



Ben Edwards

September 30, 1936 - July 26, 2025

Ben Edwards passed away July 26, 2025 at his home in Goreville, Illinois, with his wife Sharon at his side.

Ben was born September 30, 1936 in Grinnell, Iowa to Benjamin T. and Norma (Mintle) Edwards. The family moved to Benton, Illinois where Ben grew up. He was one of seven siblings.

In his youth he worked in the poultry business, delivering eggs in Southern Illinois and some nearby states. Ben graduated from Southern Illinois University with a degree in Social work and Human Services. He spent his career working for the Illinois Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse. He developed, expanded and oversaw services to communities in Southern Illinois. He loved Southern Illinois and refused efforts to be transferred northward. Ben lived in Anna and then in Goreville where he bought a small farm 40 years ago.

Ben had three children: Robin Edwards Cunningham, spouse Richard, Douglas Edwards, spouse Kendra, and Bradley Edwards. Step-children are Jami Gullic and Gregory Sheppard. Ben greatly enjoyed his grandchildren: Erin Cunningham Suggs, Adam Cunningham, Jordan Edwards Kirby, Katie Edwards, Kellen Allen Lacy, and Chase Allen; as well as eleven great grandchildren.

Following retirement Ben enjoyed entertaining the grandchildren, caring for his chickens, other farm animals and growing a large garden. He became an expert at canning his own veggies and fruits. He will be remembered in Goreville as a fun-loving jokester who hung out in town with his Great Dane dogs riding in his truck. He was always ready to help out friends and neighbors.

Ben and Sharon were active members of the Goreville Methodist Church for many years and then Grange Hall Freewill Baptist Church.

Services for Ben will be Thursday, July 31, 2025 at 2 pm at Grange Hall Freewill Baptist Church, 9950 Grassy Road, Marion, Illinois with Pastor Kevin McNeely officiating.

Visitation will be Thursday from 12 pm until the time of service at the church.

Burial will follow in Friendship Cemetery near Goreville.

Memorials may be made to Grange Hall Freewill Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1865, Marion, Illinois 62959 or to the National Right To Life, P.O. Box 96498 Washington, DC 20077-7606

Cemetery Details

Friendship Cemetery

1635 Friendship Loop
Goreville, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 31. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Grange Hall Freewill Baptist Church
9950 Grassy Road
Marion, IL 62959

Service

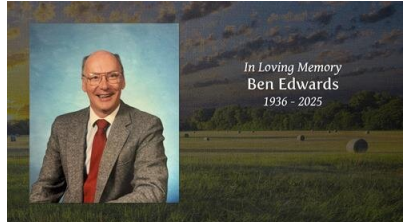
JUL 31. 2:00 PM (CT)

Grange Hall Freewill Baptist Church
9950 Grassy Road
Marion, IL 62959

Tribute Wall



“ *Bailey Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Ben Edwards*



Bailey Funeral Home - August 01, 2025 at 09:10 AM



“ *Pat and I know everyone loved Ben as we did. It was a privilege to be his friend. A smart and really good man! Sharon, I miss you and hope you have love and support at this sad time., Carol*

carol Campbell - August 04, 2025 at 10:16 AM



“ *Sharon and family, I am sorry to hear of Ben's passing. Please know we send our condolences, thoughts and prayers.*

Larry W.Mizell - August 02, 2025 at 12:16 PM



“ *Adam Baggett lit a candle in memory of Ben Edwards*



Adam Baggett - July 31, 2025 at 12:58 AM



“ *Laura, Shea (Tyler), Kirstie (Ian) purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Ben Edwards.*



Laura, Shea (Tyler), Kirstie (Ian) - July 31, 2025 at 12:04 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ben Edwards.

July 30, 2025 at 01:37 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Ben Edwards.*



July 30, 2025 at 01:37 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ben Edwards.*



July 30, 2025 at 11:26 AM

CB

“ *Uncle Bennie was a favorite! He always made a trip to Benton Illinois fun when we were all growing up. He was just a big kid with a kind heart!*

Carol Ashby Brenza - July 29, 2025 at 10:26 PM

GL

“ *Gary & Debbie Lacey purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ben Edwards.*



Gary & Debbie Lacey - July 29, 2025 at 01:54 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Ben Edwards.*



July 29, 2025 at 12:12 PM

ET

“ *Ed, Gretchen, Bill, Anne & Jake Towers purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Ben Edwards.*



Ed, Gretchen, Bill, Anne & Jake Towers - July 29, 2025 at 09:37 AM

LF

“ Love Allison Treat and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ben Edwards.

Love Allison Treat and Family - July 29, 2025 at 09:09 AM

LF

“ Love Allison Treat and Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Ben Edwards.



Love Allison Treat and Family - July 29, 2025 at 09:09 AM

MM

“ Ben was a wonderful person with a great positive personality!! He will be missed!!



Mary Marks - July 29, 2025 at 07:41 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ben Edwards.

July 28, 2025 at 08:49 PM

TG

“ *The Girls at the Goreville Grill purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Ben Edwards.*



The Girls at the Goreville Grill - July 28, 2025 at 05:56 PM

BE

“ *Brent and Dora Edwards purchased the Joyful Memory for the family of Ben Edwards.*



Brent and Dora Edwards - July 28, 2025 at 04:58 PM

DS

“ *Dale Schierbaum lit a candle in memory of Ben Edwards*



Dale Schierbaum - July 28, 2025 at 05:20 AM

SJ

“ *Steve & Darla Jones sent a virtual gift in memory of Ben Edwards*



Steve & Darla Jones - July 27, 2025 at 04:10 PM