



## John O. Wilkins

July 3, 1937 - December 12, 2013

Obituary for John O. Wilkins: "Ride 'Em, Cowboy!"

John Owen Wilkins, better known as "Johnny, the Cowboy," passed from this life on Thursday, December 12, 2013 to go to that Big Round-Up in the Sky at the age of 76. Born in Blue Jacket, Oklahoma to parents C.E. and Sarah Elizabeth Wilkins, Johnny was the seventh of eight siblings (Curl Esmond, Clifton, Chester, Lester, Lovell, Lucy, John and Elmer). Being a loving son, brother and father, to the union of Mary Kay (Brewster) Wilkins was added four lovely daughters, John's "Little Angels": Johna Kay, Jackie, Judy and Jamie Lynn.

John was a member of the Blue Jacket High School graduating class of 1956 and had participated over the years in several reunion events.

Having surrendered his heart and spurs to the Lord Jesus Christ at an early age, this bronco cowboy was a member of Victory Christian Center and had been active from time to time in soul-winning activities, including a few outreach programs where he provided and assisted with free horse-riding for the inner-city children program.

Known for his booming voice and his ruggedly handsome cowboy looks (a true Marlboro Man with a hint of John "the Duke" Wayne mannerisms, and a

Will Rogers' wit), he had worked on a Dude Ranch in Arkansas where he broke and trained horses, herded cattle and learned the art of being a rodeo cowboy. On his best days, John could rope a calf in 8 to 9 seconds, or ride a bucking horse like a professional without falling off. Johnny performed in several small rodeos and had even managed the Berryhill Rodeo Arena, where he and his family made their home.

John would live the next four decades in Berryhill (a small community west of Tulsa) where on his "Little Ponderosa," he raised horses, had goats and chickens, and enjoyed many years of good times with friends and relatives. Johnny never knew a stranger. Like his heart, his home was always open. Through the years, many friends and family members needing a place to stay had bunked with him—his doors were always open.

After several years of employment as the lead foreman for the street crew for the City of Sand Springs, John went to work for A-1 Tent Rental, where, besides assisting with the management of work teams, he was allowed to care and manage the horses on his brother Chester's property. He did this for many years. Besides all this, he and his nephew Larry Wilkins, owned and maintained a goat farm in Blue Jacket, where he and Larry would make several trips to throughout each month.

Although in this lifetime Johnny never acquired the great wealth he said he would someday win—like hitting the jackpot in a lottery, or getting the numbers right in a horserace—he was rich in many other ways. He leaves behind a wealth of loving family members, close friends, and fond, fond memories.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his brothers: Curl, the twins—Chester and Lester, and Lovell; and a host of loving friends who rode with him through the Rodeo of Life.

John's survivors include his daughters Johna Kay McHenry of Fort Worth and her husband Mark; Jackie Wilkins of Tulsa; Judith Rachel Wilkins of Muskogee; and Jamie Lynn of Tulsa and her husband James; brothers Clifton Wilkins of Blue Jacket and wife Rose; and Elmer Wilkins of Collinsville and wife Jewel; sister Lucy Harris of Blue Jacket and husband Norman; grandchildren: Brian Haynes of Virginia and wife Tiffany (with baby Andrea Nicole Lynn), Zachery McHenry of Texas (children Jayden and Emelia Mae-Denise Vanloh), Erin Lynn Johnson of Missouri with husband Zenis (expecting: Jaxon Lee Johnson), Sarah Elizabeth McHenry of Texas (with baby Aiden Ellis Edwards), Cameron Pride, Christian Pride and Parker Pride; and numerous nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews; and loving friends.

"Giddy up, Cowboy!!! Yyyeehi!"

# Cemetery Details

## Bluejacket Cemetery

Bluejacket, OK 74333

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC **15**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Brown-Winters Funeral Home and Cremation Service  
5 B Street NW  
Miami, OK 74354  
(918) 542-3311  
info@brown-winters.com  
<https://www.brown-winters.com>

## Service

DEC **16**. 10:00 AM (CT)

First Baptist Church - Bluejacket  
480 Harris St.  
Bluejacket, OK 74333

# Tribute Wall



“ *Brown-Winters Funeral Home and Cremation Service created a Tribute Video in memory of John O. Wilkins*



**Brown-Winters Funeral Home and Cremation Service** - December 12, 2013 at 12:00 AM

EJ

“ *One of those nights, i think of you papa. i want to pick up the phone and talk about life, things others wouldn't understand. i miss you so much!!! I love you papa!!*

**Erin johnson** - May 14, 2017 at 01:54 AM

JM

“ *Johna K Mchenry lit a candle in memory of John O. Wilkins*



**johna k mchenry** - March 12, 2017 at 08:27 PM

ZM

“ I think about you and smile at the good times we shared, and then the tears begin to flow. I cry for you everyday. I wish the pain would stop. I miss you so much. I wish I could talk to you right now. I ask God every night to let me dream of you, but He doesn't let me.

*It's been a long day without you, my friend, and I'll tell you all about it when it see you again.*

*I love you forever, Papa.*

*Dutchman*

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**Zac McHenry** - April 07, 2015 at 08:43 PM

BH

“ My papa was my best friend, he was my sidekick or I was his. He called me muttonhead from the time I was a baby. I looked up to him like he never knew and I wish I would have told him. He was my buddy and I miss him and think of him everyday. When I look at my little girls eyes I see him. I miss my buddy.

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**Brian Haynes** - August 30, 2014 at 09:40 PM

EJ

“ John Wilkins was not just John Wilkins, he was a papa, he was my papa, the best papa anyone can ask for. At some times he felt more like a dad to me, or best friend because of his willingness to help me like his own daughter and nonjudgmental wisdom he was always willing to give in a time of need. My favorite thing about my papa was his sense of humor. He always made me laugh and feel better about things when life got tough. He made us all laugh. He was the coolest old man and cowboy you could ever meet, he was born to be a papa, the best papa. We are all blessed and privileged to have him apart of our lives and to be in papas family. He may not be here physically, but will always be in my heart and in spirit. I love you papa and am looking forward to seeing you in a better place when that time comes. Until then, everything you were will be an inspiration to make me a better person and to help better others through life. I love you papa!!!

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erin johnson - December 25, 2013 at 03:10 PM

JK

“ MY DADDY WAS THE MOST GENEROUS PERSON I KNEW. I WITNESSED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS GIVING HIS LAST DOLLAR TO SOMEONE HE THOUGHT NEEDED IT MORE. LIKE HIS HEART HIS HOME WAS ALWAYS OPEN FOR ANYONE WHO NEEDED TO REST THEIR HEAD. HE HAD A GREAT SENSE OF HUMOR AND ALWAYS SAID IF YOU CAN'T SAY SOMETHING GOOD, KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT. HE LOVED ANIMALS ESPECIALLY HORSES. WE WOULD GO TO THE RACES AND HAVE SUCH A GOOD TIME. HE WAS MY BUDDY! WE ALWAYS TEASED EACH OTHER ABOUT THE CHECK WE WERE GOING TO SEND ONE ANOTHER.. I NEVER HEARD HIM COMPLAIN ABOUT LACK OF MATERIAL THINGS, ALTHOUGH HE HAD DREAMS, HE WAS CONTENT. SO MANY MEMORIES. HE LOVED EVERYONE AND TOLD ME OFTEN HE WAS GOING TO WIN THE LOTTERY. WELL, DAD, YOU JUST WON THE BEST LOTTERY! HEAVEN

JOHNA K.

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JOHNA K.MCHENRY - December 21, 2013 at 01:29 PM

EJ

*You are right aunt johna! Papa has got it much better than us all now!  
Love you!*

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erin johnson - December 25, 2013 at 02:56 PM

TA

“ Johnny and I had a lot of good times. We picked up corn the picker missed with a team and wagon, We slept in a garage with beds at his dads after we came home late from the welch dance on some cold winter nights. We roped goats at my dads. We went to the state fair in Tulsa with my dad and were stopped by police for my dad driving too slow. just a lot of fun times and good memories. Johnny seen humor in events in life and if you were with him it was always a good time.

Tom Ayres

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**Tom Ayres** - December 15, 2013 at 10:24 AM

JM

THANK YOU TOM, HE WAS A GREAT DAD

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**JOHNA K. MCHENRY** - December 21, 2013 at 11:51 AM

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*"Giddy up, Cowboy!!! Yyyeehi!"*

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**james pride** - December 14, 2013 at 02:03 PM

BH

*That was a great obit dad, it really lived up to papas memory.*

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**Brian Haynes** - August 30, 2014 at 09:41 PM