Sossoman
Funeral Home & Crematory Center
5th Generation Family Owned & Operated Since 1949.



Donald Ralph Woods

Oct. 16, 1936 - Dec. 17, 2025

On the morning of December 17, 2025, Donald Ralph Woods, 89, left this life and instantly was with Jesus in Heaven.

Don was born in Burke County on October 16, 1936 to the late William Orville Woods and Lela Mae Dyer Woods. He attended Chesterfield Elementary School and graduated from Morganton High School. After a short stent at Drexel Furniture, he worked the rest of his career, over 50 years, at Fairfield Chair Company in Lenoir.

A few years after graduating High School Don married his grade school sweetheart Marie Keller and soon had a family of two sons.

Don lived a life of service to others and the community. He spent over 9 years in the North Carolina National Guard and was involved as a leader in Boy Scouts for a short while. He was a lifetime member of Bethel Baptist Church in the Chesterfield community, where he was the leader of the Royal Ambassadors, a Sunday School and Training Union teacher, Sunday School Director, Deacon, Bus Driver for many years, and friend to all Pastors that he served with. Don was also a Charter Member of the Chesterfield Volunteer Fire Department, which is now Chesterfield Fire and Rescue, and after many years of serving as a Firefighter, Board Member and Chairman of the Board he retired, but still enjoyed going to the annual Christmas Dinners.

As stated, Don left this earth and was welcomed into the arms of Jesus, but not because of all the many years he served his community and family as good as that was. You see one day many years ago Don admitted that he was a sinner without hope and asked Jesus to forgive him and become Lord of his life and accepted Jesus' free gift of eternal life in heaven.

In addition to his parents Don was preceded in death by wife Marie Woods, brothers Ed Woods and Bill Woods, sisters Freda Woods, Francis Woods Kincaid and Faye Woods Ollis.

He is survived by sons Greg Woods and Bryan Woods (Maria), Granddaughter Eleanor Woods, and many nieces and nephews.

Services for Don will be on Tuesday, December 23, 2025 at Bethel Baptist Church, 3861 Pax Hill Rd. Morganton, with the Rev. Kevin Sizemore officiating. Visitation will start at 11:00AM and the service at 12:00PM. Interment will follow at Burke Memorial Park.

In Lieu of flowers, please make donations to Bethel Baptist Church, 3861 Pax Hill Rd, Morganton, NC 28655.

Sossoman Funeral Home and Crematory Center is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Tribute Wall

—jack jensen

—Edmund and Elaine Luksus



We are so sorry for the family's loss. David and I are beyond blessed to have been neighbors to such wonderful people like Donald and Marie. Donald will be sorely missed. Visits to the mailbox haven't, and will never be the same. We will miss all the conversations, the polite waves, and kindness that he shared with us all these years. He never failed to mention how much he missed and loved his sweet wife Marie, and how proud he always was of his two sons. Wishing the family love, peace, and comfort during this difficult time.

—Coralina Elliott & David Bowman

We are so sorry for your loss. We never got to meet Donald, but he sounds like a very caring man and he loved God very much. Love, Gary and Pat Miles

—Gary and Pat Miles

We are so very sorry to hear of Don's passing. He was definitely one of the finest men we ever had the pleasure of knowing. He and Marie were definitely a beautiful couple. Sending our thoughts and prayers to the family during this very

beautiful couple. Sending our thoughts and prayers to the family during this very diff8cult time. Gary and Jamie Cline

—Gary and Jamie Cline

Sending heartfelt condolence to Brian and the Woods family. You are a great co-

worker and your parents did a very unique and special job of raising a gentleman and a Godly son. Thank you for your service to all of us and may the Good Lord Richly Bless and comfort The Woods Family!

—Jennie Vantley

My sincere condolences to the family and friends. May the Lord give you comfort and peace in your time of sorrow in the days ahead.

—Lynn Duckworth

Don Woods will be much missed. He was such a Kind, friendly, gentleman! He loved the LORD and the fruits of his love are seen in his adult children and their families. We were blessed knowing him and being a small part of his life . We love you Don.

—Lynn powers

Donald preached his own funeral by his everyday walk in his life. GOD blessed everyone that came in contact with him. Bless the family

—Curtis Angley

—Lynn Powers

Greg and Brian, Donald was one of the finest and kindest men I have every had the pleasure of knowing.

—Rick Hood



Rest in peace brother from brother in the thin band as a host at timberwoods family restaurant prayers for the family

Donald was a friend and one of God’s children, My condolences to the family in their loss. May the Lord give them comfort.

—Reba P Reece

As I do not know Donald personally. I had heard his name mentioned positively from my mother, Karen Perkins, and grandfather, Otis Perkins which both served on Chesterfield Fire Department before passing away. I pray that God wraps his arms and comforting hands around the family. Sincerely, Family of Karen Perkins

—Lakeisha Dula