



Mr. Billy Joe Wallace

June 1, 1934 - May 19, 2026

Billy Joe Wallace, age 91, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 in Lexington.

Born on June 1, 1934, Billy Joe Wallace was the ninth of ten children born to Bert Lee and Bessie Ann Britt Wallace. He was raised with the values of hard work, honesty, and perseverance that would guide him throughout his life.

Billy Joe began farming as a young boy, working the fields behind a team of mules long before modern equipment became common. Those early years shaped the strong work ethic and determination for which he would always be known.

Around the age of 35, he began a distinguished career in law enforcement with the Henderson County Sheriff's Department, starting as a deputy and working his way to Chief Deputy over the next 12 years. He later joined the Lexington Police Department, where he served for another 28 years, eventually earning the rank of Sergeant. Over the course of his more than 40-year career in law enforcement, Billy Joe worked thousands of cases. He was proud to say he "never left a case unsolved" and always "got my man."

Remarkably, throughout his entire career, he never once discharged his weapon — a testament to his calm judgment, wisdom, and respect for human life.

Outside of his work, Billy Joe had a lifelong love for bluegrass music that began around the age of 14 when he met Bill Monroe. That meeting sparked a passion for bluegrass that remained close to his heart for the rest of his life.

Billy Joe was preceded in death by his parents; his son, Terry Joe Wallace; two grandchildren, Anthony Sims and Nicholas Grisham; son-in-law, Wes Miller; daughter-in-law, Pat Wallace; four brothers, Melvin, Murray, D. L., and Cletus Wallace; and five sisters, Inez, Louise, V. Elizabeth, Ruby, and Ruthie Dean Wallace.

He leaves behind his children, Vic Wallace, Sammy Wallace (Paulette), Beverly Hatcher (Donnie), Debra Goodman, Shelby Fincher (Mancel), Lilly Osborn (Travis), Pam Miller (Vance), and Tina Berryman (Ray); 20 grandchildren, numerous great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren; extended family, friends, fellow officers, and all who knew him to cherish his memory and carry forward the lessons he shared so freely: to be honest, work hard, be fair, and always do the right thing — even when no one is watching. His legacy of integrity, service, and quiet strength will not be forgotten.

Funeral services are scheduled for 1 PM, Saturday, May 23, 2026 in the chapel of Pafford Funeral Home. Interment will follow in Palestine Presbyterian Cemetery. The family will receive friends on Friday, 2-8 PM and on Saturday, 10 AM – 1 PM.

Cemetery Details

Palestine Presbyterian Cemetery

Lexington, TN

Upcoming Events

Visitation

MAY **22**. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Pafford Funeral Home - Lexington, TN
71 Monroe Ave.
Lexington, TN

Visitation

MAY **23**. 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Pafford Funeral Home - Lexington, TN
71 Monroe Ave.
Lexington, TN

Chapel Service

MAY **23**. 1:00 PM (CT)

Pafford Funeral Home - Lexington, TN
71 Monroe Ave.
Lexington, TN

Tribute Wall



“ Pafford Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Billy Joe Wallace



Pafford Funeral Home - Yesterday at 04:12 PM

RG

Sending prayers he was a good man.

Ricky Gross - Yesterday at 08:52 PM

WW

Such a beautiful tribute. He definitely loved life and his music. Such a sweet man. Prayers.

Wanda Williams - Yesterday at 10:02 PM

MT

So sorry Beverly we'll be sending prayers

Morris Teresa - Yesterday at 10:19 PM

RG

“ Billy Joe was one of the best,him D.L. ran the streets better than what we got today,he always was kind and treated people with respect.prayers to all the family,

Ronnie dyer (n) Ricky Gooch - Yesterday at 10:53 PM

RG

“ *Ronnie Dyer (n) Ricky Gooch lit a candle in memory of Mr. Billy Joe Wallace*



Ronnie dyer (n) Ricky Gooch - Yesterday at 10:50 PM



“ *Tony N Redonna Overman lit a candle in memory of Mr. Billy Joe Wallace*



Tony N Redonna Overman - Yesterday at 09:12 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*

Amanda Jowers - Yesterday at 08:56 PM

KM

“ *Prayers for all the Family!!!*



Karen McPeake - Yesterday at 06:22 PM

SM

“ *Sandra Maness lit a candle in memory of Mr. Billy Joe Wallace*



Sandra Maness - Yesterday at 06:05 PM

TV

“ *Teresa Ventura lit a candle in memory of Mr. Billy Joe Wallace*



Teresa Ventura - Yesterday at 06:05 PM

DO

“ *Mr Wallace had a smile for everyone and love going to Church*

Donna - Yesterday at 05:55 PM

RS

“ *Rhonda Sanders sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Billy Joe Wallace*



Rhonda Sanders - Yesterday at 04:44 PM



“ 77 files added to the album LifeTributes



Pafford Funeral Home - Yesterday at 04:09 PM