



## Billy Joe Melton

August 29, 1936 - September 15, 2011

Funeral services for Billy Joe Melton will be 3:00 p.m. Monday, September 19, 2011, at the Alva First United Methodist Church with Rev. Terry Martindale officiating. Interment will be in the Alva Municipal Cemetery under the direction of Marshall Funeral Home of Alva.

Billy Joe Melton, son of the late Henry Isaac and Nellie Mildred (Sale) Melton, was born August 29, 1936, at the family residence on a farm west of Alva, and passed away September 15, 2011, at the Oklahoma Heart Hospital in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, at the age of 75 years and 16 days.

Joe attended McKeever School, graduating from Dacoma High School, and attended Northwestern State College for two years. He proudly served in the United States Army and was stationed in Korea. On June 15, 1957, he was united in marriage to Jo Anne Murray at the Greenvally Free Methodist Church. They lived in Liberal, Kansas for five years where he worked for Panhandle Eastern. He then worked as a bookkeeper for the Denver-Rio Grande Railroad in Denver until 1965, returning to Alva where he was employed by the Alva Farmers Cooperative as the new fertilizer plant manager and later the Hopeton elevator manager. In June, 1979, he and Jo Anne opened a Montgomery Ward Catalog Sales Agency, beginning his many years of appliance sales and service. In October, 1983, while still operating the Montgomery Ward store, they opened J & J Appliance, where he still worked at the time of his death. He also farmed and ranched for a time. Joe was a member of the Alva First United Methodist Church and Alva

Masonic Lodge #105. He enjoyed gardening, woodworking, and could fix just about anything that was broken. As a devoted family man, he loved being with his children and grandchildren.

Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by two brothers, Charles Melton and Lee Melton; and one sister Wilma Ruth Melton.

Joe is survived by his wife, Jo Anne, of Alva; one son, Billy Joe "Joey" Melton, Jr. of Alva; three daughters, Jonella Kay Rathgeber and husband, Mark, of Alva, Jolisa Melton Dobbs and husband, Steve, of Dallas, Texas, and Jody Annette Melton Witt and husband, Greg, of San Francisco, California; two brothers, James A. Melton and wife, Elma, of Wichita, Kansas, and D. Russell Melton of Lakewood, Colorado; sister-in-law, Adella Melton, of Dover, Delaware; and sister and brother-in-law, Rita (Murray) and Chuck Polf, of Alva; and a special family friend, Julie Heasley of Alva.

Also surviving are ten grandchildren, Elizabeth, Allison and Andrew Rathgeber, all of Alva, Constance Baio and husband, Stephen, of McKinney, Texas, Jacquelyn Melton and Josephine Melton, both of Alva, Henry, Alexander, and William Dobbs, all of Dallas, and Adeline Witt of San Francisco; and his great grandchild, Lillian Baio; other relatives and many friends.

Memorial contributions may be made through the funeral home to the Billy Joe Melton Family Academic Scholarship, Alva Goldbug Educational Foundation.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Billy Joe Melton*

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January 30, 2023 at 03:38 AM



“ *We will miss Joe. He was very talented and a sweet man. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Sincerely,*

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**Ret. Trooper Jimmy & Julie Davison Helm** - September 27, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *So sorry for your loss. Mr. Melton was a big part of the Alva community and a hard-working family man. Your pain must be tremendous. Praying for you and your family as try to find a way to go on with life.*

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**dixie meyer** - September 27, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ I am so sorry to hear about the loss of your father and husband. I did not find out until yesterday, 9/19/11 and wish I could have been there for the service. I have so many fond memories of hanging out in the store downtown and all the time we spent together at your house. Your family has always been so wonderful and I know it&s going to be hard to imagine it without Joe. I know that time and distance has separated us over the years but thoughts of you and your family are always very close to the surface and I think about you all the time. I still remember JoAnne writing me letters in Germany years ago when Jody was away at camp so that I still had someone to talk you. Your family was so welcoming to me and I have never forgotten that. I am praying for you and your family to get through this one day at a time. Just know that many many people remember and appreciate what a wonderful family you have. Take care and god bless! Love, Traci Smith childhood friend of Jody

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**Jody and JoAnne** - September 20, 2011 at 12:00 AM

NW

“ I am so sorry to hear of your loss. May God bless and keep you all.

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**Nola Wilkerson** - September 19, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LJ

“ JoAnne, I want to extend sympathy to you and your family. I&m going to miss seeing Joe in front of your store smoking his pipe. Let me know if I can be of any help. Linda Joseph

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**Linda Joseph** - September 19, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Terry Pat & I are thinking of you and your family. You are in our prayers today and for the days you face ahead. I want so bad to see you but have a nasty cold. Will visit with you when it subsides. Our love in Christ.

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**Dawn Gay Brooks** - September 19, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ JoAnne and family, sorry Duane and I are unable to be with you today but all of you are in our thoughts and prayers. Duane & Patsy Bouse

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**Duane Bouse** - September 19, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ JoAnne and Family-I am sorry I am unable to be with you today. My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. With deepest sympathy-Jessica

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**Jessica Melton** - September 19, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ JoAnne, Jonella & Mark, Joey, and families: We were so sorry to hear about Joe. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your families. Diana & Jim Stein, Tyler, & Payton

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**Diana & Jim Stein** - September 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ Jo Anne, I was so sorry to hear of Joe&s passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Joe was always so helpful to me and my family.

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**Judy Rockett** - September 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ We are sorry to read about Joe. Your family has always been so kind to all our family. We will miss Joe and pray that you find comfort from friends, family and our Lord God. Blessings to all. Dan & Susan Wetzel

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**Dan Wetzel** - September 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ Jo Ann, I am sorry to hear of Billy Joe. I know he will be missed terribly. God Bless you and your family.

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**Sylvia Eckels Burris** - September 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ JoAnne and Family, I was so saddened to hear of your loss. Joe was such a blessing to the Alva Community and we will all miss him. I have such great memories of raising our girls together - JoLisa and Lisa were such dear friends in high school and now they are each raising 3 precious little boys, all who will miss their grandpas& love and affection. I pray that God will wrap His loving arms around all of you and comfort you during this difficult time. Latch on to your wonderful memories of Joe, as he would want you to remember him with a smile in your heart! God Bless You All.  
Sherry Rock

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**Sherry Rock** - September 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SL

“ JoAnne and Family. Our deepest sympathy in your loss. We will miss Joe. He was a great person. May God keep you in his care.  
Love Sharon and Larry Lyon

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**Sharon and Larry Lyon** - September 18, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RW

“ Dear Jo Anne and all the family. We just heard of Joe&s passing.. and we want to express our sympathy for your loss.. but know he is at peace.. We remember our great times at Green Valley, and how we learned so much there.. our first pastorate! We are in the phone book of OKC, and would be glad to have you visit or call anytime. We&re just down Portland Ave.. east to 42nd street. love and prayers...

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**Rev. Hugh & Betty Wayman** - September 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ JoAnne & Family: As a DHS classmate of Joe, I am saddened to hear of your loss. He was a great, fun guy in high school. JoAnne, I&m sorry I never got to meet you personally; but know he chose well! My husband & I also got married at Green Valley (I understand your sadness, as I lost my husband six years ago). May God continue to give you extra peace and comfort at this time. I know all the special memories of your time together will always be in your heart.

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**Janice Morris** - September 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BA

“ Dear Jolisa.....oh how sad to receive your wonderfully written tribute/message about your father, &A sad day&. I think I met him and your also wonderful Mom about three or four times, a couple of times when they came to Norman to just be with you and then at their home and your and Steve&s wedding in Alva. It was always conspicuous that you had a very special connection/bond with your father. While I am extremely sad for you and your Mom and brother and sisters I am more sad for your boys. And yet I am so appreciative that you have shared your message and therefore your father with me and Millie. He was even a better man, father and human being than I was aware of. Thank you much! Millie is in California and was so very saddened to get the news of your fathers passing. I am very sorry that I will not be able to get to Alva Monday for his services. I just can&t make it there. Please do give your Mom a special hug from me and especially hold those dear little boys close and tight. They surely love their grand-poppy. How sad is life that our children lose their grandparents when they need them most. My own five granddaughters are the joy of my life and certainly I to will miss a lot of their growing up. And that is why ;and so wonderful; that your Dad always called to check on them. And you can imagine his joy in being there for them. I really think that being a grandparent when one can actually participate in their grandchildren&s lives is the most precious gift we can have. You&ll know it one day. Please do take some joy in knowing how lucky your Dad was in being a wonderful grandparent. Losing my father was the saddest day in my life and I am with you in this moment. Jolisa, knowing you and your family is a blessing in my life and I thank you. I will be thinking of all of you Monday and during these sad times. Your friend....Bill and for Millie as well. Would you believe it, every day I take a nap under the gray and black trimmed blanket you made for me so many years ago. I think of you and family often. We will send a contribution to the Milton Scholarship fund soon. With much love and gratitude to you and family.  
Bill Audas

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**Bill & Millie Audas** - September 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LL

“ JoAnne and family; I was so shocked to read about Joe. May God comfort you at the time of sorrow. I will never eat another peanut butter pie with out eating a piece from him. Joe was such a happy guy with a smile always on his face. I will miss him dearly. He always lite up a room when you ask him about one of his grandkids. He loved his family more then anything in this world. Just remember that the brightest star shinning at night will be his eyes sparkling with pride for each and every person that he would meet. I&ll will keep you and the family in my thoughts and prayers in the days and weeks ahead. Lisa

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**Lisa (Evans) Lopshire** - September 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SO

“ Jo Ann and Family, My heart aches for all of you for your great loss. May God give you strength and comfort, and courage, too, as you face the sad days ahead. Love, Sandie

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**Sandie Olson** - September 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ We&re sorry to read about Mr Melton&s passing. Our sympathy and prayers for the entire family. May God bless you during this time of great loss.

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**Dudley & Jeanne Winn** - September 17, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DV

“ JoAnne and family~~ Our deepest sympathy in your loss. We pray each of you can reflect on special memories to comfort and console you during this time; and days to come.

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**Dale & Vaughna** - September 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MN

“ Jolisa, Mrs. JoAnne, Jody,  
*I do not have words to describe how my heart is breaking for you all at this time. May the Lord give you peace and comfort as you mourn an awesome man and an amazing husband and Dad.*

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**Monica Reddin Norman** - September 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ JoAnne, Jonella, Joey, Jolisa & Jody,  
*Words can not express how difficult this time is for you, and we are thinking of you all. I was very suprised to see Joe&s name yesterday, as I look at my dad&s picture every day. I loved coming to your house and your home was so welcoming! I remember Joe sitting in his chair back in his room, and was so funny with us girls. I&m truly sorry for your loss and he will be so missed. Thoughts and Prayers ~*  
*Love, Cory, Lisa, Jake, AJ & Boston Baker*

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**Lisa Baker** - September 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ *As members of the Class of 1991, we, on behalf of our entire class, would like to express our condolences to the Melton family on their loss of Joe. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this time. Sincerely, Diane (Lancaster) McAlpin Darcie (Lancaster) Tidwell*  
*Classmates of Jody*

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**Diane Lancater McAlpin** - September 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KI

“ *JoAnne and Family, I couldn&t believe what I read about Joe. You and your family have our deepest sympathy. May God keep you in his care. Love, Keith and Sue*

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**Keith and Sue Ingraham** - September 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ *Joey and family... Words cannot express the loss you are feeling at this time. We have also lost a parent and it leaves a great void in your heart. Your father was a great man and we sincerely are sorry. Please feel our heartfelt condolences at this time and give us a call if we can do anything to help you in your time of need.*  
*Love a Friend, Preston Inman and Joanna Johnson*

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**Billy Joe Melton** - September 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ *I cannot express my sorry for the entire Dobbs/Melton family. I am so very grateful to have seen Mr. Melton at Henry&s 7th birthday party, and I thank God for that. John and I will be thinking of all of you for your loss. What a dear man. Love to all, john and michele maberry*

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**michele and john maberry** - September 16, 2011 at 12:00 AM