



## David D. Bethke Sr.

January 25, 1944 - February 12, 2019

Memorial Service for David D'Wayne Bethke, Sr., age 75, of Crane Hill, will be at 2:00 PM on Monday, February 18, 2019, at Cullman Heritage Funeral Home.

Cullman Heritage Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Bethke passed away on February 12, 2019, at UAB Palliative Care. He was born January 25, 1944, to Louis Bethke and Georgia Phillips.

Mr. Bethke entered the U.S. Army right out of high school. He served active duty for 21 years, including two tours in Vietnam and multiple overseas duties. David decided to retire from the Army, and finished his master's degree. Later, he worked for the U.S. Civil Service as a Laser Protection Officer, Emergency Management, Logistician, Director of Military Support in Waegan, S. Korea, and finally by fielding and teaching helicopter and fixed-wing aircraft pilot and crews survivability systems. David served his country with distinction for a total of 50 years, retiring in 2012.

David's passion was always classic cars, spending the last year of his life building a 1923 T-Bucket Hot Rod, of which he was very proud. When, he wasn't working on cars, he was the best husband ever, and strived to be the ultimate grandfather.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother.

Survivors include his wife, Jolene Bethke; daughters, Pamala Bethke (Chris Fretz), Angel Bethke (Tim McErlean), and Constance (Douglas) Gillon; sons, Rodney (Katherine) Ratliff and David Bethke, Jr. (Rosa Vera); grandchildren, Ariel (Daniel) Batton, Morgan Gillon, Shaun Torres, David Bethke, III, Mia Fuhrman, and Ethan Redmond; great-grandchildren, Luke Batton and Chance Batton.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you make a donation to the USO, Shriners Hospital, or St. Jude Hospital.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

FEB 18. 2:00 PM (CT)

Cullman Heritage Funeral Home  
255 County Road 1435  
Cullman, AL 35058  
(256) 734-0208  
info@cullmanheritage.com  
<https://www.cullmanheritage.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of David D. Bethke Sr..*



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February 15, 2019 at 09:08 PM



“ *So very sorry for your loss. I pray for your family to find peace through our Lord.*

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**Vicki (Fiskewold) Carey** - February 15, 2019 at 08:33 AM



“ *From David's High School Class, Fredericktown, MO, Class of 1962....we send our prayers, our love, all have fond memories of David and that big friendly smile!!! He will surely be missed at our gatherings...Jolene, we've come to love you also...hugs and heartfelt prayers to you and your family, and may God in heaven hold you, comfort you, and strengthen you. Please know that in our hearts, we are there with you!!! Doris Firebaugh and ALL the Class of 1962*

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**Doris Firebaugh** - February 14, 2019 at 10:36 PM



“ *Clay and Anette Carnes purchased the America t he Beautiful for the family of David D. Bethke Sr..*



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**Clay and Anette Carnes** - February 14, 2019 at 10:50 AM

RW

“ *Jolene Mary Ann and I both love you and all the family. I know this is hard to deal with but I want you to know that we are praying that God will comfort y'all in the coming days ahead. We will continue to lift y'all up to the Lord in Prayer. GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU.*



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**Rev. Ken and Mary Ann Williams** - February 14, 2019 at 09:00 AM