



Bobby Helpinstill

December 1, 1937 - October 11, 2025

Bobby Helpinstill was born on December 1, 1937, in Rusk County to Edwin Lewis “Jack” Helpinstill and Mary Lea Riddle. He went to be with his Lord and Savior on October 11, 2025, at his home in Upshur County surrounded by family.

He spent most of his childhood in Laneville, Texas. After he graduated from Laneville High School, he joined the Army and served in Korea.

Along with his business partner Robert Childress, he established East Texas Acoustical and installed ceilings and floors across the area for over 60 years. He branched out to other businesses, including Helpinstill Christmas Tree Farm and the general store in Laneville.

The duct-tape on the spine of his Bible was a testament to how much he tried to understand the scriptures, and he did his best to live by example. In his earlier years, he served many roles in the Laneville Methodist Church including youth group leader and treasurer. Since 1995, he regularly attended Brumley Baptist Church where he taught the adult Sunday school class for many years with a down-to-earth delivery that showed how to use the lessons in daily life. For both churches, he did whatever needed doing, from mowing, to cleaning, to changing light bulbs.

Bobby was known for his generosity of spirit. He was always busy serving others, from coaching his daughters' softball teams, to volunteering on several boards, including the Laneville School, Sharon Water Supply, and being a founding member of the Texas Christmas Tree Growers Association. One of his biggest joys was supporting young people and bringing out the best in them. He loved taking the kids cow hunting in the woods and driving them in the back of the truck on terrifyingly fun rides.

He brought laughter to any situation. He would do just about anything for a joke, including telling lies, starting ridiculous rumors, and performing very very amateur magic tricks. Even in his final days and some of the hardest moments, he was cracking us up.

Even when he was not working, he was still busy most of the time. As a young man, he raced go-karts competitively with his dad as the mechanic, and he was a catcher in a semi-pro baseball league. Up until almost the very end of his life, he was still fishing and hunting, gardening and bush hogging on his tractor, and always ready to shoot hoops with anyone willing to take him on.

Bobby was preceded in death by his parents, Jack and Mary Helpinstill, and by his sister Jacque Hopkins.

He is survived by his loving wife of almost 30 years, Glenda, and his children, Saro and Ty Helpinstill, Sally Helpinstill, Wesley and Corinna Speer, and Clint Speer. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Malachi Mann, MacKenzee Speer, Wyatt Speer, Sadie Mann, and Vanessa Speer, as well as one great-grandchild Michael Malachi Mann.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to The Gideons or PrimeCare Hospice of Longview, or consider giving an act of service to your community.

Funeral services for Bobby Helpinstill, 87, of Brumley, Texas, will be held in the chapel of McWhorter Funeral Home on Wednesday, October 15, 2025. The Family will receive friends at 10:00 am, and the funeral service will begin at 11:00 am. Interment to follow at Simpsonville Cemetery.

Please visit Bobby's online registration book at www.mcwhorterfh.com to leave a memory for the family.

Cemetery Details

Simpsonville Cemetery

Fm 556
Pittsburg, TX 75686

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **15**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

McWhorter Funeral Home
1074 St. Hwy 300
Gilmer, TX 75645
(903) 734-7070
info@mcwhorterfh.com
<https://www.mcwhorterfh.com>

Service

OCT **15**. 11:00 AM (CT)

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Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Bobby Helpinstill Military Honors*



McWhorter Funeral Home - October 17, 2025 at 03:38 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Bobby Helpinstill Funeral Service*



McWhorter Funeral Home - October 17, 2025 at 03:33 PM



“ *The Reed Family - Jim, Suzanne, Ted, Lex lit a candle in memory of Bobby Helpinstill*



The Reed Family - Jim, Suzanne, Ted, Lex - October 15, 2025 at 02:09 PM

JB

“ So sorry to hear. Bobby was a great man. He was kind and funny. I have so many memories of him from working at the store and from all the MYF church outings he took us on. He put up with all our teenage shenanigans with a smile. I know he will be so missed. Thoughts and prayers att to w with you all.

Jessica Bridges - October 15, 2025 at 09:42 AM

BC

“ Bill and Tommie Crone, Glenda, We are so sorry for your loss. May God bless you and your family always. You know he will be truly missed.



Bill Crone - October 15, 2025 at 09:35 AM

CF

“ Clea Blair and Family purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Bobby Helpinstill.



Clea Blair and Family - October 14, 2025 at 12:51 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Bobby Helpinstill.



October 13, 2025 at 07:25 PM

AM

“ Amy Miley-Payne lit a candle in memory of Bobby Helpinstill



Amy Miley-Payne - October 13, 2025 at 01:47 PM

BT

The most humble man I ever knew. Loved the Lord and lived it every day.

Bo Tucker - October 15, 2025 at 09:29 AM

CJ

“ Sending my sincere condolences to Mrs. Glenda and family..



CYNTHIA JONES - October 13, 2025 at 01:35 PM

CB

“ Clela A Blair lit a candle in memory of Bobby Helpinstill



Cleta A Blair - October 12, 2025 at 08:52 PM

CB

“ *Cleta A Blair lit a candle in memory of Bobby Helpinstill*



Cleta A Blair - October 12, 2025 at 08:45 PM

NV

“ *Holding Mr. Helpinstill's family in my thoughts as y'all celebrate his life. He met each day with authenticity, living fully to the very end. His kindness, humor, and devotion touched so many and will be long remembered. May he rest in peace in the Lord's loving care.*

Nicole Vykoukal - October 12, 2025 at 08:20 PM



“ *If you ever met Bobbie you would never forget him. From the first day I met him I considered him a friend! My deepest condolences...*
Fryda Garmon

Fryda Garmon - October 12, 2025 at 06:38 PM

BB

“ *So sorry to hear of Bobby's passing !!! He was a wonderful man !!! Some of my best memories are of him when he was our youth group leader at Laneville Methodist church from the hay rides to him making us wash some guys car at 10 o'clock at night because we had egged his car when he was passing through the big town of Laneville on Halloween and us running back to Bobby's house trying to hide and the man pulled in behind us and Bobby making us wash his car !!!! It was a lesson I never forgot ...I always loved the old blue cap he wore and he surprised me one day with one of my very own !!! I was lucky to get to grow up with him around.*

Belinda Bane - October 12, 2025 at 05:25 PM

CB

I have many fond memories of Bobby when our kids were growing up in Laneville. He has been gone from Laneville for a long time but he will truly be deeply missed. Prayers going up for all the family and friends.

Cleta A Blair - October 12, 2025 at 08:51 PM

VA

“ *Sending love from Austin to all of you. May Bobby rest in peace.*

Vanessa - October 12, 2025 at 04:06 PM

AG

“ *Bobby was one of a kind! Praying for God's peace for everyone.*



Anita Gholson - October 12, 2025 at 03:55 PM

JU

I just heard of Bobby's passing. Last April Bobby and Glenda attended our Annual Simpsonville Cemetery Clean up and it was a pleasure working with both of them. Bobby has completed his earthly time and has crossed over into eternal life and I feel sure he heard well done good and faithful servant. Judy Dodson Crowder Simpsonville Cemetery Sec/Treasurer

Judy - October 18, 2025 at 06:53 AM