



## Lonnie George Hoppers

July 25, 1935 - November 17, 2024

Lonnie George Hoppers, son of the late Aubra George and Opal Irene (Franklin) Hoppers, was born on July 25, 1935 in Goodson, MO and departed this life on November 17, 2024 at his home near Hermitage, MO. At the time of his passing he was 89 years, three months, and 21 days of age.

Lonnie was raised near Urbana, MO and graduated from Urbana High School. He was saved and baptized at an early age and was a member of the Urbana First Baptist Church. He began playing the banjo at age 14 and professionally at age 17 as an original member of the Ozark Opry at the Lake of the Ozarks. He was drafted into the United States Army and served his country for two years. During his time in the Army, Lonnie was united in marriage to Charlene Carson on September 16, 1959 in Clarksville, TN. After his service in the Army, Lonnie joined Bill Monroe as one of the Bluegrass Boys. He was fortunate enough to record 12 songs with Bill, including "Baker's Breakdown" and "Big Sandy River." After leaving Monroe, Lonnie returned to the Kansas City, MO area where he met and started performing with a young guitar player name Dan Crary. Lonnie and Dan developed a new style of Bluegrass, performing shows in the Midwest for about 10 years. Lonnie and Charlene moved back to the Ozarks in 1978 and he began performing at Silver Dollar City, where he gained recognition for his talent and style of playing. He also performed at other Branson theatres and the Shephard of the Hills outdoor theatre. Lonnie also performed for movies and TV shows that were made in Branson. After six seasons performing at Silver Dollar City, he formed the

group Lonnie Hoppers & New Union. Lonnie was inducted into the Kentucky Colonels on June 10, 2002.

Lonnie was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Evelyn. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Charlene; one daughter, Lorrie Cobb; two grandchildren, Erika Shawn Trimble and Carson Nikolas Trimble; two great-grandchildren, Jaymes Richoz and Benjamin Baca-Castex; one brother, Danny & wife Melody Hoppers; and one sister-in-law, Louise Carson Hillman. He also leaves numerous nieces, nephews, other family members and many friends who will all truly miss him.

Graveside services will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, November 22, 2024 in the Pleasant Ridge Cemetery with Pastor Ryan Pendergraft officiating.

Escorts will be Zane Hoppers, Oliver Hillman, Michael Hoppers, Carson Trimble, Jeff Hillman, and Ben Hillman. Honorary escorts will be Bob Lovett and Greg Harmon. Visitation will be from 12:00-2:00 p.m. Friday at the Cantlon-Otterness & Viets Funeral Home in Urbana. Memorials may be made to Hickory County Cares.

# Cemetery Details

## Pleasant Ridge

29685 Hwy HH  
Urbana, MO 65767

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **22**. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Cantlon-Otterness & Viets Funeral Home - Urbana  
210 W. Broadway St.  
P.O. Box 165  
Urbana, MO 65767  
(417) 993-5133  
info@cantlonotterness.com  
<https://www.cantlonotterness.com>

## Graveside Service

NOV **22**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Pleasant Ridge  
29685 Hwy HH  
Urbana, MO 65767

# Tribute Wall

AT

“ Lonnie was one of two of my biggest influences on banjo. I followed his career from the early Lee Mace TV shows over KRCG-TV in Jeff City, Mo. to his playing in Branson. His dad, George put the Flint Hill tuners on the banjo that I bought from Arlie Booker. I was honored to call Lonnie my friend. May he liven up the heavenly band.  
Arkansas Red-Ozark Troubadour, Eureka Springs, Ozark Mountains, Arkansas

Arkansas Red-Ozark Troubadour - November 23, 2024 at 03:48 PM

LD

“ Love, Dalene planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lonnie George Hoppers.

Love, Dalene - November 21, 2024 at 10:30 AM

LD

“ Love, Dalene purchased the "On Angel's Wings" Sympathy Gift Wind Chime to Send for Funeral or Memorial for the family of Lonnie George Hoppers.



Love, Dalene - November 21, 2024 at 10:30 AM

LV

“ Love you, Julie Vaughan purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Lonnie George Hoppers.



Love you, Julie Vaughan - November 19, 2024 at 04:40 PM