



## Marion Wesley Blankenship Jr

August 27, 1940 - January 21, 2026

Marion Wesley Blankenship Jr, age 85, of Irwin County, passed away on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at his residence.

He was born on August 27, 1940 in Tifton, GA to the late Marion W. Blankenship Sr and Mamie Lou Craig Thompson. He was a skilled welder and worked for many years using his trade. He was also a proud veteran- serving 4 years in the U.S Army. Marion loved to be on the go and traveling- if it would have been up to him, him and his family would have hoped in the car and spent their time traveling all over the U.S. He swept his wife, Virginia Harp Blankenship, off her feet and they eloped to Texas, and the rest was history, spending almost 51 years married and creating a beautiful life together. In his younger years when his mother was still living- he never missed a weekend going and visiting her and his stepfather- George Thompson. He and Virginia spent many Saturdays in Ty Ty with his family. Family meant everything to him and he loved his people fiercely. Marion could be found watching ole westerns (on max volume and rerun after rerun) but especially Gunsmoke- that was one of his favorites. He also loved tending to his goats- he took pride in raising them and cared greatly for them. He was an active man- staying busy doing something- even if he was doing nothing, and he leaves behind an impact on all who knew him.

Survivors include his wife- Virginia Blankenship, daughters- Pamela Gail

Skaggs, Marion Lesley Blankenship, and Virginia Ann Istre, grandchildren- Ivy & Diana, Jared & Gloria, Zachary, Cassidy, and Courtney & Shane, great grandchildren- Brayden, Adalynne, Ivy, Genni, Addilynn, Elijah, and Jackson, as well as his brother and sister in laws- Judy Garren, June McLaren, Evelyn McDaniel, and Allen Harp.

In addition to his father, mother, and stepfather- he was preceded in death by a sister- Shirley Koch.

Services will be held at 5:00pm, Friday, January 23, 2026 at the Reflection Chapel. Visitation will be held from 4:00 until service time.

In lieu of flowers- service donations can be made- please call 229-445-3616 to donate.

Reflection Cremation & Funeral Service is serving the family during this time.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN **23**. 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Reflection Cremation & Funeral Service  
106 12th St E  
Tifton, GA 31794  
(229) 445-3616  
<https://www.reflectioncremation.com/>

## Service

JAN **23**. 5:00 PM (ET)

Reflection Cremation & Funeral Service  
106 12th St E  
Tifton, GA 31794  
(229) 445-3616  
<https://www.reflectioncremation.com/>

# Tribute Wall

TB

“ *Praying for all of you! May you find peace in the coming days.*

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**Terry Bailey-Lamb** - January 23 at 07:17 AM

BL

“ *Betty Lawson lit a candle in memory of  
Marion Wesley Blankenship Jr*



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**Betty Lawson** - January 22 at 06:21 PM