funeral Homes - March 17, 2021 at 03:44 PM



“ William "Billy" Eldridge

October 08, 2023 at 10:03 PM



“ William "Billy" Eldridge

January 30, 2023 at 01:26 AM



“ *It saddens us to hear of Billy’s passing. Our thoughts and prayers go out to you Myra and to the rest of the family.
Kim, Gary and Cory Rexford.
Uxbridge, Massachusetts*

Kim Bartosek Rexford - April 04, 2021 at 04:32 PM

AE

“ *Myra, Billy’s girls and grandchildren Jim and I are so sorry to hear about Billy You are in our prayers and he will always be in our heart*

Alice Elliott - March 19, 2021 at 05:16 PM

MK

“ *billy was a friend to my brother,leonard and to me,since i was about 10 years old.later he taught me guitar chords,and stage presence.he was truly a great friend.i loved his singing but what i remember most was billy's booming laughter at the ft.pierce movie theater when the Roadrunner cartoons were shown and he was there. the entire theater was filled with laughter if billy was there,not from the cartoons but his laughter. God Bless you, my friend.
marion kendall*

marion kendall - March 19, 2021 at 10:10 AM

MK

“ *Marion Kendall lit a candle in memory of William "Billy" Eldridge*



marion kendall - March 19, 2021 at 10:04 AM

LN

“ *Lynne Norvell lit a candle in memory of William "Billy" Eldridge*



Lynne Norvell - March 18, 2021 at 07:31 PM

LS

“ *Tom and I are sad to hear of Billy's death. We enjoyed a visit from him and Myra at our house in North Carolina. Go in peace. - God Bless Tom and Lee Stirrat*

Lydia Stirrat - March 18, 2021 at 02:15 PM

CS

“ *Myra, and Family, Ella Mae and I want you to know we are so sorry at Billy's passing. I played drums for Billy and the Four Jades (Billy, Jerry Caskey, Robert Dugger and Charles Sanders) in the early 60's at places like the RVA Club, The Imperial Hotel in Eau Galle, Florida, The Spare Room and The Celerity Room in Orlando and The Peppermint Twist Lounge in Cocoa Beach. It was a wonderful part of my life. We had a really good group. I was transferred to Turkey and had to leave the group but we made life long contact in Tennessee after my service was over. We had a couple of reunions in Tennessee and they were so special. He was a great musician and wonderful friend and I will miss him greatly. Our wish for the family is that you will treasure the good memories as I will and remember with fondness his impact on our lives. We love you. Charles Sanders, Drummer with The Four Jades.*

Charles Sanders - March 17, 2021 at 10:37 PM

KB

“ Karen Burgos purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of William "Billy" Eldridge.



Karen Burgos - March 17, 2021 at 10:14 PM

WB

“ With Love, Katrina Bridges purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of William "Billy" Eldridge.



With Love, Katrina Bridges - March 17, 2021 at 08:50 PM

BI

“ Sad to hear about the passing of a really fun and personable man. I have seldom laughed so hard as when Billy told the tale of the monkey at McDonalds. Absolutely hilarious. I will have only fond memories of Billy. I send my prayers to his family.

Barry Irwin - March 17, 2021 at 05:16 PM

SN

“ My deepest condolences to the Eldridge family. Memories of Billy, Gary and the gang of friends over many years are so dear to my heart. God's speed, Billy ~ our loss here on earth but Heaven's music will now be even more glorious.



Sharon H. Noyes, Port St. Lucie, FL

Sharon H Noyes - March 17, 2021 at 04:28 PM

TF

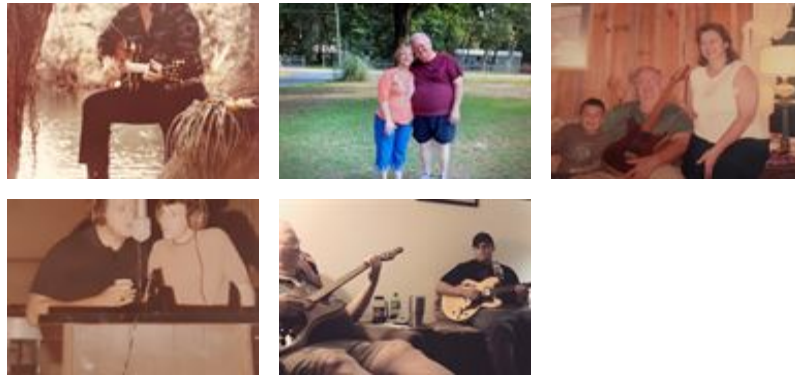
“ *The Reddoch & Myers Family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of William "Billy" Eldridge.*



The Reddoch & Myers Family - March 17, 2021 at 03:39 PM



“ *67 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Rick Gooding Funeral Homes - March 17, 2021 at 03:31 PM

FL

“ *Cousin Billy was one of a kind. I could listen to him sing all day. Loved impromptu sing alongs with my bothers, Jim and Joe. My love and prayers to Myra, his children and grandchildren.*



Frank and Janice

Frank and Janice Lynch - March 17, 2021 at 03:22 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of William "Billy" Eldridge.



March 17, 2021 at 03:14 PM