



## Dennis Eric "Denny" Bays

December 23, 1951 - March 25, 2011

Dennis Eric "Denny" Bays, son of the late Warren Wilson and Beverly June (Hendrix) Bays, was born December 23, 1951 in Waynesville, Missouri. Denny grew up on the family farm in Buckhorn, Missouri and attended Laquey Elementary School through 8th grade. He then began attending Waynesville High School and graduated in 1970.

Upon graduating from high school, Denny worked various construction jobs, and then went to work for St. Robert Police Department in 1978 where he completed over 1,000 hours of certified training at the Missouri Highway Patrol Academy. Denny left the department in 1983 and went back into construction for Bales Construction for many years.

In the early 1960's, Denny attended the Buckhorn Baptist Church and was baptized.

On August 17, 1985, Denny married the love of his life Yvonna G. Nelson. They were married in Waynesville and shared over 25 years of marriage together and many wonderful memories. They were blessed with three children: Eric, Lynn and Brittany.

Denny was a success at everything he did. He worked very hard at being the BEST. In earlier years, Denny was a participant of every softball league in

Pulaski County and remained very active until his love of family and horses took him back into the Barrel Racing Circuit. Denny successfully raised and trained many fast horses. He also enjoyed the outdoors to include deer hunting. His love of sports shines prominently through all his children. In his free time, Denny spent every minute he could with his family and friends especially enjoying outdoor activities. He excelled as a competitive pool player and he finally remained content on winning repeatedly on the local circuits.

Denny was a member of the Pulaski County Pool League, National Barrel Horse Association, Better Barrel Racing Association, Fortune 5 Barrel Racing Productions and the Waynesville Masonic Lodge #375 AF & AM.

Denny passed away at 5:04 p.m. Friday, March 25, 2011 at his home surrounded by his family after a long and courageous battle with cancer. He will be sadly missed, but fondly remembered by all those that knew and loved him.

Denny leaves to cherish his memory his wife: Yvonna Bays of the home; two sons: Eric Andrew Bays (wife: Heather) of Waynesville and Lynn Ray Bays (fiancé: Breonna) of Waynesville; one daughter: Brittany Gayle Waters (husband: Jake) of Buckhorn); one step-son: John August Reutter of Holts Summit; father-in-law: Leon Nelson of Waynesville; six grandchildren: Brandon, Brooklyn, Alyssa, Brooke, Samantha and Jace; two brothers-in-law: Gene Nelson (wife: Mary) Kansas City, KS and Jerry Nelson (wife: Barbara) of Waynesville; three sisters-in-law: Cheryl Brougham (husband: Tom) of Kansas City, KS, Penny Pratt (husband: Randy) of Waynesville and Susie Perry (husband: John) of Waynesville; several aunts, uncles, cousins, other relatives and friends.

In addition to his parents, Denny was preceded in death by his brother, Warren "Lynn" Bays; mother-in-law, Faye Howard and brother-in-law, Don

Nelson.

Funeral services were held at 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 30, 2011 in the Buckhorn Baptist Church with Rev. Danny Graves officiating. The songs "Beulah Land", "I'll Meet You in the Morning" and "Believe" were played. Serving as escorts were Jim Bales, Dennis Thompson, Dick Bales, Terry Robertson, Ron Long, Jerry Chilton, Brad Richards, Rick Ransom, Glen Hidgon, Tony Pitcock and Ron Pinkston.

Burial followed in the Waynesville Memorial Park with Mr. Dale Eads providing his horse drawn buckboard team to transport Denny to the cemetery. Services were under the direction of Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville/St. Robert.

Memorial contributions may be made in memory of Denny Bays to the Don Nelson Scholarship Fund or to the Bays Family and may be left at the funeral home.

# Previous Events

## Service

MAR **30**. 1:00 PM (CT)

Buckhorn Baptist Church  
26195 Highway 17  
Waynesville, MO

# Tribute Wall



“ *Memorial Chapels and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Dennis Eric "Denny" Bays*



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**Memorial Chapels and Crematory** - March 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dennis Eric "Denny" Bays*

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January 28, 2023 at 06:53 AM



“ *R.I.P Denny, your friend John Franklin##imported-begin##john franklin##imported-end##*

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June 23, 2011 at 10:10 AM



“ *So sorry for your loss he will be missed peace be with you and your family##imported-begin##Shari Bollenbach##imported-end##*

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April 07, 2011 at 12:53 PM



“ *So Sorry for your loss.##imported-begin##linda cole schonbok##imported-end##*

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March 31, 2011 at 05:44 PM



“ Yvonna & family-God is holding you safely in His arms. May His love bless you and comfort you. Denny was a loving husband & father, I was proud to know him. I am praying for you.##imported-begin##Shirley Willits Stanley##imported-end##

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March 29, 2011 at 07:07 PM



“ Sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.##imported-begin##Linda & Chuck Nicks##imported-end##

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March 29, 2011 at 06:16 PM



“ Yvonne and family, You are in our thoughts and prayers. Let us know if there is anything we can do. Denny will be missed.##imported-begin##Jeanette Grice Rooks##imported-end##

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March 29, 2011 at 05:30 PM



“ YG: My prayers and thoughts are with you and your family. Denny is currently home in a place without pain. I am sure he is shooting pool on those gold plated tables.##imported-begin##Roger Layman##imported-end##

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March 29, 2011 at 01:01 PM



“ We were glad to have known Denny, I am praying for your family!##imported-begin##Russ Dixon##imported-end##

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March 29, 2011 at 12:13 PM



“ Denny's family, please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers.##imported-begin##Roy and Janet York##imported-end##

March 29, 2011 at 09:57 AM



“ Sorry for the loss of Denny he fought a long and hard fight. He will be missed.##imported-begin##SUE COVERT##imported-end##

March 29, 2011 at 09:25 AM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with you in your time of loss.##imported-begin##Jerri Shreve##imported-end##

March 28, 2011 at 08:02 PM



“ Nelson, I'm so very for your loss. My Dad loved you and Denny so much. For the longest time growing up i even knew Nelson wasn't your name but that's what my Dad called you. Denny use to hold me at the fires when they would go on calls and when Lenny and Denny were around i can remember all the stories they would always tell. One time to scare me they sent Denny in his cop uniform to pick me up from a friends house , i was so scared but i trusted him after that. He taught me so many things playing pool as we were growing up. When Dad wasnt able to be there I could always call Denny and he would understand and be there for me and my girls. My deepest prayers go out to you and the kids, may he rest in peace. I'm sure him and My Dad are shooting the Sh\*t right now. Love, Bonnie (Sissy ) Mentola##imported-begin##Bonnie Mentola##imported-end##

March 28, 2011 at 07:00 PM



“ Sorry for the loss.##imported-begin##Mark and Lesli Scott##imported-end##

March 28, 2011 at 06:46 PM



“ So sorry##imported-begin##Bonnie Wilson##imported-end##

March 28, 2011 at 05:59 PM



“ Your family's strength & courage is inspiring. Denny is at peace now. God Bless .##imported-begin##Chuck & Becky Dunne##imported-end##

March 28, 2011 at 12:07 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the whole family. May you feel the peace, comfort and strength only God can give to get thru the coming days.##imported-begin##Boyd, Donna, & AJ Hendrix##imported-end##

March 28, 2011 at 11:03 AM



“ Yvonna and family, we are so sorry for your loss. Denny was such a kind soul and always had a smile on his face. He loved life even with the challenges it presented for him. We hope the wonderful memories will help you find some comfort in this difficult time. With love, Cindy and Jess Grizzell##imported-begin##Cindy Grizzell##imported-end##

March 28, 2011 at 09:55 AM



“ Yvonna & family,  
Denny is in a much better place now and with no suffering, he has fought a long battle. May God give you peace and strength during this time. Our loss is Heaven's gain.##imported-begin##Pamela Cox##imported-end##

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March 28, 2011 at 09:54 AM



“ So Sorry to hear of your loss Yvonne & family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you & the family##imported-begin##Tom & Nita(arrington) Bowman##imported-end##

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March 27, 2011 at 08:48 PM



“ So sorry for your loss but no more pain, he fought for a long time he was a good friend and quit a guy he loved his family and life. Your family are in our prayers##imported-begin##Stephanie & Billy Fenton##imported-end##

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March 27, 2011 at 08:32 PM



“ There were many fond memories with you Denny as I grew up with my dad may the lord carry to further memories in the future, you will be dearly missed!!##imported-begin##John Dustin Newell##imported-end##

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March 27, 2011 at 08:00 PM



“ So sorry for your loss. Denny was a special part of our life and will never be forgotten. Ride em cowboy!!!##imported-begin##Bill snd Carleen Decker##imported-end##

March 27, 2011 at 02:55 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Denny will be greatly missed by all who knew him.##imported-begin##Bill and Rita Pollreisz##imported-end##

March 27, 2011 at 02:16 PM



“ I will always remember Denny's smile and his love for his family. My deepest sympathy to you all. May you find comfort through God and your memories of a wonderful man.##imported-begin##JennyAnne Saltzman##imported-end##

March 27, 2011 at 12:41 PM



“ My old and dear friend the memories we share. I will miss you very much. The heavens are in for a real treat having a wonerful man like you to walk with our lord jeus.I am so sorry for your loss Yvonne.  
Love You,  
Joe##imported-begin##Joe & Theresa Tanner##imported-end##

March 27, 2011 at 12:25 PM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with you. Celebrate the life and the love as God has called a good man home.##imported-begin##Frank Weigand##imported-end##

March 27, 2011 at 07:23 AM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you. He fought a valiant fight.##imported-begin##Carol Welch##imported-end##*

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March 26, 2011 at 11:19 PM



“ *All of you are in our prayers. May God comfort and give you strength. Denny will be missed by alot of friends and especially family.##imported-begin##Rod and Joetta Hendrix##imported-end##*

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March 26, 2011 at 10:53 PM



“ *Yvonne,*

*My thoughts and prayers are with you*

*Carolyn##imported-begin##Carolyn Wilson Bufalo##imported-end##*

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March 26, 2011 at 09:32 PM



“ *We are losing alot of our old friends lately and Denny is definitely one of those. I will remember Denny with a smile. Everytime I was with him, it was a fun time. I am sorry that he had to suffer so the last few years. I hope that you find comfort in the good memories and that he is not suffering anymore. Hugs and love to you all.##imported-begin##Luge Hardman##imported-end##*

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March 26, 2011 at 07:42 PM



“ Yvonna and family, my heartfelt sympathy to all of you in the loss of Denny. I always felt a bond with him because of my Dad..he was a great guy and will be greatly missed, but take comfort in knowing he is home with his Lord and no more pain and suffering.##imported-begin##Sheila Debo##imported-end##

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March 26, 2011 at 07:37 PM



“ Sorry to hear about Denny, we met last week in the ICU, God Bless you and your family##imported-begin##Mary Richards##imported-end##

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March 26, 2011 at 07:29 PM



“ Yvonna, sorry to hear of Denny's death. Remember fondly the Great times competing with and against Denny in our younger softball days. You and family will be in my prayers.##imported-begin##Ben Lord##imported-end##

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March 26, 2011 at 06:11 PM



“ Yvonna and Family,  
Jean and I are traveling in California and can't be there for the services. We were just talking about wondering how Denny was doing the other day. Our condolences are with you, and we know Denny is with his Lord and in rest.  
Bill & Jean O'Dell##imported-begin##Bill & Jean O'Dell##imported-end##

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March 26, 2011 at 03:40 PM



“ We are so sorry for your families loss. He will be missed by so many. We will keep your family in our prayers and thoughts .  
Your neighbors,  
Mike & Retha Bennett###imported-begin###Mike & Retha Bennett###imported-end##

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March 26, 2011 at 03:23 PM



“ Oh, how to say what we feel to the family. You have our deepest condolences. Marjorie and I have known the Bays family from out teen years. Denny's mother rode to work with us back in the mid to late 50's, We went to church together along with his grandma and grandpa Rose and Claude Hendrix. So many fond memories. I enjoyed spending time with Denny this past fall. We pray God's comfort to the family. Denny is at peace with his Lord now, God's Blessings to all his family. Norman and Marjorie Stoll###imported-begin###Norman & Marjorie Stoll###imported-end##

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March 26, 2011 at 02:20 PM



“ So sorry for your loss. My prayers go out to you and your family.###imported-begin###Linda Carroll###imported-end##

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March 26, 2011 at 02:11 PM