



## Earl "Buddy" Howard

August 3, 1949 - October 7, 2025

Earl "Buddy" Howard, Jr. passed away on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, at his home at the age of 76. He was the husband of Donna Johnson Howard for 53 years and father of Dawn Howard Welch (Danny) and Melinda Howard Watts (Mike Fry & son Michael).

Buddy was the son of the late Earl Howard, Sr., and Roberta Gaines Howard and the stepson of the late Christine Howard. He is survived by grandsons Devon Watts (Veronica Hutt) and Gabriel Watts (Holly) and granddaughter Riley Welch (Alex Sword). His great-granddaughter is Saylor Wren Watts and another great-granddaughter is to be born in February. He is also survived by his brother Greg Howard (Keene) of Lexington. Connor Bardroff was a special "little dude" for whom he and Donna babysat for many years.

Buddy was a life-long resident of Frankfort graduating from Franklin County High School in 1967 and attending Kentucky State University. He also graduated from Eastern Kentucky University's Law Enforcement Academy. Buddy retired from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources as a Conservation Officer for over 30 years. He loved his job and made many friends while they were out hunting, fishing, or just enjoying the great outdoors.

He was chosen by his peers for the Fish and Wildlife Shakar Safari Award. He received many other awards during his career including the Frankfort

Sportsmen's Club Outstanding Sportsman of The Year, Frankfort Jaycees' Outstanding Man of the Year, and House of Representatives Outstanding Service to the Community. He also ran Howard's Lawn Service in Frankfort for many years.

But his favorite and most important job was that of husband, father, grandfather, brother and other family roles he played. He always said he didn't need gifts, just time spent with his family. They agree that he was fantastic at this job.

Buddy was past president and longtime member of the Capital City Classic Auto Club and member of the Frankfort Mustang Club. He could always be found at a cruise-in or car show any time during the warmer months. He was proud of his classic car collection that consisted mostly of Ford Mustangs. He was also a member of the American Legion Post 7 and proudly served in the US Army National Guard for 6 years. He was a member of Memorial Baptist Church.

Buddy enjoyed traveling the USA, especially "Out West." He wanted to be a cowboy in his younger years, and he loved the mountains. Many memories were made during these trips with family and friends.

Besides his car collection, he also collected 30+ life-sized animated monsters from the movies. There was always good family fun during the Halloween season.

The family would like to thank his caregiver Hannah and Bluegrass Care Navigators for their comfort and care during his final days.

A funeral service will be held at Harrod Brothers Funeral Home in downtown Frankfort on Friday, October 10, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. with Pastor Mike Colston

officiating. Burial will follow at Sunset Memorial Gardens. Visitation will be at Harrod Brothers Funeral Home from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on Friday.

Serving as pallbearers will be Devon Watts, Gabriel Watts, Riley Welch, Danny Welch, Mike Fry, Alex Sword and Connor Bardroff.

Arrangements are under the direction of Harrod Brothers Funeral Home & Crematory.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **10**. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Harrod Brothers Funeral Home  
312 Washington Street  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
(502) 227-4526  
hbfh@harrodbrothers.com  
<https://www.harrodbrothers.com>

## Funeral Service

OCT **10**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Harrod Brothers Funeral Home  
312 Washington Street  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
(502) 227-4526  
hbfh@harrodbrothers.com  
<https://www.harrodbrothers.com>

# Tribute Wall

TS

“ *Tammie Smith lit a candle in memory of Earl "Buddy" Howard*



Tammie Smith - October 17, 2025 at 12:14 PM



“ *Glad I was able to return your Fish and Wildlife hat you gave my son when he was about 4 or 5 close to 28 years ago. Also remember working late night at Bobs 66 and you pulled the drunk out the drivers side window. So funny the look on his face,lol !*

Dennis Eads - October 16, 2025 at 04:37 PM

TS

“ *Tammie Smith lit a candle in memory of Earl "Buddy" Howard*



Tammie Smith - October 12, 2025 at 12:19 PM

KH

“ *I got to know Buddy when I worked at Riverbend BP. That was a long time ago. I moved out of town and lost touch, then I had seen this. My thoughts and prayers for the family. He was a very good person and always put a smile on everyone he came in contact with. Rest in Peace Buddy*

Kimberly Harrod - October 12, 2025 at 12:14 PM

BF

“ *Beulah Franks lit a candle in memory of Earl "Buddy" Howard*



Beulah Franks - October 10, 2025 at 07:30 AM

GJ

“ *RIP my friend. I will never forget you! My prayers for family and friends! Chip McInnis*



George ( Chip ) McInnis Jr. - October 09, 2025 at 09:00 AM

DT

*Rest in Peace Buddy. You sure helped me a lot in my career with Fish and Wildlife and also a great friend. Prayers for your family. You will always be remembered.*

David Thurman - October 09, 2025 at 04:55 PM



“ *60 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Harrod Brothers Funeral Home - October 08, 2025 at 12:58 PM