



Rev. William R. Eccles

March 18, 1931 - July 5, 2024

William R. Eccles was born March 18, 1931 in Mansfield, Ohio to John Kent Eccles and Edith (Wilcox) Eccles. He went to be with Jesus, July 5, 2024 at the age of 93.

William was quite the athlete in his youth. He was known as “Billy the Kid” for being a Golden Glove Middleweight Boxing Champion of Ohio. As a boxer, he accepted Jesus into his heart and his life changed from a “reckless career”. He was called into the ministry at age 18 and then after he was known as the “Hallelujah Kid.”

William graduated from Mansfield Sr. High and from there went to Southwestern Assemblies of God College. He received his Bachelors degree from Central State University. He went on to complete his Master’s of Theological Studies in 1982.

In 1950, he was licensed with the Assemblies of God in the state of Oklahoma and ordained in 1951.

William married the love of his life, Dorothy M. Reffel, on November 20, 1951 and they were married almost 73 years. They were blessed with three children: Debra Ann, Pamela Sue, and William Douglas.

Bill and Dorothy pastored for 54 years in churches located in Ohio, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Michigan.

William R. Eccles is survived by his wife, Dorothy M. Eccles, and children, Debbie (Kimm) King, Pamela (Tony) Wakefield, and son, Doug (Laurie) Eccles. They have five grandchildren, Schuyler, Rob (Sarah), Sally (Hector), Hope, and Lilly. There will soon be two great grandchildren in the family.

Bill is preceded in death by his parents, John Kent and Edith Eccles and brother, Kent Eugene Eccles.

Visitation will be held at: Hayhurst Funeral Home, Broken Arrow, OK, Wednesday, July 10, 2024, 12:00pm-8:00pm. *Calling hours for family will be 6:00pm-8:00pm.

Please join us in celebrating Bill's life on Thursday, July 11, 2024, 11:00am at: Bixby First Assembly of God.

*In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations for fresh water wells be made to: holyghostcelebration.org Paypal/Cashapp/Venmo/Zelle accepted.

Cemetery Details

Bixby Cemetery

Bixby, OK 74008

Previous Events

Viewing

JUL 10. 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Hayhurst Funeral Home
1660 South Elm Place
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
(918) 258-9623
hayhurstfuneralhome@gmail.com

Visitation

JUL 10. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Hayhurst Funeral Home
1660 South Elm Place
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
(918) 258-9623
hayhurstfuneralhome@gmail.com

Funeral Service

JUL 11. 11:00 AM (CT)

Bixby Assembly of God Church
107 North Stanley
Bixby, OK 74008
<http://www.bixbyfirst.com>

Tribute Wall

CA

“ I know is a little late to write this comments, but I should say that I had the privilege to know Pastor William Eccles when they were pastoring an Assembly of God Church with his wife, Dorothy, at Livonia, Michigan. We, with my family, as Latin Church, were renting him the Church on Sundays afternoon, for having our Sunday Service there. He always was opened to new non-english Churches, and always had the vision to extend the Gospel to Latins. I remember him coming some times in the afternoon to our Spanish Service saying 'Amen!' with the sense that we were glorifying the Lord. Then, for some reasons, we dismissed our spanish congregation, and we moved up north, but I was working in Canton, Michigan. I had to commute to Reed City on the weekends, and live during the week in Livonia. Pastor William and Dorothy offered me to help by renting (low cost) me a room during the week. So I had the privilege to live in their house during the week. What I mostly remember is that he always had his Bible right besides him. There were times when we started to recite some psalms, and he recited them by heart! He was a really Godly man! He was my spiritual mentor! I really miss him! I can imagine God's words saying to him '...Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' Matthew 25:23 Amen!

CARLOS E AVELAR - April 11 at 09:07 PM

JP

“ The memory of knowing him came to me this morning, although I've thought of him many times in my life. I knew him when I was a young boy in Ohio going to church by myself, getting rides visiting other churches, being part of his family for short times with his wife and two girls. I thank the good lord for allowing me to know him and life being changed due to the hours I spent with them. I was turned away at the door to Bethel one Sunday because my cloths were not appropriate, I never went back, my life was changed. But God sent me there and I gave myself to Jesus and that has never wavered and never will. I thank him for his kindness in my prayers and pray he'll be there to greet me when I go home to be with the lord. My life turned out fine, 21 months in Vietnam, married with a wonderful Christian wife, 3 wonderful children, successful in business And I love the lord and thank him every day for my Salvation and the wonderful life I've lived. I'm 80 years old and well. John Parker

John Parker - August 16, 2025 at 01:10 PM

SB

“ We were privileged to have known Brother Eccles during his retirement years in Tulsa. Retirement was such a loose word for him. He always shared his Faith, Love and message of Hope to others. He loved Butch and me and we felt it while in his presence. We call it a blessing to have known him and Dorothy during this time. I am certain that he is at the feet of Jesus in Glory. See you soon, my friend.
Samantha Bridgers

SAMANTHA S BRIDGERS - July 11, 2024 at 06:13 AM

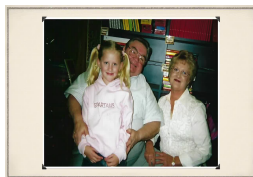
HF

“ *What a family. When my Husband was in hospital. Bro Eckles called him everyday and that 53 days and he prayed with him. I appreciated it so much
I know they are rejoycing now. I am praying for all of you. Helen Fischer*

Helen Fischer - July 10, 2024 at 09:33 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Pictorial Video Tribute*



Hayhurst Funeral Home - July 10, 2024 at 02:30 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Rev. William R. Eccles.*



July 09, 2024 at 08:28 AM

VB

“ *Vickie Reid and Susan Boyd planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Eccles.*

Vickie Reid and Susan Boyd - July 09, 2024 at 08:28 AM

JB

“ Jim Bailie purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Rev. William R. Eccles.



Jim Bailie - July 08, 2024 at 08:37 PM

MM

“ I will be forever grateful for the impact Pastor Eccles had on my life. His influence is a big part of who I am today. Rest it peace, pastor, until we meet again.

Mark McCord - July 08, 2024 at 08:07 PM

RO

“ Well done my good and faithful servant

Rodney Ogden - July 08, 2024 at 06:43 PM



“ My parents and I were friends of Bro. and Sis. Eccles. I pray for the comfort from the Lord, during your time of mourning!

Kerby Pugh - July 08, 2024 at 06:35 PM

BH

“ Brother Eccles will always have a very special place in all of the Holt family 's hart for the love and support he and all of his family showed all of us at the time of our beautiful Mother's passing.He will never be forgotten .our Love and prayers are with you at this time. The family of Edna Holt



Ben Holt - July 08, 2024 at 05:58 PM

ST

“ Steve&Klara and Toby&Sharon purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Rev. William R. Eccles.



Steve&Klara and Toby&Sharon - July 08, 2024 at 05:17 PM

CC

“ Chris & Tonya Crall purchased the Psalm 23 Tribute Blanket for the family of Rev. William R. Eccles.



Chris & Tonya Crall - July 07, 2024 at 05:11 PM

MB

“ Mason and Mallory Bailey purchased the Your Light Shines for the family of Rev. William R. Eccles.



Mason and Mallory Bailey - July 06, 2024 at 02:21 PM

RB

“ What a man of faith! His life's testimony of living for Jesus is great! Brother Eccles was my pastor at Woodward Assembly of God during my growing up years. What an impact he made on my life. He lived what he preached, he practiced it daily! Family and friends will miss him here, but what rejoicing there is heaven! A great homecoming as Christ welcomes him into heaven. God bless the Eccles family. You are in my thoughts and prayers!

Rosemary Hammans Butler - July 06, 2024 at 02:09 PM

HH

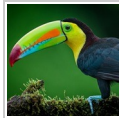
“ It is our honor and privilege to serve the Eccles family and to provide this permanent tribute website in memory of William.

Hayhurst Funeral Home - July 05, 2024 at 02:15 PM

ES

Pastor Eccles and his family have meant so much to our family through the years. I spent many hours in their home through my childhood and teen years. The man definitely lived what he preached. He performed our wedding, dedicated our children and remained a pastor to our family long after we had all moved in different directions. He made the trek to visit our Dad in the Tulsa hospital and ministered to us all. He was deeply loved and respected. We all will miss his presence here. but he is rejoicing with his savior he served so faithfully.

Eldena Smith - July 05, 2024 at 06:36 PM



Even late, I just want to say that Pastor William Eccless was my best model of a Spiritual Father. He had special bond with us as latinos, specially with my family. He always believed that we all belong to the great God's family throught he new born in Christ Jesus. I had the privilege to be his guest for more than 8 months at his house. He with Dorothy always share God's Love by supporting spiritually their family, and the flock they were pastoring. Some times, as my spiritual fahter, he corrected me, and I learned from him his passion for the Lord and His Word. I remember his writtings on paper, before he will going to be preaching, and all the verses he knew by heart. Sometimes in the middle of our talking, we were reciting those verses, and edifying us by listening them. When he left us going to Oklahoma for living, we were very sad, but we knew ourselves, that someday we will see us again, and that's the hope that we keep in our hearts. I celebrate his life Today, and that he is facing his savior, who he loved all his life! Blessings, Carlos E Avelar.

Carlos Avelar - September 16, 2024 at 04:24 PM