



Donny Burkes Todd

November 24, 1946 - January 1, 2025

Donny Burkes Todd, 78, passed peacefully on to his eternal home on Wednesday, January 1, 2025.

Donny was born on November 24, 1946, to Howard Lamar and Mary Evon Todd in Louisville, MS. As a teen in Louisville, Donny excelled in sports, particularly basketball. Devoting much time and effort to this passion, he made lifelong friends out of countless teammates and coaches. Long after he hung up his basketball high-tops, he continued to be an avid sports fan and had a photographic memory for sports statistics that led to innumerable earnest conversations with friends and family about his favorite topic, the Mississippi State Bulldogs. For much of his life, Donny was a loyal Bulldog fan who, without fail, always optimistically proclaimed “they have real potential this year.” Through countless tailgates and football and basketball games with precious friends and family, he instilled this love for the Bulldogs into his girls who both hold degrees from his beloved university.

Donny graduated from Louisville High School in 1965. Following his graduation from East Central Junior College in 1967, he matriculated to Mississippi State University where he developed his passion for Bulldog athletics. After completing his academic career, he had the opportunity to work out west “on the pipeline” and always spoke fondly of the people he met and the adventures he had in what he called “the most beautiful” place he had ever been. He met the love of his life, Kay Arnett, also a Louisville native, and

they married at Poplar Flat Baptist Church on November 4, 1972. Donny went to work at Taylor Machine Works where he would remain a decades-long steadfast employee until his retirement in July of 2017. He served his country faithfully as a National Guardsman and Reserve officer and was deployed to active service during Desert Storm where he spent months with his unit in Fort Hood, TX, away from his adoring family.

As passionate as he was about watching and talking about sports and spending time with his much-loved girls, Donny's love for Jesus and the church was forefront. A devout Christian, he made sure to have his family present every time the church doors were open. He served many years as a deacon and Sunday school teacher at South Louisville Baptist Church where he raised his family. In later years, he worshipped and also served leadership roles at Poplar Flat Baptist Church. He spent a lot of his free time studying God's Word preparing his Sunday school lessons and always gave the most heartfelt, genuine prayers whether in public or privately with his beloved family. His love for the church and passion for the Gospel touched many lives.

A faithful and devoted husband for 52 years, Donny leaves behind his sweetheart, Kay Arnett Todd (Ridgeland, MS). He was the dearest and most patient "girl dad" to his daughters, Dr. Misty Sharp (Jason) of Columbus, MS, and Ginger Gorman (Shane) of Madison, MS. After raising two independent and strong-willed daughters, Donny was immensely proud of his five precious grandsons, Todd and Parker Sharp and Griffin, Grant, and Tanner Gorman. He was a supportive and loving father and grandfather, and they are all devastated at the loss of their mentor and patriarch. Additional survivors include his siblings, Bobby Todd (the late Jo Helen) of Louisville, Cindy Todd and Karey Todd, both of Philadelphia and his siblings-in-law, Dr. William Arnett (Delores) of Madison, Wayne Arnett of Brandon, and Carolyn Varner (Robert) of Madison as well as a host of nieces, nephews, in-laws, and friends. His daughters are eternally grateful for the compassion, friendship, and care

selflessly given to their father by their Uncle William during the last two years of his life. Donny is preceded in death by his parents, Howard and Mary Evon Todd and sister-in-law, Jo Helen Todd.

Visitation will be from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. on Friday, January 3 at Massey Funeral Home. There will also be a visitation the day of the service at the church from 10 a.m. until service time. A going-home celebration will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, January 4 at Poplar Flat Baptist Church in Louisville.

Serving as pallbearers are Jason Arnett, T. J. Jennings, Brock Strickland, Bryce Varner, Blake Williamson, and John Williamson. Honorary pallbearers are Billy Wayne Coward, Danny Coward, Jerry Coward, Kenny Holland, J. L. Pierce and Robert Varner. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be made to Poplar Flat Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, c/o Larry Cockrell, P. O. Box 684, Louisville, MS 39339 or to the Parkinson's Foundation online at www.parkinson.org.

Services are under the direction of Massey Funeral Home, 724 North Columbus Avenue, Louisville, MS. Memories and condolences may be shared with the family by signing the guest register at www.masseyfuneralhome.net.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 3. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Massey Funeral Home
724 N Columbus Ave
Louisville
Louisville, MS 39339

Visitation

JAN 4. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Poplar Flat Baptist Church
2188 Poplar Flat Road
Louisville, MS 39339

Service

JAN 4. 11:00 AM (CT)

Poplar Flat Baptist Church
2188 Poplar Flat Road
Louisville, MS 39339

Interment

JAN 4 (CT)

Poplar Flat Cemetery
2188 Poplar Flat Road
Louisville, MS 39339

Tribute Wall

LA

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you all during this time of sorrow.

Lisa Blanset- Addy - January 04, 2025 at 08:08 AM

LW

“ Donny’s parents were friends with my parents, so I knew him from childhood to my time working at Taylor Machine Works. I can honestly say that he was one of the kindest, most considerate people I have ever known. My heart breaks for Kay and their family. My prayers for God’s comfort will be with them in the days to come.



Lynn (Hobby) Watson - January 03, 2025 at 04:19 PM

RM

“ Donny was always the kindest “gentleman”! I remember our wonderful trip to Disney World with Ginger and her family and Donny and Kay. We enjoyed so many sights and especially the wonderful meal we had at Epcot. It was a lovely meal and special time spent with everyone!. Lastly, at one of our 50+ events at First Ridgeland was a “Name that Tune” kind of event. We sat with Donny and Kay. Donny Todd knew just about every “oldies” song title that came up and when given the microphone, could sing it out! Such a dear kind man! We will miss him.

Ronnie and Janet McNair - January 03, 2025 at 02:57 PM

KS

“ Donny was a fine man in every way. He never failed to treat me with respect and kindness. Enjoy His Kingdom, old friend. I'll see you later.

*Kacey Sloan
Louisville, MS*

Kacey Sloan - January 03, 2025 at 11:35 AM

JM

“ I don't have the words to describe all the memories I have of Donnie. As he said we went over "fools hill" together and came back down. Thank God for that and for the opportunity to know Donnie B.

johnny Mitch - January 03, 2025 at 11:13 AM

RG

“ Nothing but the fondest memories of Donnie. Prayers for the family.

Ron Gammill - January 03, 2025 at 10:26 AM

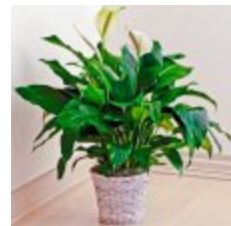


“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Donny Burkes Todd.

January 03, 2025 at 09:13 AM



“ Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Donny Burkes Todd.



January 03, 2025 at 09:13 AM

JB

“ Please know Jimmy and I are lifting each of you up in our prayers. May you feel His comforting and loving arms around you during this time.
BettyMann and Jimmy Boswell

jimmy Boswell - January 02, 2025 at 08:56 PM

AW

“ Amy and Will Williams planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donny Burkes Todd.

Amy and Will Williams - January 02, 2025 at 07:34 PM

AW

“ Amy and Will Williams purchased the Floor Plant for Sympathy for the family of Donny Burkes Todd.



Amy and Will Williams - January 02, 2025 at 07:34 PM

TH

“ A ONE OF A KIND BEAUTIFUL PERSON YOUR SPECIAL PLACE IN MY HEART IS PRECIOUS REST IN PEACE MY FRIEND TOM HANNAN

THOMAS HANNAN - January 02, 2025 at 06:38 PM



“ *European Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Donny Burkes Todd.*



January 02, 2025 at 04:36 PM