

## Hal Hudson Guthrie, Sr.

March 6, 1937 - September 30, 2019

Hal Hudson Guthrie, Sr., the Founder of Guthrie's Restaurants, passed away Monday September 30, 2019, in Haleyville, AL. Hal was born on March 6, 1937 in Jasper, AL. He spent his childhood there, and went on to graduate from Auburn University. Hal moved to Haleyville in 1965 where he founded the first Guthrie's Restaurant. He then married Melissa Savage in 1966. They raised 4 children (Chris, Hud, Joe Kelly and Anna Margaret). In 1978, Hal introduced chicken fingers to the Guthrie's menu, and the famous sauce was created that same day. In 1982, Hal and his oldest son, Chris, opened what became the world's first chicken finger restaurant in Auburn, AL. Thus, pioneering the chicken finger restaurant industry. The simple concept was a huge hit and the Guthrie family started opening restaurants all across the South. In 2005, the Guthrie family started Franchising and continues to this day. Hal was instrumental in helping design and construct several churches. He enjoyed piloting his own planes, boating and operating heavy equipment.

Hal is preceded in death by his mother Ila Vee Guthrie, his father Clarence Terrell "Bo" Guthrie, and his son Chris Guthrie.

He is survived by his wife Melissa Savage Guthrie, his children Hud (Mindi), Joe Kelly (Jennifer), Anna Margaret and Chris' wife Tara. His grandchildren, Chase, Ryan, Kassidy, Brancen, Sawyer, Tanner, Garrison, and Campbell. His brother Terrell Guthrie (Patsy A. Guthrie), two nephews, Alan Parks and the

Honorable Clarence Guthrie, and 3 great grandchildren.

Visitation will be held at the First Baptist Church in Haleyville, AL on Thursday, October 3, 2019 from 2-4 PM and the funeral will begin at 4 PM at the church with Rev. Nathan Carroll, Dr. Richard Trader, Bro. Preston Headrick and Dr. Eddie Lawrence officiating. Burial will follow in Winston Memorial Cemetery. Pinkard Funeral Home, Haleyville will be directing.

You may leave online condolences at [www.pinkardfh.com](http://www.pinkardfh.com)

# Tribute Wall

AH

“ *Aubrey Haynes lit a candle in memory of Hal Hudson Guthrie, Sr.*



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**Aubrey Haynes** - October 03, 2019 at 04:13 PM

GH

*My thoughts and prayers are with this loving family at this time. Glenda Gordon*

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**Glenda Gordon hearn** - October 04, 2019 at 11:57 AM

WT

“ *My thoughts and prayers to the family.*

*Scott Townsend*

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**W Scott Townsend** - October 03, 2019 at 11:38 AM

RW

“ *He was full of life n joy n took me on vacation in a plane for the first time ! Play a trick on me faking a murder at the air port n when he share his idea about chicken fingers i was there ! Thanks mr Guthrie's for being a menor !*

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**Ricky white** - October 02, 2019 at 06:24 PM

KM

“ *Kathy Martin lit a candle in memory of Hal Hudson Guthrie, Sr.*



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**Kathy Martin** - October 02, 2019 at 05:29 PM

JA

“ *Melissa, so very sorry for your loss. Praying that you will be comforted by our Abba Father who is the God of ALL comfort and give you Grace to see you through your sorrow.*



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**Judy Sides Akins** - October 02, 2019 at 02:15 PM

KB

“ *Kelley M Bell-Howard lit a candle in memory of Hal Hudson Guthrie, Sr.*



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**Kelley M Bell-Howard** - October 02, 2019 at 10:06 AM

RM

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. I worked for Hal back in the mid 70's. My prayers an thoughts are with each an everyone at this time.*



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**Robin Miller** - October 02, 2019 at 09:42 AM

CA

“ So sorry to learn of your loss. Thinking of you.  
Cannon

Cannon - October 02, 2019 at 08:59 AM



“ Chad Corkren lit a candle in memory of Hal  
Hudson Guthrie, Sr.



Chad Corkren - October 02, 2019 at 03:12 AM

LS

“ Lillian Sigler lit a candle in memory of Hal  
Hudson Guthrie, Sr.



Lillian Sigler - October 01, 2019 at 10:18 PM

WB

“ Our prayers go out to all the family! So sorry  
for your loss!



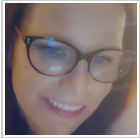
Wayne & Diann Benson - October 01, 2019 at 07:24 PM

WB

“ *Our prayers go out to all of the family! So sorry for your lose!*



Wayne & Diann Benson - October 01, 2019 at 07:16 PM



“ *Sorry for your loss Mrs. Guthrie.*



Angel Chewning - October 01, 2019 at 06:15 PM

DT

“ *So sorry to hear of the death of Hal Guthrie- Prayers be with the family. Thought a lot of Mr. Guthrie. One of my first jobs was working in his original restaurant in Haleyville back in 1966*



Dwight d. Thomas - October 01, 2019 at 06:06 PM

RM

“ *I ask about all of you often and have some really fond memories. Melissa, from the fourth grade to babysitting your younger kids. I'm so very sorry for your loss. Y'all are in my thoughts and Prayers! I love y'all.*

Rita Carol Norris Martin - October 01, 2019 at 04:55 PM

SS

“ *Melissa and family, I am so sorry for your loss. So many of my memories of my childhood and growing up include the Guthrie family. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. May God wrap his loving arms around you all and help you and guide you during this difficult time. Hal, fly high and may you rest in heaven.*



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**Sharon Donaldson Spangler** - October 01, 2019 at 04:41 PM

BA

“ *Bill Alt lit a candle in memory of Hal Hudson Guthrie, Sr.*



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**Bill Alt** - October 01, 2019 at 04:20 PM

JM

“ *Judy McCullar lit a candle in memory of Hal Hudson Guthrie, Sr.*



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**Judy McCullar** - October 01, 2019 at 02:17 PM

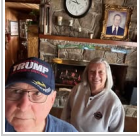
TB

“ *Tony BrakeField lit a candle in memory of Hal Hudson Guthrie, Sr.*



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**Tony BrakeField** - October 01, 2019 at 10:09 AM



“ *Melissa & family, so very sorry for your loss.  
Thoughts and prayers for all.*



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**Rick N Rita Martin** - September 30, 2019 at 09:01 PM

WH

*I am sad to know of Hal's passing. I have fond remembrances of my  
yrs spent near all of you in Haleyville. Wynell Howell*

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**Wynell howell** - October 01, 2019 at 04:52 PM