

**Howard D. Lester:**

Age 63, a resident of Farmington, Arkansas, passed from this life Thursday, August 13, 2020. He was born January 14, 1957 in Lubbock, Texas, the son of the late Walter and Lillie Lester.

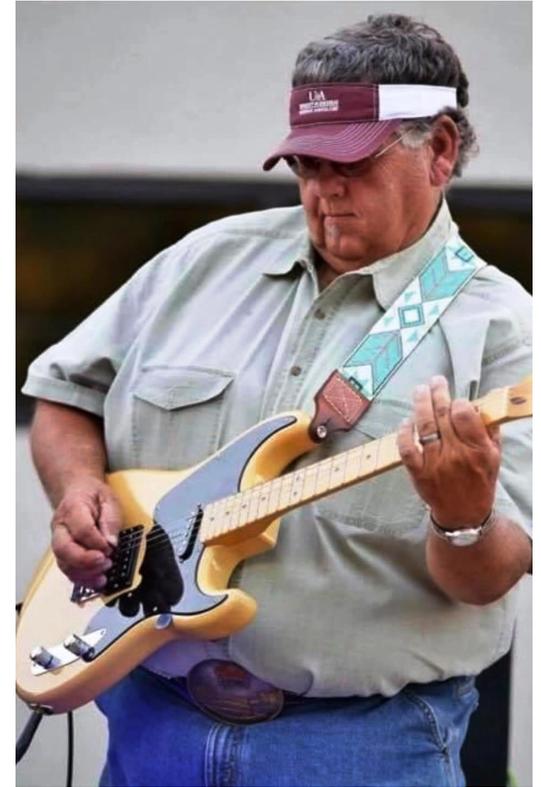
Howard was a loving husband of 42 years to his wife Cheryl (Hembree) Lester. He is survived by his sons Dennis Lester and wife Kayla of Pineville, Missouri, Justin Blankenship and his wife Savannah of Siloam Springs, Arkansas, and grandchildren Billy Joe and Braxton Blankenship, Georgia “G” Lester and Bella Cate Keenen.

Howard was a 41-year employee of the University of Arkansas. His passion for the Poultry Industry was evident in his work as he demanded perfection. During his tenure at the University, he mentored countless college students in life and careers. Among other industry accolades, Howard was awarded the Poultry Science Association Tyson Foods, Inc. Support Personnel of the Year Award and The University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Non-Classified Support Personnel Award.

Howard’s influence within the equine and rodeo industry is far reaching. Whether Howard was competing in events, judging rodeos, or being a mentor, you could always find him at the back of the team roping box, reading the steers, seeing the out, and coaching the aspiring rodeo athletes of yesterday and today.

In keeping with the family tradition, at a young age Howard joined his father on stage as a member of the Boston Mountain Playboys. His love of good music and dedication to perfecting his guitar skills fostered his undeniable musical talents which were enjoyed by many. His ability to recognize and appreciate others’ musical talents led to a multi-generational band and life-long friendships. Most recently, you could even find his grandchildren onstage playing alongside their Papa Howard.

Howard lived his life his own way, and in doing so, he impacted and gained the respect of many. He loved unconditionally and left a legacy that will not be forgotten. To honor that legacy, a Memorial Team Roping and Musical Celebration is being planned for the coming months.



***Howard D. Lester***  
**January 14, 1957 - August 13, 2020**

He’s just a singer,  
a natural-born guitar ringer

Kind of a clinger to sad old songs

He’s not a walk-behinder,  
he’s a new note finder

His name’s a reminder of a blues man  
that’s already gone

Hank Williams Jr.

**APPRECIATION**

On behalf of the family, we wish to express their gratitude for your many acts of kindness, and for your attendance at the funeral service.

**Luginbuel Funeral Home**

**Prairie Grove, Arkansas**

online guest book, visit [www.luginbuel.com](http://www.luginbuel.com)

# The Cowboy's Prayer

by Clem McSpadden

Our gracious heavenly Father, we pause in the midst of this occasion, mindful of the many blessings you have bestowed upon us.

As cowboys, Lord, we don't ask for any special favors. We ask only that you will let us compete in this arena as in the arena of life.

We don't ask that we never break a barrier, draw around a chute-fighting horse, or draw a steer that just won't lay. We don't even ask for all daylight runs.

We only ask that you help us to compete in life as honest as the horses we ride and in a manner as clean and as pure as the wind that blows across this great land of ours.

Help us, Lord, to live our lives in such a manner that when we make that last inevitable ride to the country up there, where the grass grows lush, green and stirrup high, and the water runs cool, clear and deep, that you, as our last Judge, will tell us that our entry fees are paid.

Amen



## CELEBRATING THE LIFE & MEMORY OF

Howard D. Lester

### DATE, TIME & PLACE OF SERVICE

Friday, August 21, 2020 - 10:00 A.M.  
Dutch Mills Cemetery Pavilion

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### ORDER OF SERVICE

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#### “Go Rest High on that Mountain”

**Opening Remarks** **Seth Jones**

**The Cowboy's Prayer** **Jeff Lee**

#### “Till I Gain Control Again”

**Words of Comfort** **Seth Jones**

#### Closing Prayer

#### “Faded Love”

*Musicians: Russ Hutchison, Jerry Rogers  
and Walter Bottje*

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### FINAL RESTING PLACE

Dutch Mills Cemetery

### PALLBEARERS

Tyler Bottje - PJ Brown - Drew Buchanan  
Shawn Curtis - Grant Keenen - Jeremy Lynch  
Jeremy Mabry - Bo Mabry - Cole Mott

### HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Jimmy Bowen - Walter Bottje - Jimmy Fields  
David Dodd - Billy Hargis - Chris Lynch  
Junior McCratic - Harlan Mott  
Earl Thomas - Rodney Wolfe  
and host of other friends that Howard considered family



# Letter from Heaven

When tomorrow starts without me,  
and I'm not here to see,

if the sun should rise and find your eyes,  
filled with tears for me.

I wish so much you wouldn't cry,  
the way you did today,  
while thinking of the many things  
we didn't get to say.

I know how much you love me,  
as much as I love you,  
and each time you think of me,  
I know you'll miss me too.

When tomorrow starts without me,  
don't think we're far apart,  
for every time you think of me,  
I'm right here in your heart.

