

W. T. GILLEN

Mr. W. T. Gillen, age 74 of Weches, passed away Tuesday, September 22, 2009 in the East Texas Medical Center-Crockett. Mr. Gillen was born in Burdette, Arkansas on February 7, 1935 and was raised in South East, Missouri and North East, Arkansas until he was 16 years of age.

After the loss of his parents, Aunt Oma and Uncle Jack Thurman adopted W. T. and his two sisters and they came to Houston, Texas and lived with them until he joined the United States Air Force. He served 20 years retiring in 1975, including 2 years in Vietnam. He and Billie married in 1969, along with her 5 children. He always called them his children and never made any difference between them and the 2 they had together. He was a good man.

Upon retiring from the United States Air Force they made their home in Bullard, Texas residing there until moving to Weches in 2000. Mr. Gillen was a Charter Life Member of the Jacksonville Veterans of Foreign War Post #3984 serving as quarter master from 1988-2000. He was a carpenter by trade and loved gardening, canning and spending time with his family.

Survivors include his wife Billie Gillen, of Weches; sons Charles Easley, of Weches, George Easley, and wife Shayne, of Sommerville and Gary Gillen, of Weches; daughters Clara Alavi and husband Hamid, of Dallas, Eva Ball, of Athens, Pamela Easley and Prudencio, of Jacksonville and Terrie Wiggins, of Sommerville; sisters Lois Hammons and husband Jim and Joyce McGaha, all of Belott Community; 18 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews.

His wife has two brothers and six sisters that all hold a very special place in his Heart.

Preceded in death by his parents Johnnie and Abbie Gillen; adoptive parents Jack and Naomi Thurman; brother-in-law Sonny McGaha and sister, Bessie Weiss.

Funeral Services for Mr. W. T. Gillen were held Saturday, September 26, 2009 at 2:00

p.m. in the New Energy Church with the Rev. Richard Gillet and the Rev. Sam Sassaman officiating. Interment followed in the Bobbitt Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the local V. F. W. to send packages to Troops overseas.

**Callaway-Allee Funeral
Home**