



## Donald Ray Wood

May 27, 1938 - October 18, 2020

Donald Ray Wood of Rusk, age 82, was born May 27, 1938 in Cherokee County to Olan and Inez Halbert-Wood. Don passed away October 18, 2020 in Tyler Tx. Visitation will be at Wallace-Thompson funeral home in Rusk Tx, Thursday, October 22, 6-8 pm. Funeral will be Friday, October 23rd at Oakland MBC pavilion, at 10 a.m. officiated by Bro. Rex Hoot and Ryan Simpson. Graveside services to follow at Lowe's Chapel Cemetery. After graduation from Dialville High School, Don joined the US Navy from 1957-1959. He married the love of his life Syble Monkress Wood on April 5, 1958. He worked several jobs, until his main career began at TxDOT where he worked for 42 years. After retiring in 2000, he then drove a contract truck until the age of 81. He was a jack of all trades. He was a mechanic, he loved old cars, motorcycles, cows, music, and played in a band through this year where he especially loved playing shows in Sacul. Most of all Don loved family and helping other people. He led the music at Oakland MBC for over 23 years. He loved serving the Lord and it is a comfort for his family to know where he is. Pawpaw treasured spending time with his grandkids and great-grandkids and loved to make his great-granddaughters chocolate cake. He was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Syble Monkress-Wood, daughter Kim Killion and husband Steve, daughter by heart Cathy Gilmore and husband Hulen, grandchildren Kody Killion and wife Kristen, Klint Killion, Casey Simpson and husband Ryan, Kyle Gilmore and wife Bianca, great-grandchildren Kinsley, Kallie Jo, and soon-to-be Kelsey Killion, Kaitlynn and Eva Simpson, Noah and Axel Gilmore, brothers Thomas Wood and wife Mary Lou, Jerry Wood and wife Patsy, Aunt Tommie Hill, and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. Pallbearers will be grandsons Kody Killion, Klint Killion, Kyle Gilmore, nephews David Wood, Jeff Wood and Chris Wood, and honorary pallbearers Jason Wood, Raymond Jimmerson, Clayton Poole, and Billy Don Garner. In lieu of flowers Don requested donations be made to The American Macular Degeneration Foundation or Saint Jude Children's Hospital. The family would like to thank Dr. Justin McInnis and staff at Family 1st Clinic and Dr. David Jones and staff at UT Health Hospital.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **22.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Wallace-Thompson Funeral Home  
221 5th Street  
Rusk, TX 75785  
(903) 683-2222

## Funeral Service-Oakland Missionary Baptist Church Pavillion

OCT **23.** 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Oakland Missionary Baptist Church  
205 County Road 1718  
Rusk, TX 75785  
(903) 683-4845

# Tribute Wall



“ Donald Ray Wood

October 04, 2023 at 11:30 AM

MA

“ Donald was a very special person, always willing to serve the Lord with his music. Mother so enjoyed working with him as the pianist of Oakland. She said that they were a team. Thank you, Kim and Steve, for taking care of Mother all those years when you helped her go to church and serve as pianist. Being able to continue going to church meant so much to her, and you both were part of that. Donald will be missed on this earth, but he is happy with friends, his family and with Jesus in Heaven.

Charles and Margie Adams

Margie Adams - October 23, 2020 at 12:01 AM

DS

He sure will be missed.  
And it is comforting to know one day I will see him again in Heaven. Chaplain Donald Rawls

Donald G Rawls Chaplain of SCV - October 28, 2020 at 07:16 AM

RS

“ Our deepest sympathy to all the family. Don was a great guy that will always be remembered.

Rock Spraggins - October 22, 2020 at 02:31 PM

BD

“ My deepest sympathy to all of Donald Ray's family, especially to you Thomas Olan. I have such great memories of the three of us as children, first going (walking) to the 2 room school house at Oakland, attending church each Sunday and Wednesday evenings. Oh the great days when there was all day singing and lunch with great home made food from all the members. Do you remember the day I fell/flew off your bicycle when you were giving me a ride home from Oakland? One of those very embarrassing moments in life. The fun times playing together, then on to Diaville for further education. It is sad that as we've grown up I lost connection from old friends. My love and prayers to you all. Betty King DePew.

Betty Depew - October 21, 2020 at 04:27 PM

MS

“ I first met Mr Wood a couple of years ago when my husband and I started church at Oakland MBC. We immediately thought the world of PawPaw as we called him. We loved his singing and his personality. When my husband passed away he was right there to support me. My prayers go out to his family for the void they will feel in their lives.

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**Mary Ann Selman** - October 20, 2020 at 05:41 PM

DB

“ Don was a good man. I remember when I was a teenager, Don showed me how to tie my first tie before I attended a formal dance. I always enjoyed listening to him sing and play the guitar at church, and Don could have an enjoyable conversation about anything. I'll miss driving by his home and always being met with a wave, but I know he's in a better place now.

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**Darin Bolton** - October 20, 2020 at 03:53 PM

TK

“ Syble & Kim - I was so sorry to hear about Don's passing. I have so many wonderful memories growing up with your family. Will be praying for you all.

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**Toni Krieg** - October 20, 2020 at 02:15 PM

MO

“ Always loved to hear Don sing. He was a regular at Sacul Opry. We have missed him not being here and will miss him even more knowing he won't be back. So saddened by this news. Sympathy and prayers go out to all his family.

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**Mary Lou Burnett, Sacul Opry** - October 19, 2020 at 03:33 PM