



Mr. William Golsen "Billy" Gates Jr.

September 10, 1947 - October 3, 2025

Mr. William Golsen "Billy" Gates Jr., age 78, sadly passed away on October 3, 2025, in Atmore, Alabama, surrounded by his loving family. He was originally from Selma, Alabama, but spent most of his life in Atmore. Billy was known for his kind heart and the joy he brought to those around him, leaving behind cherished memories for his family and friends.

In his early years in the military, he was a helicopter mechanic. Commander Local Post 7016 VFW in Atmore was a dedicated community member known for his many contributions spending countless hours in service. He was a proud member of the American Legion and founded the Automotive Career Technology program at Escambia County High School, where he taught for 39 years. His service to his country included time spent in both the United States National Guard and the U.S. Army, with deployments to Korea and Iraq. Beyond his military and educational achievements, he enjoyed simple pleasures like drinking coffee with friends and spending time at NAPA, where he cherished the camaraderie of those around him. Greatly enjoyed watching Westerns, NCIS and 24.

Preceded in death by his parents William Golsen Gates, Sr. and Dorothy Battles Gates; sister, Diane Southerland.

He is survived by his loving wife of fifty-five years, Linda Gates of Atmore,

Alabama; son, Justin Gates and wife Sarah of Loxley, Alabama; daughter, Alison Fournier and husband Chad of Atmore, Alabama; brother, Robert Gates of Lowndsboro, Alabama; six grandchildren, Jordan, Jesse, Savannah, Darrian, William, and Anna; six great-grandchildren, Viola, Dash, Atlas, Scarlett, Maggie and Jack Sheppard; dogs Brie and Briscoe.

Graveside service will be held Friday, October 10, 2025 at 11:00 AM at Alabama State Veterans Cemetery in Spanish Fort, with Reverend Rowdy Boyette officiating.

Visitation will be held October 9, 2025 from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM at Petty Funeral Homes, LLC.

Cemetery Details

Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery

34904 State Highway 225
Spanish Fort, AL 36527

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **9**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Petty Funeral Homes LLC
9260 US-31
Atmore, AL 36502
(251) 368-4540
eastsidechapel@hotmail.com
<http://www.pettyfuneralhomes.com>

Graveside Service

OCT **10**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Alabama State Veterans Memorial Cemetery
34904 State Highway 225
Spanish Fort, AL 36527

Tribute Wall

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“ Members VFW Post 3568 Bay Minette planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. William Golsen "Billy" Gates Jr..

Members VFW Post 3568 Bay Minette - October 07, 2025 at 04:07 PM

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“ Members VFW Post 3568 Bay Minette purchased the Red, White & Blue Sympathy Standing Spray for the family of Mr. William Golsen "Billy" Gates Jr..



Members VFW Post 3568 Bay Minette - October 07, 2025 at 04:07 PM



“ Calm & Comfort Bouquet for Sympathy - Florist C hoice was purchased for the family of Mr. William Golsen "Billy" Gates Jr..



October 03, 2025 at 07:11 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mr. William Golsen "Billy" Gates Jr..

October 03, 2025 at 07:11 PM