



William "Bill" Grimes Goree

July 20, 2025

William "Bill" Grimes Goree, of Fort Collins Colorado, passed away June 20, 2025 at age 97 after a short illness.

Bill was born July 27, 1927 in his family's one-bedroom house in rural Palo Pinto County, Texas

He was preceded in death by his parents William Arlin Goree and Viola Grimes; his siblings Raymond Goree, Patsy Goree Porter, and Jo An Goree; his first wife Ruth Wilson Goree and second wife Fern Dannelley Goree.

He is survived by his sons Paul Goree of Fort Collins, Colorado and John Arlin Goree of Iowa City, Iowa; and his grandchildren Katherine Goree and Martin Goree.

Bill's family moved to the lower Rio Grande Valley when he started fourth grade. When he graduated from sixth grade, he was surprised to discover only then that his given name was not Billy.

Bill graduated from high school in Laredo Texas at age 16, and started Howard Payne College in Brownwood, Texas, travelling there from Laredo by hitchhiking. He graduated from Howard Payne at age 19. He then moved to Fresno, California where he worked on his uncle's farm.

Bill was a loving and devoted husband, father and grandfather. He married

Ruth after they graduated from Howard Payne, and they started a family near Fresno, where he became the first pastor of a newly organized Baptist church.

Bill later moved to Texas, where he worked as a “doodlebugger” on a seismic exploration crew. That crew moved among oil fields in Colorado, Utah, and Nevada, which meant frequent moves for his young family, leading him to settle in 1956 in Cortez, Colorado, where he became a teacher, which was his profession thereafter. He also taught in nearby Mancos and Dolores Colorado, and received a Master of Arts from Adams State College in Colorado in 1969. Later he taught in Artesia, New Mexico and then finished his teaching career in Odessa, Texas. He sometimes came to school dressed convincingly as Abe Lincoln, with hat and beard.

Bill was an enthusiastic member of many organizations. As a private pilot, he helped found a flying club in Cortez Colorado, and he was active many years as a Gideon.

After the death of Ruth, Bill married their mutual friend from college, Fern. They were members of the First Baptist Church of Midland, Texas.

Bill had a passion for ministry, which he fulfilled in his early retirement by organizing a mission in Santa Elena, Mexico. That mission work was followed by tours of service, together with Fern, for the Southern Baptist International Mission Board in the cities of Francistown and Selebi Phikwe, in Botswana.

A memorial service will be held 2 PM Saturday, September 6, in the chapel at Wiley Funeral Home, Granbury, Texas. Interment of ashes will follow in the Granbury Cemetery.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

SEP 6. 2:00 PM (CT)

Wiley Funeral Home
400 East US Hwy 377
Granbury, TX 76048

Interment of ashes will follow in the Granbury Cemetery.

Tribute Wall

DP

“ It was a joy to be with Bill for many years in the Brotherhood group at FBC Midland. Thank God for his loving and faithful servant hood. “When you’re retired, every day is a Saturday” was one of his favorite remarks. I miss you, Bill

Dave Percy - August 05, 2025 at 07:49 PM

SD

“ I was thankful to have Bill in my life because of his marriage to Fern. He is a kind and caring person. When I would stay at times with Fern and Bill I remember him being faithful in reading his Bible and sharing with those visiting. Since my father had passed away it was a blessing to have Bill in my and my family's life for those years our paths crossed. Prayers for his son's and their families over this time of separation. May many good memories carry you through this time of adjustment to his physical absence in your lives. Know he was loved by my family over the years he played the grandpa role for them. God's blessings on you over the days and years ahead.

Sylvia Dannelley-McCree - August 02, 2025 at 11:11 PM

CH

“ We had served with Fern in Botswana when she was single. Then she married Bill and he was loved by all. It was as though Bill was always a part of us. He served Fern and others with such joy and passion. What an amazing man! Grieving with you. Dan and Carol Hylden

Carol Hylden - August 02, 2025 at 08:44 PM