



Hershel O'Neil Whitworth

OCT 7, 1946 - FEB 26, 2026



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Hershel O'Neil Whitworth

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Hershel was first, last, and always a family man. He shared fifty-seven years of love and partnership with his wife, Lillian Whitworth, and he was endlessly proud of “his boys,” whose names he repeated with quiet pride at every turn. Our family circle feels different now that his steady presence has slipped from everyday view.

Born in Birmingham, AL, Hershel answered a higher call early on, entering the Marine Corp in 1965 and rising to the rank of Sergeant during deployments in Vietnam and Okinawa. His sense of duty shaped the disciplined, reliable way he lived the rest of his days. We often pointed to his uniformed photo as proof that determination can still wear a gentle smile.

After being honorably discharged from the Marine Corps he got married to his beautiful wife Lillian. Then he went to college at the University of Tennessee in Nashville and received a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering. Shortly after graduation, he began working with the State of Tennessee and eventually the Army Corp of Engineers serving the middle Tennessee area in water management.

As a pastime, Hershel turned his hands to wood. He crafted sturdy furniture and small knickknacks that now sit in every room of the house, quiet reminders of hours spent at his workbench. Each piece carries his careful touch and the faint scent of fresh-cut pine he always seemed to wear.

Hershel felt most alive under an open sky. He loved hiking the Great Smoky Mountains, and family trips to Gatlinburg, TN were his favorite way to share that love with us. At home, he found peace mowing the yard or steering his tractor along familiar rows, the rumble of the engine as comforting to him as any song.

Faith anchored his weeks. He attended services with us at First Baptist in White House. His belief was steady, never loud, and it shaped how he listened, forgave, and helped.



Obituary

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What we remember most is his dry wit and the quick spark of humor that could break the tensest moment. Hershel was hardworking, intelligent, and responsible, and somehow, he managed to laugh at himself as easily as he laughed with us. Those traits, lived honestly every day, are the lessons he leaves behind.

Hershel passed away unexpectedly in Portland, TN, and the quiet that followed felt strange at first. Still, his life keeps speaking through the furniture he built, the trails he walked, and the faith he practiced. We carry him forward with deep gratitude, promising to love one another as steadfastly as he loved us.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Hershel and Bertha Whitworth, and brother, Gene Whitworth.

Those left behind to cherish his memory are wife, Lillian Whitworth, sons, Christopher (Becky) Whitworth, Brian Whitworth, and Tim Whitworth, grandsons, Noah and Micah, sister, Marie Buck, and nieces, Sonnie and Shelly.

Arrangements entrusted to Spring Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery, 5110 Gallatin Pike, Nashville, TN 37216, 615-865-1101, <https://www.springhillfh.com>



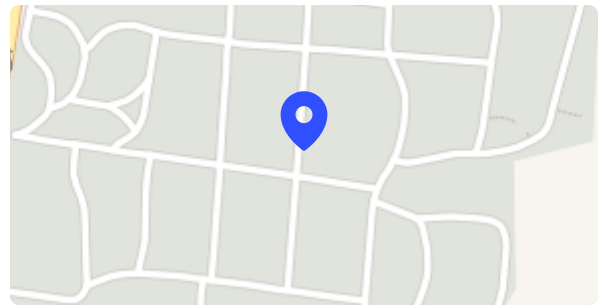
Events

Hershel O'Neil Whitworth

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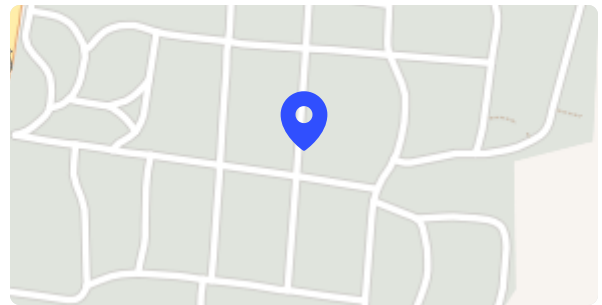
Visitation

- Thursday**, March 5, 2026
- 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM CT
- Spring Hill Funeral Home**
5110 Gallatin Pike S, Nashville TN 37216



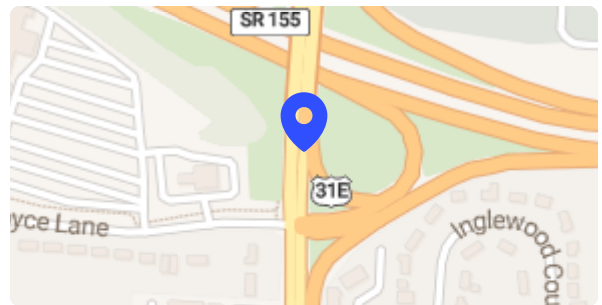
Celebration of Life

- Friday**, March 6, 2026
- 12:00 PM CT
- Spring Hill Funeral Home**
5110 Gallatin Pike S, Nashville TN 37216



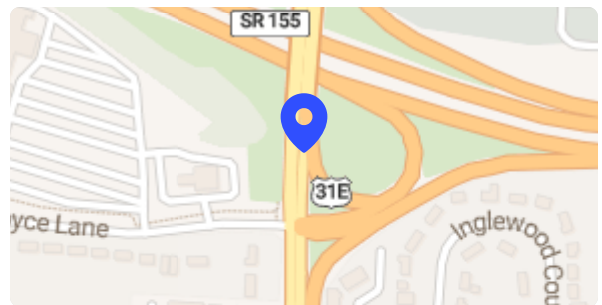
Graveside Service

- Friday**, March 6, 2026
- 1:00 PM CT
- Historic Spring Hill Cemetery**
5110 Gallatin Road, Nashville TN 37216



Cemetery Details

- Historic Spring Hill Cemetery**
5110 Gallatin Road, Nashville TN 37216





Tribute Wall

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Shelli Duke-Minor shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Uncle "Bubba" as we called him always made me laugh as a child. He was a lot like his daddy "Whit." Quiet, steady and funny. He loved to pick on us as kids. I know he will be missed by many. My love & prayers go out to Aunt Sissy, Brian, Chris and Timmy and my sweet mom, Marie, who loved him dearly! ~ Shelli~(His oldest niece)



March 6 at 12:22 AM



Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Hershel.



March 5 at 12:37 PM



Brian posted:

My dad was the greatest man i knew he told me like it is and I will always love him for that

March 4 at 2:55 PM



Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Hershel.



March 4 at 8:44 AM



Anonymous sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Whitworth family.



March 4 at 8:44 AM



Susan, Sarah, And Hilary planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Hershel.



March 3 at 2:44 PM



Tribute Wall

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Susan, Sarah, And Hilary sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Whitworth family.

March 3 at 2:44 PM



Anonymous sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Whitworth family.

March 2 at 10:18 AM



The Merkels planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Hershel.

February 28 at 6:32 PM



The Merkels sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Whitworth family.

February 28 at 6:32 PM



Emily Carr posted:

I worked at USACE for many years. Although Hershel always presented a gruff, grumpy persona, he was really a kind, sweet guy and it would brighten my day to spend a few minutes with him. He was dedicated to his mission and loved his family very much.

February 28 at 9:28 AM



Media

Hershel O'Neil Whitworth

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Shelli Duke-Minor shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

March 6 at 12:22 AM





Memories only last if you share them

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



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