



Jack Magee Allison

January 12, 1934 - June 8, 2019

Jack Magee Allison, 85 of Walnut Ridge, passed away June 8, 2019 at the NEA Baptist Hospital in Jonesboro.

Born January 12, 1934 in Walnut Ridge to the late Calvin and Polly Magee Allison. At the age of 9, Jack was baptized in the First Baptist Church in Walnut Ridge and has been a faithful life-long member. Jack was a Veteran of the U. S. Airforce during the Korean War; upon returning he served in the Arkansas National Guard and was enlisted in the U.S. Army in September of 1957 to help with the integration of the first black students into Little Rock Central High School. Most know Jack as the self-employed Owner and Operator/Pitmaster of the iconic Polar Freeze in Walnut Ridge since 1958. He was united in marriage to Velma Dobbs on March 13, 1960.

Jack was businessman and stayed busy, he was also involved with the G.A.W. Partnership; Lawrence County Seed; N.E.A. Aviation Co, Lawrence Memorial Park; Lawrence Memorial Hospital Foundation; Walnut Ridge Airport Commission; Walnut Ridge City Council and a Lawrence County Advisor. He was awarded the honor of Man of the Year for Lawrence County in 2017.

Jack loved life, family, friends, animals, telling stories, joking, traveling and going on adventures and having a good time. He never met a stranger and always had time to talk and make you smile. He was an adrenaline junkie, he

loved flying planes and crop-dusted for one summer in the early 80's, drag racing and anything else that goes fast. He also enjoyed snow skiing in Colorado; skydiving and white-water river rafting; Jack rafted the Colorado River three times through the Grand Canyon National Park and rode a mule down it once. He also at the age of 83, he rode a bicycle down the 7000 foot descent of Pikes Peak in Colorado with his children and grandchildren. Jack's moto was "Work Hard - Play Hard"

He is preceded in death by his parents; and a son, Calvin Allison in 2014.

Survivors include his wife, Velma of the home; one daughter, Kellie (Jeff) Yates of Walnut Ridge; one son, Shad Allison (fiancée, Tonya Nicole Taylor) of Walnut Ridge; two grandsons, Hunter (Baley) Yates and Kobe Allison; two granddaughters, Holley (Stetson) Wells and Emily Allison; one great granddaughter, Ona Faye Yates; and many other family and countless friends.

Funeral Service will be Saturday, June 15, 2019 at 10 A.M. in the First Baptist Church in Walnut Ridge with Bro. Jake Guenrich officiating. Pallbearers will be Andrew, Matthew and Stephen Watson, Joe, Delbert and Keith Warner. Interment will follow in the Lawrence Memorial Park.

Visitation will be Friday evening from 5 P.M. till 8 P.M. in the First Baptist Church in Walnut Ridge.

In Lieu of flowers the family request donations be made to, Wings of Honor Museum, 70 S. Beacon Rd. Walnut Ridge, AR 72476; Walnut Ridge Animal Shelter or the Walnut Ridge Children's Shelter.

Cemetery Details

Lawrence Memorial Park

Colonial Dr.
Walnut Ridge, AR 72476

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **14**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Walnut Ridge
317 SW Front St.
Walnut Ridge, AR 72476

Funeral Service

JUN **15**. 10:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church of Walnut Ridge
317 SW Front St.
Walnut Ridge, AR 72476

Tribute Wall



“ *Jack Magee Allison*

January 29, 2023 at 08:29 AM



“ *Dearest Velma & Family, Jack's life was a Bright Light that revealed a love for everyone! His smiles were contagious. We always enjoyed our numerous visits to the Polar Freeze & even after we moved to Texas, we planned our trips back accordingly.*

Like others, we have our Fun stories to share. Jack, Danny Gibson and my guy, Ed Adams, were quite the pranksters when on the water with their canoes. They never returned home dry. They even turned over "Occupied" outhouses along the way.

Jack was such a Blessing in every way, every day. I am so glad that we were able to share his journey. He shared so much joy, Yes he will be missed !

Prayer Hugs, Sondra Adams & Family

Sondra Adams - June 14, 2019 at 12:59 PM



“ *My thoughts and prayers go out to all the family and employees of Jack Allison. He was such a dear man. He will always be remembered by many. Especially, those who knew him best. Your memory will always live in our heart.*

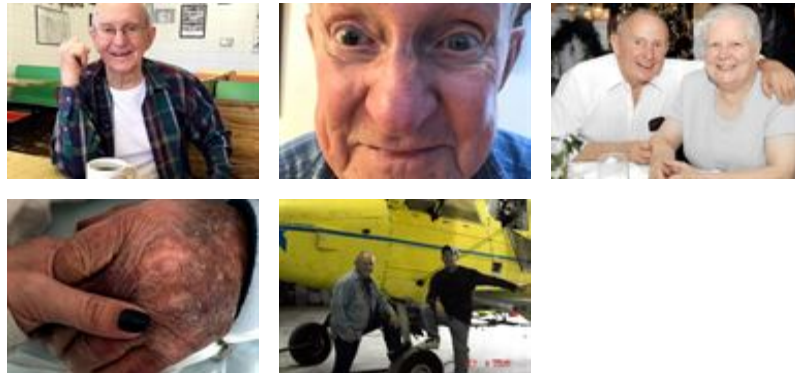
Esther Cole McNutt



Esther McNutt - June 14, 2019 at 11:52 AM



“ 154 files added to the album LifeTributes



Bryan Funeral Home - June 14, 2019 at 12:40 AM



“ We always enjoyed visiting with him and Velma, he will be missed. You are in our prayers.

Charles and Betty Jo Gurley - June 13, 2019 at 11:44 PM



“ We are so sorry for your loss. He will be missed. Prayers for the family.

Charlinda Reeves and Family - June 13, 2019 at 11:39 PM



“ There are plenty of smiles in heaven with his arrival prayers for the family

Larry Richey - June 12, 2019 at 08:10 PM

AP

“ My mom Liz work for Jack and Velma for many years. I can remember taking my children there just to get the blue ice cream. He was a very good man and will missed by many.

Ann Richey- Powell - June 12, 2019 at 08:08 PM

LM

“ Great memories of a great guy. He will be sorely missed. Condolences to the entire family. Thinking of you Velma.

Larry Martin

Larry Martin - June 12, 2019 at 07:44 PM

DH

“ Jack was a friend to all that knew him. He hired my mom, Opal Hoaglan, after her job ended at the Salad Bowl when it burned. She worked for him for many years, he was a good employer. Jack will surely be missed.

Dave Hoaglan - June 12, 2019 at 06:15 PM

DM

“ David M. purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Jack Magee Allison.



David M. - June 12, 2019 at 05:08 PM

GW

“ *Lawrence County will not be the same with its roll model gone, I looked forward to seeing Jack at the Polar Freeze when I placed an order, for if he had time he said hello, the same as at church on Sunday morning when we would go for coffee it was Howdy, but the best was several years ago when my family was able to go to Colorado when Jack did and ski, and he would ski down the slopes in his Razorback gear and give the call , many probably wondered what he was saying but those of us with him did, Rest In Peace Jack, and love to the Allison family.*

Gayla Warden - June 12, 2019 at 04:51 PM

SD

“ *Jack was a good man. Dealing with as many teenagers as he has throughout the years and precarious situations he no doubt has found some of them in, he could have been their nightmare, but Jack instead became their mentor. Kids from all over Northeast Arkansas knew Jack or knew of him. He made an impact on everyone he met. Folks traveled far and wide to enjoy his cuisine and to do nothing more than shake his hand. He will be missed! God has gained another great one!*

Scott Digman - June 11, 2019 at 09:48 PM

SE

“ *What can I say that hasn't already been said? Jack, you meant so much to so many...you did so much for us all. All I can offer is a humble "Thank You". God Bless you and your family.*

Scott Edmondson - June 11, 2019 at 09:00 PM

VF

“ Jack loved to call me the charge it kid. I’m certainly not the only one he saved from starving, but he would laugh at how I asked a car load of kids what they needed and then charge it. He laughed all the way to the bank literally ❤️ He was one of life’s joys. It wasn’t a true trip to the Polar Freeze if he wasn’t there. My love and prayers to Velma and the family.



Virginia Smith Fields - June 11, 2019 at 06:08 PM

JS

“ My first memory of Jack was when I was about 8. I was riding my bike through my neighborhood and saw 3 very shady characters that were obviously up to no good. Those 3 were Ricky Burris, Frank Wilcoxon, and Jack Allison. They appeared to be casing a home in my neighborhood belonging to my friend Danny Gipson. Jack was the ring leader of this group. They were hiding in the bushes....I was pretty worried that they were going to do something wrong and they certainly were. Jack had rigged a pulley system above Danny’s trash can so that he could pull it from the bushes and make a terrible sound, bringing Danny out of the house to see what was going on. Then it would be quiet and Danny would go back in....Jack convinced me to hide in the bushes with the group and not give them away. It was about 8 years later that Jack hired me for my first job. We’ve been friends ever since. I looked up to him so much. Jack represents everything good about small town America, about Walnut Ridge, Ar. He was a role model to so many young men, some without dads like . I loved Jack and our town will never be the same.

Jim Smith - June 11, 2019 at 05:50 PM



“ Henry David Thoreau said that he wished to live deliberately and not, when he came to die, discover that he had not lived. Jack didn't have to worry about that. I've always wished I had the energy and zest for life that he and one or two other people I know have always had. I must have been about 10 when I first met Jack. He was engaged to my sister's good friend. Way back then I remember thinking that that guy had a lot of what I would now call charisma. As I said on FB, I feel sorry for the generations of kids growing up here that will never know Jack Allison. We'll have to be sure we tell them about him.

Susan Felts Briner - June 11, 2019 at 02:39 PM

MH

“ I will never forget our ski trip with Jack and his family. He was definitely a special man that did everything he wanted to do and loved life to the fullest each and every day til the end. There will never be another good ole Jack. Prayers for Velma, Kelly and family! Walnut Ridge will never be the same!!

Misti Hicks - June 11, 2019 at 12:10 PM

PF

“ Jack was a part of the first church I was youth minister at. Bro. Mark, Jack, and myself had many conversations and laughs at the Polar Freeze! He and his wife were always an encouragement to me and my wife. Good man who will be missed. Prayers and thoughts to the family.

Paul Fisher - June 10, 2019 at 10:42 PM

TW

Such a icon of walnut ridge! He was a terrific man who always treated our family fair. Truly a very sad occasion. Rest well in Heaven my deepest condolences go out to the family

Theresa clayborn Whitaker - June 11, 2019 at 08:23 AM

TW

Such a icon of walnut ridge! He was a terrific man who always treated our family fair. Truly a very sad occasion. Rest well in Heaven my deepest condolences prayers go out to the family for much strength and comfort.

Theresa clayborn Whitaker - June 11, 2019 at 08:27 AM

TL

“ *The Fagnan Family with heart felt love! purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Jack Magee Allison.*



The Fagnan Family with heart felt love! - June 10, 2019 at 10:18 PM

CT

“ *To Velma, Kelly & Shad, Our love and concern for you during this time. What a wonderful life Jack and you have shared together. Jack always made everyone happy, and you always felt like you were someone he cared about, that was his God's gift. Thanks for the neighborhood times. God Bless, we love you'all, Carol Tarlton Lawler, Liz Tarlton Samuel's and Tony Floyd.*

Carol Tarlton - June 10, 2019 at 08:33 PM

TB

“ Somewhere in Florida, I remember hurting down a runway in the passenger seat of a plane being flown by Uncle Jack. As the end of the runway (and the Gulf of Mexico) rushed toward us, Jack looked at me with a smile on his face and said "I don't think we are gonna make it!" Pretty much sums it up. When I was I with Uncle Jack I was having the time of my life, Thanks for the memories. See you on the other side Uncle Jack.

Terry, Dianne and the whole Bobrowski family in Tennessee

Terry Bobrowski - June 10, 2019 at 07:33 PM

BM

You nailed him with your comments Terry! Beautiful!!!!Hope to see you at the services. Uncle Doc

Byron E. Holley, M.D. - June 11, 2019 at 06:40 AM

SC

“ Jack Allison meant so much to so many, my family included. My dad loved him (and his BBQ!) from as early as I can remember. There were 13 of us, including my parents and any time we walked into the Polar Freeze, he was usually there, always with his signature smile and wanting to know how and where all my siblings were. He always knew Margo, Lance, and Lisa by name. When I walked in he would say that he knew that I was a Walker, just not sure which one but always had that smile and a hug. He knew how much our entire family loved the BBQ (and him). As the in-laws in our family can attest, it was a requirement of new in-laws that they appreciate Polar Freeze BBQ and that at every family get together, someone was required to accept the assignment of picking up Jack’s BBQ - usually someone volunteered.

The biggest and most touching thing he did for my family was 22 years ago when our dad died, he personally flew BBQ to Batesville for my family following the funeral!! Who does that? A man with a heart as large as Arkansas! What an amazing person he was and his spirit will live on because of who he was. RIP Jack Allison.

The Billy Walker family from College City

Sharon Crumby - June 10, 2019 at 03:00 PM

KL

“ So often, it’s the little things in life that turn out to actually be big things in disguise. There must be thousands of happenings and memories of your Polar Freeze that make this true.

Thank you, Mr. Jack Allison for providing such a neat backdrop and stage for great memories and traditions that are true gifts to so many of us in this community. May God bless you and the many who love and will miss you. Prayers for your family and many friends.

Keri Lewis - June 10, 2019 at 12:21 PM

LH

“ I did not grow up in Lawrence county, however my children did and as everyone know Jack "took care of the kids" I never knew his age, but to me he was a young man that gave so much of himself and the whole county loved, I know he has earned a great eternal home, thank you Jack for everything you have done for John, Linda Greg and Stephanie Holt-Surmon, including helping me get bar b q sauce to Los Angles CA for Stephanie, she could use no other, Mrs. Velma and your family are in our prayers, may God be with you. John
Linda Greg and Stephanie Holt

linda holt - June 10, 2019 at 11:17 AM



“ I just adored this man! He gave me my very first job at Polar Freeze when I turned 16. He dedicated so much of his time and had so much love and appreciation for that place, the people who worked for him, and the people who supported his business. I will never forget his smile and sense of humor.

Christy Henault - June 10, 2019 at 02:01 AM

PD

“ Gary & Patricia Dobbs

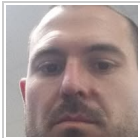


Patricia Dobbs - June 09, 2019 at 06:58 PM

MS

“ I loved Jack, he gave me a carhop job at 14 and I worked for Jack at the polar freeze for 2 years. I am 68 years old now and he and I have been friends all these years. I live in Florida now , but when I come home for a visit I can't wait to grab a big boy and barbecue sandwich from Jack's place . He would sit and talk with me always telling me how he loved hearing about the success of all the kids that used to work for him. I wrote a book called *The Blue House* and At a book review Jack bought 5 copies to give to his friends. He always took care of us kids, taking us home after work and waiting until we were safely inside our homes before driving away. Jack was one of a kind, I will miss him greatly. I know I will see him again and we will share many more happy times together.my thoughts and prayers are with the Allison family. God Bless!!

Michael Simmons - June 09, 2019 at 06:57 PM



“ As most have stated Jack shared the finer points of hard work with the youth. He was a great man and always took time to talk to you. He will surely be missed. I know he is with God today! Praying for Mrs Velma and family!

J-Stone Clements - June 09, 2019 at 05:19 PM

RR

“ Jack will be missed in our community. He gave my daughter Susan her first job and my granddaughter laurie her first job. He was always friendly and helped many young people in our community. Rest in peace jack. Prayers for jacks family. Roy Rogers

Roy Rogers - June 09, 2019 at 05:01 PM

CB

“ *The world is a sadder place without Jack's mischievous grin and encouraging words! He will be greatly missed, but I know my parents are rejoicing and welcoming Jack to the big party in heaven.*

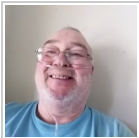
*Cathy Black
Oxford, Michigan*

Cathy Black - June 09, 2019 at 02:35 PM

MG

“ *I have know Jack and Velma for over 50 years! lived behind me he Polar Freeze. Was a great and friendly man. Condolences to his family 🙏*

marilyn guthrie - June 09, 2019 at 12:51 PM



“ *Jack gave me my first job i loved working for him he wad a very special person he will surely be missed to Velma and his family you have prayers and condolences*

James Mcvey - June 09, 2019 at 12:42 PM

GR

“ *So very sorry for all Jack's family and friends..No one can ever replace him...Thank you Jack for all you did for my sister Pat...*

Glenda Walker Rusher - June 09, 2019 at 12:34 PM

DP

“ Prayers for all family and friends through this difficult time. May God be with. Rest in peace Jack !! 💙💙



Debbie Pins - June 09, 2019 at 11:16 AM

TH

“ Mr Jack was a very good man PRAYERS to his family in this time of grieving

Tim hibbard - June 09, 2019 at 11:13 AM

JG

“ Jack and Velma Allison have mentored teenagers for six centuries, employing thousands of teenagers at their Polar Freeze restaurant. Their consistency, their stature as positive role models, and their friendship have been unsurpassed in Lawrence County and Walnut Ridge. Barbara and I have also treasured their friendship at First Baptist Church and their strong support for Williams Baptist University.

Jerry and Barbara Gibbens

jerry and Barbara Gibbens - June 09, 2019 at 09:49 AM

RC

“ Rita A Callen lit a candle in memory of Jack Magee Allison



Rita A Callen - June 09, 2019 at 08:23 AM

RC

Jack was my cousin, anytime we came Walnut Ridge, I would go visit him, Jack was so sweet, kind, always had a smile for me, we would sit and talk for hours.. He will be missed. My thoughts and prayers are with Velma and the family.. Love from all here in Michigan.

Rita A Callen - June 09, 2019 at 08:29 AM

BW

“ If you were raised around Walnut Ridge, Hoxie or just about anywhere in Lawrence Cty, chances were you knew Jack Allison owner of the ever so popular Polar Freeze. He was such a good man and had more friends than he probably could count. Jack was a fine example for young people and gave so many of them their first job. Their was nothing like circling the Polar Freeze on Sat night when I was growing up. So many fond memories of Jack and the Polar Freeze. You’ve earned your wings Jack soar like an Eagle 🦅 Becky (Lamb) Willcockson.

Becky (Lamb) Willcockson - June 09, 2019 at 08:03 AM



*“ There was never anyone that I have ever known that had the fine qualities of this wonderful man, he never knew a stranger and was the kindest person in the world, God had received one of the finest Angels in this world.
RIP Jack.*

Jo Anne Couturier - June 09, 2019 at 07:11 AM

JC

“ Joanne Couturier lit a candle in memory of Jack Magee Allison



Joanne Couturier - June 09, 2019 at 07:07 AM

BM

“ Jack has been a close family friend as long as I can remember. He and my dad, Pete Cupp from Light, went to Arkansas State not necessarily to get a degree but to have fun! They liked fast cars and playing pool. Mom, Esther, Loved Jacks bbq. She made many trips to Walnut Ridge just for his bbq. When our parents passed away Jack came to Light with a special bbq pack. Dad and mom loved to hear his stories about taking his kids on vacation. He loved his family, business and hometown. He was a very special man with many friends and will definitely be missed by the Cupp girls, Becky, Jackie and Jill! God Thank You for Jack and give his family comfort and peace during this time.

Becky Cupp Miller - June 09, 2019 at 01:57 AM

MS

My family is praying for the Allison family...and cherishing the friendship we have had with Jack for many decades!

Mindy Shields - June 09, 2019 at 09:03 AM

KC

“ I will never forget my first run in with Jack. I was young and rude and a sweet and stern young man came up to me and explained to me that I was not doing myself justice by talking the way I was. It made an impression on me that made a big difference. He reminded me of my grandpa and I realized that I didn't have to be so mouthy to get respect. I never forgot him for that day and he was always a joy.



Kari Cobb - June 08, 2019 at 11:29 PM

DF

Jack was a great man! I worked at Polar Freeze when they stayed open on Sundays! One Sunday I was late because I had given my heart to the Lord at the end of our church service! He was very stern when I arrived late for my shift! When I told him I had given my life to the Lord, his smile was huge and he give me the sweetest hug! I'll never forget that smile!! Condolences to his precious family!

Dena Fort - June 09, 2019 at 12:33 AM



“*Mr. Jack gave me my very first job at the Polar Freeze. He taught me alot about hard work and integrity. To this day I owe alot of my work ethic to this man. He was timeless, in a world that was ever changing Jack Allison was always the unchangeable soul. He will be greatly missed. Love you Jack...*

Sabrina Fain - June 08, 2019 at 11:19 PM

DC

I hope there's a polar freeze in heaven. Walnut Ridge will never be the same David and Connie Cupp

David Cupp - June 10, 2019 at 09:56 PM

DC

Jack Allison, you've left your mark on this part of the country, and you will be greatly missed down here, but I know we will see you again one day.

David Cupp - June 10, 2019 at 10:01 PM