



BILLY BECKHAM

MAR 4, 1936 - MAY 31, 2025



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PERRY -

William Eugene “Billy” Beckham, Jr., 89, passed away peacefully on Saturday, May 31, 2025, surrounded by his loving family. Services will be held on Thursday, June 5, 2025, in the sanctuary at Perry Methodist Church. Visitation will begin at 10:00 a.m., and the Funeral will begin at 11:00 a.m. Interment will be in Evergreen Cemetery immediately following the service. In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests memorial contributions to Perry Methodist Church, 1002 Carroll Street, Perry, Georgia 31069, or The Westfield School, P. O. Box 2300, Perry, Georgia 31069.

Billy was born on March 4, 1936, in Atlanta, Georgia, to the late William Eugene Beckham and the late Fanita Cobb Beckham. A lifelong resident of Perry, he graduated from Perry High School in 1954. He was proud to be a varsity basketball player, one of “Fessor’s boys,” on the 1953 Georgia State Championship team under the leadership of Eric “Fessor” Staples and was also chosen to be an All-State Player. In 1958, Billy graduated from Georgia Institute of Technology where he was a member of the Phi Delta Theta Fraternity. For several years, he served on the Academic Scholarship Committee for Georgia Tech.

After college, Billy returned to Perry to work in the family businesses. His father owned and operated W. E. Beckham Distributors, as well as the farm that was begun with Billy’s late grandfather, Edward Morgan Beckham. In 1964, the business suddenly changed with the unexpected passing of his father and the inheritance of a great deal of responsibility. Along with his brother, Edward M. Beckham II, Billy co-managed the farm, commercial properties, and the Gulf Oil distributorship. Soon after, Beckham Brothers Distributors was founded, and the two became lifelong business partners and remained best friends. Beckham Brothers eventually became a B.P Jobber and grew into a well-known conglomeration that continued to service many businesses around the state for over sixty years. Billy claimed retirement after the distributorship was sold, but continued “working” and going to the farm until his health would no longer allow it.



Obituary

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He was a long-time active member of Perry Methodist Church. Through the years, he served on the Administrative Board, the Staff-Parish Committee, and various financial committees. Mr. Beckham's community involvement included The Houston County Hospital Authority where he was a member and former Chairman, The Bank of Perry where he was on the Board of Directors for a number of years, and the Perry Chamber of Commerce's Military Affairs Committee of which he was proud to be a member. Billy loved Perry and was pleased to serve on the Perry Housing Authority and the Perry Planning and Zoning Appeals Committee for several years.

One of Billy's greatest passions in life was building and admiring models – cars, planes, boats – whatever was a gift or caught his eye as exciting. He began this hobby as a young boy and continued to enjoy this activity through the end of his life.

Billy was preceded in death by his parents and his only brother and lifelong business partner, Edward Morgan "Ed" Beckham II.

He leaves behind a legacy and memories that will forever be treasured by his loving and devoted wife of sixty-six years, Claire Bradshaw Beckham of Perry; his children, Valerie Beckham Moore (Gary) of Perry, William Eugene "Gene" Beckham III (Melisa) of Marietta, and John Bradshaw "Brad" Beckham of Perry; his grandchildren, Summer Claire Roberts (Andy) of Savannah, William Beckham "Will" McWilliams (Megan) of Perry, Harper Beckham (Mary Belle) of Savannah, and William Eugene "Web" Beckham IV of Charlotte; a bonus grandson, Tre Freeman of Perry; his great-grandchildren, Sealey Claire Roberts, John Walter "Walt" Roberts, Amelia Joyce "Millie" McWilliams, and Macie Claire McWilliams; his sister-in-law, Ella Ann Beckham; a niece, Beth Beckham Henderson (Bill), and a nephew, Ed Beckham III (Tamatha), and their families.

Condolences for the family may be left in the online guestbook at www.watsonhunt.com. Watson-Hunt Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements.

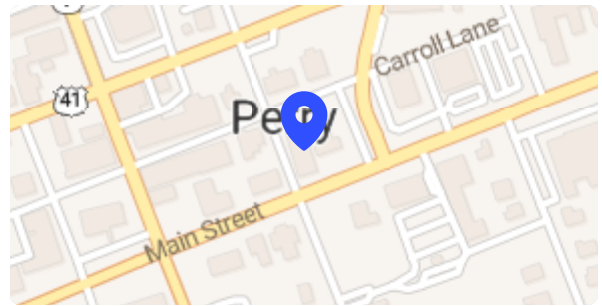


Events

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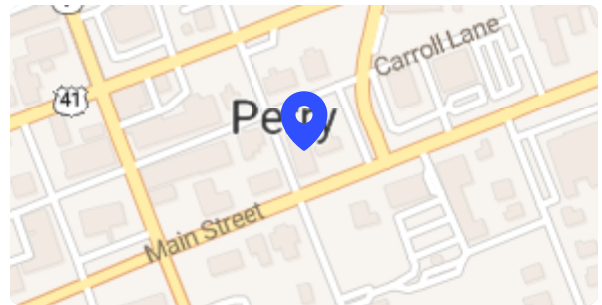
Visitation

- Thursday**, June 5, 2025
- 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM ET
- Perry Methodist Church**
1002 Carroll Street, Perry GA 31069



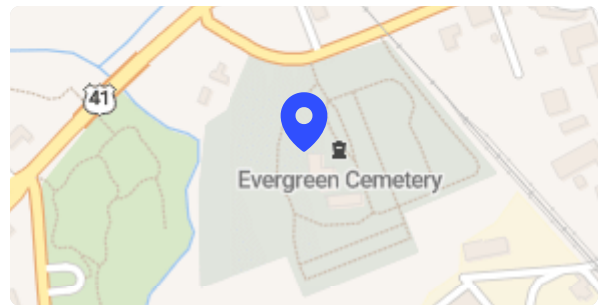
Funeral

- Thursday**, June 5, 2025
- 11:00 AM ET
- Perry Methodist Church**
1002 Carroll Street, Perry GA 31069



Cemetery Details

- Evergreen Cemetery**
720 Main Street, Perry GA 31069





Tribute Wall

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CG

Christi Graham posted:

Mr. Billy was one of the many fine customers that I had the privilege of serving during my tenure with the Bank of Perry. He was a kind man.

July 11 at 4:57 AM

NE

Neil posted:

We just found out. Sorry for your loss. Always called Neil- Pearly. They had lots of memories.

June 12 at 3:01 PM

FW

Fran Worrall posted:

Valerie, I'm so sorry to hear that your father has passed. I'm thinking of you and all your family. Love, Fran

June 10 at 6:58 AM

JB

John R Bryant posted:

Sorry for your loss Billy was a great man and boss worked for him over 30 years learned a lot from him. Sorry I couldn't make his funeral I was sick on medication. Johnny Bryant

June 9 at 12:15 PM

KR

Kyle R. planted a grove of 5 Memorial Trees in honor of BILLY.



June 5 at 6:15 AM

TE

Terri posted:

So sorry for the loss..... Great Great memories for me and my family! 🙏❤️

June 4 at 11:01 AM



Tribute Wall

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Your Synovus Family planted a Memorial Tree in honor of BILLY.

June 3 at 6:50 AM



Your Synovus Family sent a Floor Plant for Sympathy to the BECKHAM family.

June 3 at 6:50 AM



The Gosch Family planted a Memorial Tree in honor of BILLY.

June 3 at 5:39 AM



The Gosch Family sent a White Funeral Standing Spray to the BECKHAM family.

June 3 at 5:39 AM



Billy Powell posted:

My email is billypow@aol.com

June 2 at 5:35 AM



Billy Powell posted:

Billy was a teammate on the 1953 State Championship Team. Now living in Dahlonega, Ga. with my son, I called Billy often. He was one of the finest people I have ever known.....Billy Powell

June 2 at 4:12 AM



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AL

Andrea S Lasseter posted:

Please accept my sincere condolences on Billy's passing. I always saw him as a man worthy of respect, a good family man, and a man who loved and supported Perry always.

June 1 at 2:47 PM

WH

William Harrison posted:

Billy was a good friend and basketball teammate during high school years. Additionally, he was a stellar scholar and genuinely friendly to all. I was pleased to see him at a recent joint class reunion and enjoy conversation on many subjects, especially the glory days of Panther basketball.

June 1 at 10:22 AM

SN

Susan Nichols posted:

Mr. Billy was an extremely nice man - never saw him without a smile on his face. My sincere condolences to the family. May your faith and wonderful memories help you through this difficult time.

May 31 at 6:34 PM

KK

Kim Keuper posted:

Claire I am very sorry for your loss. Keeping you and your family in my prayers. God bless. Kim Keuper

May 31 at 6:27 PM

VA

Vicki Altman posted:

I had the pleasure of working with Billy and Ed for 7 years. They were the nicest people you could ever meet. So sorry for your loss. He will surely be missed by many.

May 31 at 4:25 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring BILLY by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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