



## Don Batson

May 18, 1953 - February 12, 2021

[Click Here to View Livestream of Service \(https://www.oneroomstreaming.com/view/authorize.php?k=1613190946100639\)](https://www.oneroomstreaming.com/view/authorize.php?k=1613190946100639)

After more than a decade of heart break from Tennessee football, he had finally had enough. Donald Ray Batson, better known as Don, Donnie Ray, Papaw, Bapi, Sunshine, and even Dapper Don, went through those pearly gates on Friday, February 12 after a brief battle with cancer and a long battle with losing records.

Don was born in Charlotte, North Carolina, on May 18th, 1953, to parents, L.C. and Ruby Batson, but he was raised in Dandridge, Tennessee and was a proud East Tennessean. He was the third child of five and was fiercely protective and loyal to his family. He was married (usually joyfully) for 38 years to his wife, Lynn Harbison Batson, and nothing made him happier than being with his children and grandchildren. He was extremely proud of Josh & Missy, Matt & Kelly, Micah, and Elizabeth & Tyler, but he was downright gleeful seeing his grandchildren: Jordan, Lillyan, Kayle, Sydney, Gavin, Faeryn, Jameson, Peyton, Ellie and Charlotte. Even after ten, he joked that he was still holding hope that one day a grandkid would be named after him.

Don was a true learner. He loved history, trivia, reading, and surprising you with his vault of never-ending knowledge. He went to Maury High School, served in the Army, graduated from the University of Tennessee (Go Vols!), and later received his masters from Tusculum University. As a social worker, he dedicated his life to making sure children were safe, loved, and had the chance to succeed. While he enjoyed many professional awards and accomplishments, Don's greatest satisfaction came from hearing from adults who had succeeded in life and remembered the difference he had made for them as a child. Among others, Don worked at East Tennessee Human Resources Agency, Holston United Methodist Home for Children, Child & Family Services, Tennessee Child Abuse Prevention, and had recently retired as CEO of Oklahoma United Methodist Circle of Care.

Don's children would want him remembered as a leader, a man with convictions that could lead you into battle, and the person that they most admired. Don thought at times he had lost his gift, but his kids would say that he could always make them laugh. Above all, they would say he was an honorable man with the highest integrity who did the right thing because it was the right thing to do.

Don was a lifelong United Methodist and was confident that when this day came that he would be beside his Lord and Savior. Don was preceded in death by his mother, Ruby, and his baby sister, Kim, both wonderful women he is catching up with today.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, children, and grandchildren; father, LC, and his loving wife, Lois; siblings: Jeanne & Ed Thornton, Frank & Donna Batson, Bill & Kathy Batson, and many extended cousins and relatives, including his cousin Ronnie Batson whom he always considered a brother.

A special thanks to Dr. Theo Hensley and Bri Broyles of Greeneville Internal Medicine for their special care, Duke Cancer Center for their excellent treatment, and Blue Ridge Physical Therapy team for their compassion.

In lieu of flowers, you may honor Don with a donation to Oklahoma United Methodist Circle of Care (1501 N.W. 24th St., Suite 214, Oklahoma City, OK 73106 or [www.circleofcare.org](http://www.circleofcare.org)) or to any agency fighting to make children's lives better.

A celebration of life will be held at Doughty-Stevens Funeral Home on Wednesday, February 17th at 3pm. Please protect our family and yours by wearing a mask and be prepared to hear a little bluegrass.

This obituary was lovingly written by Don's family.

# Events

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**FEB**   **Celebration of Life**                      03:00PM

**17**

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Doughty-Stevens Funeral Home

1125 Tusculum Blvd, Greeneville, TN, US, 37745

# Comments

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“ A tribute video has been added.



**Doughty-Stevens Funeral Home** - February 16, 2021 at 04:36 PM

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“ Would like to extend my condolence to Mrs. Batson and all of Don's family. The obituary was well written and fit Don perfectly. I had the upmost respect for Don. I considered him to be a friend and enjoyed being around him while I worked with him at Holston Home. I can with all honesty tell you that I never, one time talked with him, when he failed to mention his family. He loved to talk about you all. The community will miss Don.

**Bobby J. Raines** - February 22, 2021 at 09:49 AM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Don Batson.



February 17, 2021 at 03:24 PM

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“ Martha Palen -Oklahoma City, OK purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Don Batson.



**Martha Palen -Oklahoma City, OK** - February 17, 2021 at 10:05 AM



“ My love and prayers are with the Batson family as they gather to remember and cherish the blessing of the life of this wonderful man. It's hard to believe that I met Don and his family almost 35 years ago, but the math doesn't lie. Don was not just a friend; he was a mentor for me when I was working for Child and Family Services in Knoxville. The Batsons were also my next door neighbors during a time when I was learning how to be a parent. We couldn't have been more blessed than to have them include us in their lives and shower us with their love. Wise, funny, honest, principled. Those are the best adjectives I can ascribe to Don Batson. Lynn, Josh, Matt, Micah and Elizabeth...you're in my heart always ~Holly



**Holly Hudson** - February 17, 2021 at 07:41 AM

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“ One day in the Fall of '84 I got a phone call from Lynn. The children, Don and now Lynn were sick-a-bed with colds. Mother had commitments; could I come help? After a day of packing and researching what to feed a family with colds/flu I drove to TN and took up residence. I grocery shopped, buying more fresh food - including fish and more milk. I made a fish stew and served it for dinner. The boys screwed up their faces and complained. Don kindly but firmly told them that I had left my home and job to come help them get well. I had prepared the stew. It was not what they were used to but it would chase the bad bugs out of their bodies. Years later I learned that Don disliked fish - very much. I don't recall that he ever said anything to me about it and I did not serve more fish stew. Janice Webb

**Janice H. Webb** - February 16, 2021 at 09:52 PM

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“ Circle of Care purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Don Batson.



**Circle of Care** - February 15, 2021 at 04:30 PM

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“ Cindy and Mark Howard, Stillwater, OK purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Don Batson.



Cindy and Mark Howard, Stillwater, OK - February 15, 2021 at 04:16 PM

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“ Your friends at Circle of Care purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Don Batson.



Your friends at Circle of Care - February 15, 2021 at 04:09 PM

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“ David and Laura Beal purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Don Batson.



David and Laura Beal - February 15, 2021 at 02:32 PM

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“ We never met Don but we adore his beautiful daughter, Elizabeth who is a good friend of our daughter, Sarah. We are so sorry for his passing and wish all the family our love and sympathy.  
We were happy to donate to the recommended children's charity.  
Sincerely,  
Dr. And Mrs. Andrew Pachner

Barbara Pachner - February 15, 2021 at 01:49 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Don Batson.



February 15, 2021 at 12:40 PM

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“ Greenville City Schools purchased the Serenity Wreath for the family of Don Batson.



**Greenville City Schools** - February 15, 2021 at 11:52 AM

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“ Laura Graham lit a candle in memory of Don Batson



**Laura Graham** - February 14, 2021 at 10:56 PM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Don Batson.



February 14, 2021 at 08:59 AM

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“ Grieving Don's passing but celebrating his life. Good memories of a man with a big heart, a bigger sense of humor, his commitment to caring for the less fortunate, and his love and dedication to his family. I always loved when he would act like Johnny Cash. The obituary is a true representation of Don. Our condolences to the family.

Art & Marty Masker

**arthur masker** - February 13, 2021 at 05:16 PM

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“ Dapper Don....my, oh my! The memories of Don, Lynn, and family throughout my tenure at Holston Home could definitely fill a book! And all of them are good memories! What a family man he was; the love he had for his family was always so obvious! And the passion that he had for children in need ranks right up there...indeed, he was a servant leader (especially for the children)! I pray that the love and prayers from old friends helps to ease the pain that you all feel right now. You all will be in our thoughts and prayers in the coming months! Love & hugs to all!  
Kathy M. Myers



**Kathy M Myers** - February 13, 2021 at 03:06 PM

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“ Don Batson was a unique man. He will always be smiling in my memory. He had a heart for serving children. Condolences to the family, May God hold you near.



**Linda Kenyon** - February 13, 2021 at 03:05 PM

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“ So sorry to see that Don has passed. Remember when your family first moved here. All our best Lynn, Kathy Scott and family.

**Kathy Scott** - February 13, 2021 at 10:50 AM