



## Mr. William Robert Ingram

July 13, 1941 - March 31, 2025

Bill Ingram died Monday, March 31, 2025, at his home, surrounded by his family. He had been under hospice care with congestive heart failure. He was 83.

Bill was born July 13, 1941, in Lineville, AL. He attended Lineville High School where he was the captain of the football team and played on the state all-star basketball team. He was offered a scholarship to the University of Georgia, and Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant tried to recruit him to Alabama, but Bill needed a little work on his academics, so he went to Snead Junior College where he played basketball for the Parsons and became quite successful. Bill was named MVP in 1960, All-Region 7 in 1961, All-Small College in 1961, All-Dixie Conference in 1960 and '61, and All-American in 1961. He attended Auburn University, played basketball, and attended last year's Auburn Letterman Weekend. After Auburn, he was a coach and teacher at Atmore High School where he took the team to the state tournament the first year. Principal Banny Newman recruited Bill to Guntersville to coach football and basketball for the 1964-65 year.

Larger than life, the 6'8" Ingram loved people and was known as a great host.

After his coaching career, Bill began his restaurant business when he moved to Atlanta to work with the expansion of Waffle House in its early years before

founding the Omelet Shoppe. He then helped establish Billy Bob's Downhome Eats and later started Chopstix Express where he brought in chefs from Taiwan to train the staff.

From the restaurant business Bill moved into sales. He worked with engineers at Auburn University to create the Versa Bath Seat, an FDA approved shower seat for the elderly and disabled. Hotels all over the nation bought the device.

He and his wife Nancy started their own business, E-Swallow, a training program for people needing to learn to swallow again. Speech pathologists used this program.

Bill served a term on the Marshall County School Board and ran for the Alabama State Senate.

Bill loved big boats and was a member of the Lake Guntersville Yacht Club for many years. He loved to travel. He was a devout Christian. He and Nancy had been married 25 years.

The funeral service was at Guntersville First Methodist on Friday, April 4.

Survivors include his wife, Nancy Ingram; children: Billy, Melanie I. Kirklin (Chad), Amy Ingram, Amber Ingram, and stepson Jim Beard (Brandi). He was uncle to Suzanne Morris (Glenn) and Joel Poole (Amy); a grandfather to Nicholas (Charity), Chad, Kyle, Taylore (DeShawn), Reighan (Braxton), Jayleen, Landen, Wyatt, Jake, Katie, and Abigail Beard; and a great-grandfather to Avion, Amari, Jayden, Noah, and Heaven.

He was preceded in death by his parents Chester and Louis Ingram; sisters and their husbands Sue Walker (Clyde) and Anne Poole (Charles); and stepson Seth Beard.

The family would like to thank Home Help, Shepherd's Cove Hospice, and Dr. John Boggess.

# Tribute Wall

LS

“ I am Lucia Smith and I was your father Billy Bob personal assistant many years ago when they were just getting started with his first restaurant and Meritt Roger’s was one of his CEO’s. If I remember correctly they were located on Citation Court in Himewoid Alabama. I am now 75 years old but hold all the memories close to my heart. He was one of the most awesome person I have ever known. I am so sorry to hear about his passing . It really made me feel sad. I wish his children and wife and family all the luck in the world. I will always cherish that time in my life . God be with him as he travels his new journey.

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**Lucia Smith** - August 29, 2025 at 07:08 PM

BL

*First, I extend my sincere prayers for healing and acceptance to Mr. Ingram's wife and all his children, his stepsons, and his "Grands."*

*I believe this Mr Ingram has to be the same man, who taught tenth and eleventh grade English - and was a BASKETBALL coach - at Escambia County High in Atmore, AL I know the B.B.I, whose obituary was shared on this site page, HAS to be the charming funny, handsome teacher, who was one of my all time favorites.*

*I was one of his English students and often graded papers for him. During BB season, I graded more papers than did Coach Ingram ;-). To know him was to love him!*

*I'm in charge of ECHS's senior class's 60th reunion in May of this year. We have invited five of our former teaches, two from elementary school, one from junior high , and two from ECHS.*

*Tonight, out of the blue, the name Coach BILLY BOB INGRAM came to mind. Someone from Atmore told me a couple of years ago that "Coach Ingram" sometimes went to Auburn for events/reunions with former AU*

*BB players and coaches. SO, I Googled his name and was saddened to read that Coach has recently gone to glory, as have ALL, but one, of ECHS's coaches of the mid-1960s and too many of our male athletes in the Class of 1966, including our star BB player, one of our two Co-Captains of our BLUE DEVIL football team, and our QB, and his Daddy, who Mr Ingram coached with as a new teacher at ECHS. Plus 37 more of our classmates.*

*How I wish I'd had this eerie memory and fierce "need" to search for Coach Ingram before our 55th reunion.*

*Mrs Ingram, please accept the sincerest wishes for the healing and peace for you and your family.*

*With affection & remembered fondness from  
The ECHS Class of 1966  
Atmore, AL*

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**Bonnie Bartel Latino** - March 26 at 12:46 AM