



James "Ridge" King

October 31, 2020 - January 19, 2026

He loved his family with his whole heart. He loved dinosaurs and the wide-open outdoors, riding the tractor and the four-wheeler with pure joy. He found comfort in his stuffed animals (his baby Deer and Hot Sauce) and even more comfort in his time with God. His prayers weren't just whispered at bedtime, but spoken in the mornings too, a faith far bigger than his years.

His life was short, but it was beautifully rooted in love, surrounded by love, and freely giving love to everyone who knew him. A life that will continue to echo in every heart he touched.

James "Ridge" King, age 5, of the Georgia Mountain community of Guntersville, Alabama passed away Monday, January 19, 2026 at Children's Hospital of Alabama. Born October 31, 2020 in Birmingham, AL, Ridge was the precious and beloved son of Ashley Deann Gaddis and James Robert King. Ridge entered this world with health issues but was a fighter until there was no more fight.

Ridge is survived by his mother, Ashley Gaddis; father, Jim King; grandparents, Tommy and Joanna Gaddis, Kathy DeArmond King, and Jeff and Angie King; grandmother, Patricia Gurley; sister, Kolbie Brooke Rutherford; aunts, Stacey King (Chris), Leigh Andra Green (Clay); uncles, Jon King and Ricky Davis; and a host of extended family.

Services for Ridge will be at Arab Heritage Memorial Chapel in Arab, Alabama. Visitation will be Thursday, January 22, 2026 between the hours of 6:00 and 8:00 pm. The funeral service will be Friday, January 23, 2026 at 11:00am. Brother Josh Garmany officiating. Serving as pallbearers and escorting Ridge to his final resting place in Mt. Carmel Cemetery are Clay Green, Cody Manuel, Dylan Hunt, Riley Harper, Chris King and Justin Rogers. Arab Heritage Memorial Chapel is assisting the family with arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Mount Carmel Cemetery (Marshall County)

2 Mt Carmel Rd, Guntersville, AL 35976
Guntersville, AL 35976

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 22. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Arab Heritage Memorial Chapel
1340 North Main Street
Arab, AL 35016
(256) 586-4100

Funeral Service

JAN 23. 11:00 AM (CT)

Arab Heritage Memorial Chapel
1340 North Main Street
Arab, AL 35016
(256) 586-4100

Tribute Wall

CG

“ I work with EMS, and ran the call when Ashley went into labor with Sweet Ridge, from that moment I became a silent follower of his journey. One thing that never changed was the love his parents had, the mama bear Ashley was for him. I am so sorry for your loss. Ridge was so loved in the community, your family is in our prayer’s.

Chasity Garmany - January 24 at 02:13 PM

AG

Thank you so much!! ☐

ashley gaddis - January 26 at 08:51 PM

CM

“ Ridge was such a precious angel, and so full of life!! I had the honor and privilege to care for Ridge many times, but I will forever cherish the morning he told me he loved me before I left my shift. It wasn’t the easiest task to get him to trust me, but before I knew it-we were buddies and he was tickling me with his “special” words and spunky nature!
I will forever hold my bond with him close because he was such a special soul, and I will carry my memories with him in my heart forever.
Loving him and the entire family endlessly, Christina McDaniel

Christina McDaniel - January 22 at 03:56 PM

AG

Thank you!! We can’t even begin to explain how much we love and appreciate you!!!

ashley gaddis - January 26 at 08:53 PM

CM

“ *Christina McDaniel lit a candle in memory of James "Ridge" King*



Christina McDaniel - January 22 at 03:45 PM

KB

“ *Kamryn Barnes lit a candle in memory of James "Ridge" King*



Kamryn barnes - January 21 at 12:54 AM



“ *Kim Johnson lit a candle in memory of James "Ridge" King*



Kim Johnson - January 20 at 10:17 PM

TJ

“ *Ashley we are so sorry to hear about Ridge !!! We will be praying for you an your family. If there anything we can do just let us know .*



Tina an David Jones - January 20 at 08:35 PM

DL

“ *Debora Lewis lit a candle in memory of James "Ridge" King*



Debora Lewis - January 20 at 08:02 PM

WM

“ *Wilda J Malone lit a candle in memory of James "Ridge" King*



Wilda J Malone - January 20 at 07:55 PM



“ *The best little patient! Taking care of him was such an honor and will never be forgotten. Earning his trust was one of the hardest things to do but yet the most rewarding. Laying on the floor with a blanket, playing dinosaurs, and going through snapchat filters at 4:30am was one I will never forget. All the selfies we took on his ipad and all the videos of him telling me "Good morning" or even just "Hey" will forever be something I will treasure. Praying for you and your family!*



Caitlin Pertile - January 20 at 05:08 PM

KK

Thank you so much - this is such a sweet testimony of wonderful memories for us to have . We will forever love and remember all of you and All you did.. Kathy King (Paternal Grandmother)

Kathy DeArmond King - January 20 at 09:27 PM

AG

We love you and could NEVER to even begin to tell you how much you mean to us and how much you meant to Ridge! He lived you so much and you were his best buddy!! We love y'all!!

ashley gaddis - January 26 at 08:56 PM