



## Donald Joe Darden

April 5, 1943 - December 30, 2021

Donald Joe Darden

Born April 5, 1943, along with twin brother, Ronald Jack Darden, to Jack Darden and Lucille Coop Darden; Paternal grandparents, Silas Edward Darden, Sr. and Eva Bigger Darden; Maternal grandparents, Elijah Warner Coop and Manerva Lynch Coop; survived by brothers, Roy Alan Darden, Thomas Ray Darden (Jo Ann), Ronald Jack Darden (Judy), Glenn H. Darden (Peggy), Richard Boyd Darden (Carol), John Oliver Darden (Vina), and Dan Keith Darden (Teresa).

Don is also survived by his wife of 53 years, Dianna Hall Darden and their five children, LTC Greg Darden (Rosina) of Fayetteville, NC, Jack Avery Darden (Manicia) of Nolensville, Emily Gail Darden-Kerr (Neil) of Russellville, Kentucky, David Edward Darden (Rebecca) of Murfreesboro, Steven Darden of Manhattan, NY and grandchildren, Harrison Paul Kerr, Tendai Darden and Lucy Darden.

Don served in the United States Army, most notably during the Vietnam war, and along with other awards received a Joint Service Commendation Medal as well as an honorable discharge.

Don received a Bachelor of Science from Middle Tennessee State University and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Tennessee.

His professional career included becoming the first Executive Director and organizer of the South Central Tennessee Development District; he wrote the charter forming the South Central Agency and served as its Chairman while

County Executive of Coffee County. He also served as City Manager of Jefferson City; City Administrator of LaFollette; and Municipal Management Consultant for the University of Tennessee {MTAS}, from which he retired in 2010. He provided technical assistance to Tennessee cities and taught courses in municipal management, health insurance, and economic development for the university. Don received the highest award given by the Institute of Public Service of the University of Tennessee.

Don was a member of Harmony Baptist Church in Tullahoma. He taught Sunday School for 50 Years in churches in Columbia, Tullahoma, and Jefferson City and was a Deacon of Lincoln Heights, Grace Baptist, and Harmony Baptist Church in Tullahoma.

The family is requesting that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the St. Jude's Children Hospital, Don Darden Memorial Gift Fund. [https://fundraising.stjude.org/site/TR/GiftFunds/GiftFunds?px=7336589&pg=personal&fr\\_id=39300](https://fundraising.stjude.org/site/TR/GiftFunds/GiftFunds?px=7336589&pg=personal&fr_id=39300)

Online condolences may be made at [www.davesculbertsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.davesculbertsonfuneralhome.com). Daves-Culbertson Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 3. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Daves-Culbertson Funeral Home  
401 N Jackson Street  
Tullahoma, TN 37388  
(931) 455-3481

## Funeral Service

JAN 3. 1:00 PM (CT)

Daves-Culbertson Funeral Home  
401 N Jackson Street  
Tullahoma, TN 37388  
(931) 455-3481

# Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Emily Kerr - June 08 at 11:39 PM

EK

“ Love and miss you Dad. Today and everyday.

Emily Darden Kerr - January 09, 2025 at 11:35 PM

ED

“ I love and miss you Dad.



Emily Darden-Kerr - October 12, 2024 at 01:34 AM



“ Donald Joe Darden

January 25, 2023 at 12:28 AM

EM

“ We miss and love you Dad. You've been gone from us for a year.  
Love, Emily, Neil & Harrison

Emily - January 11, 2023 at 02:27 PM

DS

“ I realized yesterday that I hadn't seen any posts from Don, political or otherwise, in an unknown period of time. I just now thought of it again and that brought me to this page. I served with Don in Viet Nam for a portion of the time he was there. He found me on Facebook in September 2017 as I prepared to ride across the US on a bicycle. I am heartbroken not to have ever gotten to Tennessee to visit him and sad to see this. In the same breath I am also happy for him, now, as he is most certainly in heaven! But I understand how much his family must miss him. My condolences to his family and anyone saddened by this. - Daniel Schaaf, Rowlett Texas (I also posted this to his page on Facebook)

Daniel Schaaf - January 15, 2022 at 09:46 PM

CD

“ Diana, Cathy and I have you and your family in our prayers. May God comfort you and the family during this heart breaking time.

Charles & Cathy Dennis - January 05, 2022 at 12:39 PM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Donald Joe Darden.



January 04, 2022 at 01:22 PM

CR

“ Don was the County Executive of Coffee County when I was hired by the Coffee County Industrial Development Board in 1980. Earlier, he had played football when my husband (Carl Russell, now deceased) was a Coach at East Junior High. He was always a gentleman and friend during the following years. I was extremely sorry to hear of his sudden passing. My sympathy is extended to Diana and all the family.

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**Carol Russell** - January 03, 2022 at 03:37 PM

TE

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you in this difficult time. - Daniels' Auto

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**Teresa** - January 03, 2022 at 02:04 PM

PW

“ Diana and family so sorry for your loss. My heart is breaking! Don was such a good man and friend!! Will not be able to attend service because of weather but know that my heart and prayers are there with you!!

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**Pat Williams** - January 03, 2022 at 11:05 AM

DB

“ The Lincoln Heights Baptist Church extends its condolences to the Darden family on the passing of a fine man and true Christian. May he forever Rest in Peace.

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**Dan Boyd** - January 03, 2022 at 10:01 AM

DB

“ On behalf of our Pastor and all the membership we offer our deepest condolences to the Darden family on the passing of our Brother in Christ, Don. May his devoted and noble spirit forever Rest in Peace. May God comfort and sustain his family & friends during this difficult time.

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**Dan Boyd** - January 03, 2022 at 09:59 AM

DS

Him and his wife we met for the first time and they made us feel at home at this church sorry for your loss Diane rip don

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**Duane scott** - January 03, 2022 at 04:25 PM

BK

“ Brett & Kristen Kilgore purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Donald Joe Darden.



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**Brett & Kristen Kilgore** - January 03, 2022 at 09:13 AM

JR

“ Don was a good man and will be missed. Condolences to Diane and the family. John & Barb Rickman

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**John Rickman** - January 02, 2022 at 06:09 PM

JW

“ Diana, David and I are so sorry for your loss of Don. Prayers for you and your family.  
David and Jeanne Wright

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**Jeanne Wright** - January 01, 2022 at 10:49 PM

MM

“ I am sorry to hear of Don's passing. I always respected him and he was a good City Manager for Jefferson City and supportive to the employees. He always spoke fondly of his family. Diane I am sorry for you and your family's loss. He will be missed.

*Monica Myers*

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**Monica Myers** - January 01, 2022 at 09:55 PM

JR

“ Thought the world of this man. Our condolences to the family. John and Barb Rickman

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**John Rickman** - December 31, 2021 at 09:52 PM

ML

“ Donnie was a good longtime friend to the Rainey family. He has been a great neighbor to my dad and mother when she was alive. Prayers for comfort and peace for Dianna, his children and the rest of his family.

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**Mike and Tammie Litchford** - December 31, 2021 at 08:13 PM

AK

“ our deepest sympathy, so sorry for your loss. sincerely, Allen and Carole Kimbro

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**Allen and Carole Kimbro** - December 31, 2021 at 07:34 PM