



## Mr. Rodney L. Wilbanks

December 18, 1966 - December 29, 2023

Mr. Rodney L. Wilbanks, age 57 of Commerce passed away on Friday, December 29, 2023 at Piedmont Athens Regional. Mr. Wilbanks was born in Atlanta, GA to Bobby Wilbanks (Sandra) of Commerce and the late, Janet Chandler Howard. Mr. Wilbanks was the pastor at The Refuge Church in Commerce and known as the Cowboy Preacher. He spent his days witnessing to every single person he met, trying to introduce them to Jesus. If he wasn't fishing for souls, he was in a boat fishing for dinner. He would fish from before sunup until after sundown no matter the weather if his wife would let him, and she would because she was right there beside him. He also spent his life as a cowboy, riding, training, and transporting horses. He was a jack of all trades. The hardest working man that ever lived.

In addition to his mother, he is preceded in death by his son, Nicholas Wilbanks, who no doubt was shouting and running towards him wide open when he saw daddy bust through Heaven's gates. and grandparents, Elwyn Wilbanks and Bertha Lee Wilbanks.

In addition to his father and step-mother, Mr. Wilbanks is survived by his wife, Brandy Wilbanks of Commerce; sons, Kevin Wilbanks (Bethany) and Kaleb Wilbanks (Julia) of Commerce; daughter, Courtney Gary (Bucky) of Athens; sister, Angela Wilbanks of Mexico and 5 grandchildren.

We have lost our hero, our best friend, our rock. He will forever be remembered as the man who would not give up on you. His main goal every day was to lead ONE MORE soul to Christ. If he ever touched your life in any way, please attend one of the following services.

Funeral services will be held at 2 PM, Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at The Refuge Church Tent Revival Grounds on South Broad Street, Ext, Commerce with Rev. Frankie Cleveland and Rev. Timothy Gerrin officiating. Interment will follow in Cabin Creek Baptist Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends Sunday from 4-7 PM and Monday from 5-8 PM at Little-Ward Funeral Home, Commerce.

In lieu of flowers, donation can be made to The Refuge Church Building Fund, Commerce.

Little-Ward Funeral Home, Commerce is in charge of arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Cabin Creek Baptist Church Cemetery

892 Cabin Creek Rd.  
Nicholson, GA 30565

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 31. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Little-Ward Funeral Home  
115 State Street  
Commerce, GA 30529  
(706) 335-3175  
lwfh@windstream.net  
<https://www.little-wardfuneralhome.com/>

## Visitation

JAN 1. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Little-Ward Funeral Home  
115 State Street  
Commerce, GA 30529  
(706) 335-3175  
lwfh@windstream.net  
<https://www.little-wardfuneralhome.com/>

## Service

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JAN 2. 2:00 PM (ET)

The Refuge Church Tent Revival Grounds  
South Broad Street, Ext.  
Commerce, GA 30529

# Tribute Wall



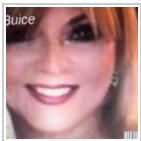
“ I knew Rodney back when he worked at ABB. He was a great guy then and now. I'm praying for comfort to his family and praising God for Rodney's arrival to Heaven!

Bonita Eberhart - January 03, 2024 at 04:54 PM



“ You will be missed Praise God you made it home

Jason Campbell - January 02, 2024 at 07:05 PM



“ I do not have the words to express the way I feel. Rodney was a wonderful friend, person, minister. He will be missed by everyone. God Bless his family

Elaine Buice - January 02, 2024 at 06:15 AM



“ Elaine Buice lit a candle in memory of Mr. Rodney L. Wilbanks



Elaine Buice - January 02, 2024 at 06:13 AM



“ Jason Campbell planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Rodney L. Wilbanks.

Jason Campbell - January 01, 2024 at 09:11 PM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Mr. Rodney L. Wilbanks.*



January 01, 2024 at 09:11 PM



“ *Fly high dear cousin fly high ! No more pain your healed an happy rejoicing in heaven with your loved ones who's gone on before us until we meet again RIP U were loved an will be missed !*



**Beth Weldon Colwell** - January 01, 2024 at 03:40 PM



“ *Jeanie Stein sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Rodney L. Wilbanks*



**Jeanie Stein** - January 01, 2024 at 11:17 AM



*King James Version*

**Jeanie Stein** - January 01, 2024 at 11:17 AM

JS

“ My sincerest condolences to the Wilbanks family. I thank Pastor Rodney for always going above and beyond to reach lost souls for Our Savior. I am most certain he will have many jewels in his crown!



Janice Strickland - December 31, 2023 at 05:15 PM

LT

“ I remember David and I were looking for a church and sister Lynn Edward's had ask us to come and visit the refuge! As I walked in the door I thought oh my I have never seen a preacher with a horseshoe beard! This man had to be a real rancher! But as he began to preach and the fire that came out of this man he was a rancher alright he was a a rancher for the Lord! We visited quite as often as we could and he was always the same! I know heaven gained a mighty warrior when Pastor Rodney entered those gates! Sending prayers for the family and so sorry for the missing piece of this amazing man that you all shared! May God send his comforting angels to you all! ❤️



Lydia Thurmond - December 31, 2023 at 09:47 AM

BD

“ Bill And Barbara Davis lit a candle in memory of Mr. Rodney L. Wilbanks



Bill and Barbara Davis - December 31, 2023 at 06:37 AM

TE

“ Sending our deepest condolences to the family. Asking God to wrap his arms around you all and give you peace and comfort in the days ahead.



Terri Edwards - December 30, 2023 at 09:07 PM

MP

“ Michael and Helen Pitman purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Mr. Rodney L. Wilbanks.



Michael and Helen Pitman - December 30, 2023 at 05:11 PM



“ Rainbow Reflections Basket was purchased for the family of Mr. Rodney L. Wilbanks.



December 30, 2023 at 02:18 PM

TD

“ Prayers and condolences to the family.



Tammie Denton-Offield - December 30, 2023 at 02:18 PM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Mr. Rodney L. Wilbanks.*



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December 30, 2023 at 01:54 PM



“ *Bo McClure Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Rodney L. Wilbanks.*

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**Bo McClure Family** - December 30, 2023 at 01:51 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Rodney L. Wilbanks.*



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December 30, 2023 at 01:51 PM



“ *Rodney meant a lot to me. He showed me the way back to the Lord and he also showed me the right way. I'm gonna miss him very much he was a great man great father and a great friend.*

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**John Ingersoll** - December 30, 2023 at 01:34 PM

LB

“ My heart breaks for Rodney's family, but I also rejoice knowing that he is walking with Jesus today. One memory that sticks out for me is Rodney was telling me about listening to the videos of Sinner's Grace on YouTube, the band that I front, and someone asked him who is that you're listening to? He just smiled and said, "that's CCR Junior! One of my new favorites!" Rodney treated me and my family like old friends from the very first day we met him. He will be sorely missed, and even though heaven is a lot fuller with his larger than life personality, the world just feels a little colder knowing that he has made that journey home. God bless y'all, his family and we're praying for you.

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**Larry Brooks** - December 30, 2023 at 01:30 PM