



Milton L Rooks

August 6, 1935 - September 9, 2017

Milton L. "Joker" Rooks, age 82, of Cullman, Alabama, passed away Saturday, September 9,

2017 at his home.

Milton Luvan Rooks was born on August 6, 1935 in Cullman, Alabama to Milton Curtis and

Katie Pauline (Hopson) Rooks. He graduated from West Point High School in Cullman,

Alabama. He joined the United States Air Force in 1954. While stationed in California, he met

Mary Jo Lawless. They were united in marriage on November 3, 1956 in Reno, Nevada. She

preceded him in death July 26, 1983. He was stationed in Anchorage, Alaska; Altus, Oklahoma;

Bangkok, Thailand and Little Rock, Arkansas. He returned to Altus Air Force Base in 1970 and

retired from the USAF in 1974. He owned and operated Rooks APCO service station and garage

for several years as well as other businesses. He loved farming and spent many hours in wheat

fields in Oklahoma. He was an avid NASCAR fan and a race car driver at Altus Speedway and

Sooner International Raceway in Altus, Oklahoma. M L moved back to

Cullman, Alabama. On May 9, 1986, he married Melba Louise (Kugler) Hulseley at Missionary Grove Baptist Church in Cullman, Alabama. They lived in Prattville, AL a few years and he worked for the State of Alabama. They returned home to Cullman and he worked as Supervisor of Cullman County Maintenance Garage. He enjoyed traveling in the motor home, camping and fishing with friends and family. In his retirement, he was happy working at his sawmill. He was preceded in death by his parents Curtis and Pauline; wife, Mary; brother, Jimmy; brother-in-law, John Dudley and great-grandson, Huck McCaslin. He is survived by his wife of 31 years, Melba Rooks; son, Milton L. "Butch" Rooks, Jr and wife Connie of Kiowa, Kansas; two daughters, Martha "Marty" Lane of Altus, Oklahoma and Melanie White and husband Dennis of Burleson, Texas; brother, Buford Rooks and wife Carmen of Lawton, Oklahoma; two sisters, Ann Carden and husband Buddy of Cullman, Alabama and Gean Dudley of Tipton, Oklahoma; stepdaughter, Dana (Hulseley) Gann and husband Rob of Cullman, Alabama; 5 granddaughters, Robyn (Rooks) Whitaker, Candi (Rooks) Maddux, Holly (Rooks) Poindexter, Keri Jo (White) Coleman, Talesa Lane; 5 grandsons, Ryan Lane, Steven Lane, Kirk White, Jeff Wilson and Bailey Gann; 14 great-grandchildren, Kylie & Gunner Coleman, Maci Jo McCaslin, Trevor Rooks, Cara & Chloe Whitaker, Reese & Peyton Maddux,

Dakota & Wyatt Wilson, Mylee Lane, Madison Shatswell, Presley & Hayliegh
Bryan and many

other family members and friends.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Tribute Wall



Mark
Carlson

“ Met M.L. around 1989 while working at the County Road Department. We hit it off right from the start, driving around in the county sign truck, talking and putting up road signs. It was common place for M.L. to start wiggling his ears, and randomly hit the brakes, slide around sideways, while telling me to go grab that wrench laying back there on the side of the road. He had eyes like an eagle. When I first started dating my wife, after meeting her, he encouraged me to marry that girl. That was two daughters and almost 25 years ago. Then he stayed after me to go back to college. Now I have an MBA. M.L. always had my best interest at heart. He was a father, a mentor, and most of all, he is my friend. If you look closely, you just might see “M.L. Rooks” on the back of a Cullman County road sign. I love you M.L. Mark, Marshall, Lara & Lea Carlson, ML...ML...and Blaze...

Mark Carlson - September 16, 2017 at 06:53 PM



Thank you Mark for sharing your wonderful memories of Dad.

Melanie White - September 18, 2017 at 04:32 PM



TL

I'm way late on this, but just wanted to post it anyway, hoping you kids get to read it. Joker was a special man to so many. He was best friends for so many years to my Dad, Albert Lane, and we enjoyed him and your whole family growing up. If you ever needed a hand, Joker was right there to help and was always good company. Joker could do anything he put his mind to, and had great energy, always doing or going someplace. Will miss him on this earth, but know he, and you, are special and loved.

Tim Lane - April 22, 2019 at 10:50 AM



Tim, thanks so much for the kind words and remembering Dad. He loved your sweet family.

Melanie White - May 18, 2019 at 11:13 AM

MC

“ *Met M.L. around 1989 while working at the County Road Department. We hit it off right from the start, driving around in the county sign truck, talking and putting up road signs. It was common place for M.L. to start wiggling his ears, and randomly hit the brakes, slide around sideways, while telling me to go grab that wrench laying back there on the side of the road. He had eyes like an eagle. When I first started dating my wife, after meeting her, he encouraged me to marry that girl. That was two daughters and almost 25 years ago. Then he stayed after me to go back to college. Now I have an MBA. M.L. always had my best interest at heart. He was a father, a mentor, and most of all, he is my friend. If you look closely, you just might see “M.L. Rooks” on the back of a Cullman County road sign. I love you M.L. Mark, Marshall, Lara & Lea Carlson, ML...ML...and Blaze...*

Mark Carlson - September 16, 2017 at 06:36 PM

DH

“ *ML hired me at the County Garage in 1995 and I thoroughly enjoyed working for him and with him for several years until he retired. ML was a very kind and soft spoken man and I had much respect for him and I'm thankful for the time I got to spend with him and the opportunity to know this kind man. I still remember his smile and laugh. Debbie Hamilton*

Debbie Hamilton - September 16, 2017 at 09:23 AM



It's nice to hear how special Dad was to others.

Melanie White - September 19, 2017 at 02:38 PM

JB

“ M.L will be greatly missed and Rich and I are so sorry for the loss of this dynamic man. To me he was bigger than life. He always had big ideas and made them come to fruition. He was my boss at the Cullman County Garage and the best boss I have ever had. He was generous and kind always remembering the girls birthdays that worked for him. He was hand us a \$20. bill and tell the 3 of us to go to lunch. He encouraged me to speak my mind (which got me in trouble with bosses after him....lol) , but I admired him for that. He will be missed by all who loved him especially Melba. He was her rock and you knew how much they loved each other when they were around each other. Rest in peace M.L.



Jan Bawol - September 16, 2017 at 09:10 AM



Thanks Jan for your sweet words. He really was special. I'm glad Dad was your favorite boss!

Melanie White - September 19, 2017 at 02:43 PM

AL

“ When my son was born in 1983 he weighed 10lbs and 4 ozs. When I can home from the hospital Joker has posted on his sign, "congratulation John and Alberta...that's a big 10-4!!!! Alberta Flajsinger Lucas

Alberta Flajsinger Lucas - September 16, 2017 at 12:13 AM



I never knew that Alberta! Sweet memories! I hope I find a picture and I will post it!

Melanie White - September 19, 2017 at 02:45 PM

SS

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. Your parents were great friends to my parents. I can remember your dad flagging me down when I drove by his shop--he somehow knew whenever I needed an oil change.*

They do not make men like him any more.

*Much love from the Roy Brown family,
Dorothy, Sandra, Greg, and Tanya*

sandra scheller - September 15, 2017 at 08:31 PM



Thank you Sandra for remembering Dad. I would agree he was a special man.

Melanie White - September 19, 2017 at 02:54 PM