**Jordan Funeral Home, Inc.**

**PO Box 46**

**Monticello, Georgia 31064**

**706-468-6303**

**Fax: 706-468-2205**

**Email: jordanfh@bellsouth.net**

William Wesley Parker, 60, passed away at his residence yesterday Wednesday, October 11, 2023.

He was born in Atlanta, Georgia, to the late Brenda Mae Harkness Parker and to William Amos Parker. He grew up in Flovilla, Georgia, and graduated from Jackson High School in 1981. Wesley joined the Georgia Army National guard where he served for six years as a track vehicle mechanic and where he received a medal as an M16 rifle expert.

Wesley learned his love of cooking from his mother when he worked at High Falls Restaurant as a teenager, and he spent his life catching catfish and serving up some of the best fish, hushpuppies, and slaw around. He was also famous around the area for his blue ribbon-winning chicken stew and barbeque sauce. He loved making fish baskets and enjoyed metal fabrication where he made cookers which he gave away to friends who enjoyed grilling.

Wesley loved the outdoors and loved hunting and fishing with Bobby Kendrick and his uncle, Johnny “Pop” Harkness, who served as a father to Wesley until his death in 2012. As an adult, Wesley loved coon hunting with his favorite dog, Lucy, and fishing for catfish in Lake Oconee.

In 1994 he met the love of his life, Brooksie Denise Sauls, on a blind date, and they married in November 1995. They have two children, Anna Grace Parker and William Christopher Parker, and they have lived in Monticello for almost thirty years.

Wesley began his career working with Central Georgia EMC and spent over thirty years working for Pike Electric. As a foreman of his crew, Wesley trained many young men in how to lay underground power cables for commercial sites and subdivisions, and he traveled to many areas hit by natural disasters and restored power to people from Florida to New York. Wesley continued working until May 2020 when he resigned after being diagnosed with frontotemporal dementia.

Even before the official diagnosis, Wesley was known for his quick-wit and frank opinions. A person never had to wonder what Wesley was thinking, and he could always diffuse a tense situation with a joke or story. He loved getting up early, drinking a pot of coffee, and watching CMT videos before he started calling and texting people who were asleep. He loved classic television shows, country music, and Southern gospel music. Smithboro Baptist Church ordained Wesley as a deacon in 1999, and he was a member of Monticello Baptist Church for fifteen years.

Wesley was preceded in death by his grandparents, Steve and Daisy Harkness, who helped raise him; nephew Christopher Patrick Ashworth; father-in-law Bobby Sauls; brother Glenn Parker; and his aunt Sharon Harkness.

He is survived by his wife Denise and children Anna and Will, as well as many family members including uncle Joe (and Dianna) Harkness of Hughesville, Maryland; uncle Sammy (and Beth) Harkness of Newnan; sister-in-law Lisa Parker and nephews Jake and Luke Parker of Huntsville, Alabama; special cousin John Harkness of Jackson, Georgia, and John’s daughters Carolyn and Audrey; and in-laws JoAnn, Lesia, Bobbi, and Joel Sauls.

Funeral services will be held Sunday, October 15, at Monticello Baptist Church, at 3:00 P.M. Internment will be held at Enon Baptist Church with military honors. The Reverend David Artessa, Donnie Pope and Rev. Wes Tanner will officiate.

The family will receive friends from 5:00 to 7:00 PM on Saturday, October 14, at Jordan Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to Monticello Baptist Church and Enon Baptist Church.

Jordan Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.