



Gerald Bates

January 4, 1951 - November 3, 2025

Gerald Bates, 74, of Williams, passed away at 5:24 a.m. on Monday, November 3, 2025, at IU Health Bedford.

He was born on January 4, 1951, in Seco, Kentucky, to Curtis and Nina (Peck) Bates.

Gerald worked as a fishing guide and a fur trapper in Williams on the White River. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Bedford. He was an avid outdoorsman that loved hunting, fishing, and woodworking, often making walking sticks and dream catchers. Family was everything to this man, especially his two sons. He will be deeply missed.

Gerald is survived by his son, Gerald "Curtis" Bates; brother, Alan (Judy) Bates; sister, Linda Pilkenton; grandchildren, Braleigh, Lucas, Dylan, Bradley, and Nevaeh Bates, and Kora and Kade Rutkowski; cousin, Alan Short; aunt, Minnie Ellen; dog, Rocky; and many more extended family members.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his son, Samuel William Bates.

A graveside service for Gerald will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, November 6, 2025, at Valhalla Memory Gardens in Bloomington with military rites by the Monroe County Honor Guard. Allen Funeral Home and Crematory

was entrusted to the care of these arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Valhalla Memory Gardens

310 North Johnson Ave.
Bloomington, IN 47401

Previous Events

Graveside Service

NOV 6. 10:30 AM (ET)

Valhalla Memory Gardens
310 North Johnson Ave.
Bloomington, IN 47401

Tribute Wall

AM

“ We lost a truly special man. My J-Rod wasn't my father by blood, but he loved me like his own — and I'll always be grateful for the time we shared. He was an honorable man of his word, respected by many for his integrity and accomplishments.

He founded Team Bates Guide Service, which became the 2003 NSBA National Champions and earned multiple Kentucky State Champion titles over the years. He was even nominated to Who's Who in Russell County, Kentucky — a reflection of the impact he made in that community.

Some of my best memories are the ones we spent together on Lake Cumberland, just the two of us. He taught me about fishing, about life, and about what it means to show up for the people you love. Rest easy, and thank you for everything.



Anthony Martin - November 06, 2025 at 04:04 PM

EM

Sorry for your loss prayers for the family rest in peace

ellen morris - November 06, 2025 at 04:34 PM

CB

Well said Anthony thank you ! Thanks to everyone else for being there

Curtis Bates - November 11, 2025 at 09:38 AM

GG

“ Sorry to hear. Condolences to the Family. Did one of his fishing guide trips when he was at Cumberland Lake and he was on another fishing trip to Canada with six of us. He mounted a 41 inch Northern Pike I caught on the trip. Good friend. Gene Goad

Gene Goad - November 05, 2025 at 09:28 AM

TV

“ Gerald was one of the good ones. He will be missed by all of his friends at the Highland Lounge RIP TOMMY VINCENT AND FRIENDS

Tommy Vincent - November 05, 2025 at 08:18 AM

TV

“ Sorry for your loss. Thoughts and prayers for all of you.



Tommy & Shannon Vincent - November 04, 2025 at 04:51 PM