

Donald Vernon Phillips

April 19, 1943 - January 27, 2026

Donald Vernon Phillips, age 82, of Caddo, Oklahoma, passed away at his home on Tuesday, January 27, 2026. Donald was born on April 19, 1943, in Caddo, Oklahoma, to parents Clarence Alvie and Opal Lullabelle (Russell) Phillips. Donald was a lifelong resident of Caddo and graduated from Caddo High School. He married Zelma Faye Jackson on November 15, 1975, in Kenefic, Oklahoma. He was a carpenter by trade and was presently working at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. He was a member of the Kenefic Baptist Church and the Caddo Masonic Lodge, and proudly served his country in the Army Reserve for six years. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, crossword puzzles, playing dominoes, feeding cows with Chase, telling a good story, woodworking, and cooking dressing for family holidays.

Donald could build or fix anything, and he took great pride in the work he did for his family and friends, as well as for Southeastern Oklahoma State University. Every building on that campus holds something that he built, touched, or fixed. He loved passing around popcorn to his coworkers and took great pride in hand-delivering the wooden oven tool he created. He was extremely proud of a log home he built for his daughter. He swore he would never build another log home, but his work was beautiful and perfectly crafted. Donald also loved his church and faithfully occupied the same seat for more than 50 years. He was a strong, faithful, and kind Christian man who was the

perfect example of what a good man should be. We take comfort in knowing that as he entered the gates of heaven, he heard the words, "Well done, my good and faithful servant." We know he was smiling that big smile and giving a little chuckle, as he always did. He was our provider who brought peace, comfort, and safety to our lives. As his granddaughter said, "He was our rock."

Most importantly of all, Donald loved his family. He adored his wife, Zelma. She was truly the love of his life. They recently celebrated 50 years of marriage, and he was so proud of that golden anniversary and always so proud of her. Their love for each other was the perfect example of how true love should be. He was so proud of his son and three daughters and their families. He was their biggest supporter. He also adored his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Most evenings, he could be found at a ballgame, music program, band concert, school event, or birthday party, a devotion that we will all forever cherish.

Donald is preceded in death by his parents; brother, J.R. Phillips; sister, Betty Ham; grandson, Jordan Morris; and great-grandson, Karsyn Hobbie.

Donald is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 50 years, Zelma Faye Phillips of the home; treasured children Angie Morris of Caddo, Misty Green and husband Richard of Caddo, Krystal Davidson and husband Greg of Atoka, and son Chase Phillips of Caddo; adored grandchildren Ashley Hodge and husband Chance, Chelsea Carlock and husband Alex, Landon Green and wife Ashley, Garrett Green and wife Kenzi, Preston Green and wife Gabbie, Kevin Hobbie and wife April, Justin Hobbie and wife Ariel, Jerrid Hobbie, and Kenlee Davidson; 17 great-grandchildren, with one arriving in March; sisters Mary Knight and husband Larry, Laverna Nazworth, and Quinna Smith;

brothers Troy Phillips, Charles “Hop” Phillips and wife Linda; and numerous extended family members and friends.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m. Monday, February 2, 2026, at Brown’s Funeral Service Chapel in Durant, Oklahoma. Pastor Philip Stephens will officiate. Interment will follow in Gethsemane Cemetery in Caddo, Oklahoma, with grandsons Landon Green, Garrett Green, Preston Green, Kevin Hobbie, Justin Hobbie, and Jerrid Hobbie, and great-grandsons Chet Hodge and Colby Hodge serving as pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers will be sons-in-law Richard Green and Greg Davidson; grandsons-in-law Chance Hodge and Alex Carlock; and all of Donald’s friends and colleagues at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Sunday evening from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.brownsfuneralservice.com.

Arrangements are under the direction of Brown’s Durant Funeral and Cremation Service.

<https://www.tributeslides.com/tributes/show/D3HBLGMHL23C46F4>

Cemetery Details

Gethsemane Cemetery

Cemetery Rd
Caddo, OK 74729

Previous Events

Family Visitation

FEB 1. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Brown's Funeral Service - Durant
4900 West US Hwy 70
Durant, OK 74701
(580) 920-0393
info@brownsfuneralservice.com
<https://www.brownsfuneralservice.com/>

Funeral Service

FEB 2. 2:00 PM (CT)

Brown's Funeral Service - Durant
4900 West US Hwy 70
Durant, OK 74701
(580) 920-0393
info@brownsfuneralservice.com
<https://www.brownsfuneralservice.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Brown's Durant Funeral Service created a Tribute Video in memory of Donald Vernon Phillips*



Brown's Durant Funeral Service - January 30 at 05:16 PM

KE

Don was such a special man. So much knowledge and skill. He always had respect for everyone at the Physical Plant. When I first started working with him, he made sure I had what I needed. He made sure I knew he had already out lasted 4 bosses. He made a couple of Oven Rack Sticks for my wife and told me make sure she got them. I laughed and told him she don't cook. He smiled and said then she can smack you with them. He could make some killer dressing to. I am blessed for the years I worked around him. I guess we will never know where he caught all them Crappie.... when we asked where he caught them, he would smile and say" in the corner of the mouth"

Kevin Eppler - January 30 at 10:02 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Donald Vernon Phillips.*



February 01 at 09:11 PM

DS

“ *Dan and Terry simmons purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Donald Vernon Phillips.*



Dan and Terry simmons - January 31 at 07:02 PM

SG

“ *Syed and Tammy, Flodell, Vernon, Glenda purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Donald Vernon Phillips.*



Syed and Tammy, Flodell, Vernon, Glenda - January 31 at 02:56 PM

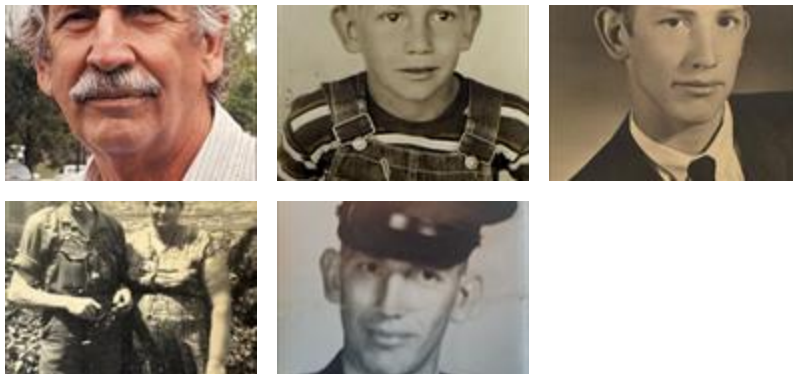
DV

“ I have known Don for the better part of 30 years , just 2 weeks ago he was telling me how he came to work at SOSU when he had to call Eddie Harbin to find out why Southeastern was calling him, he said he was told to come to work! He told Eddie he had to finish something he was working on and he would be there! Well that's when I got to know Don and his family. We did many projects together and he was a lot of help! I remember when he got his pacemaker and he was helping me with something in the welding shop and he told me to tell him before I started welding so he could step out because he was not supposed to be around somebody welding , because of his pacemaker! Well that lasted about a week then he was right there with me , but he did step over by the door and cover his eyes!
I couldn't have made without his help! I will miss him greatly and the time we spent at Southeastern! he was my buddy and was great friend. Don , We will continue our conversations in Heaven , after I first worship at the feet of my lord and savior JESUS , who Don knows well ... Don just tell him I'm coming!

Dale Vanderburg - January 31 at 11:15 AM



“ 96 files added to the album Gallery of Pictures



Brown's Durant Funeral Service - January 30 at 05:25 PM

SS

“ Don said he was always looking out for his friends and asking if you needed help. He had a people pleasing servants heart. He helped more than he asked for someone that had a weak mind and a strong back. There was not anyone as strong as he though. It was one thing to ask where he'd caught all his fish and he'd put his finger in the side of his mouth and say right here but to take you to his favorite spot was another and I feel privileged he showed me and waited on me like I was the elder. He was proud of and always talked about his wife, daughters, Chase and grandkids. Not a tech guy but he did have an app on his phone so he put his cards aside to keep up with his grandsons baseball games. At the end of the work week he'd bag up the best popcorn and have me take it to my wife and even to my Texas daughter. I'm so humbled to have known Don for a short season. Thank you.

Steven Skaggs - January 30 at 04:32 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Donald Vernon Phillips.



January 30 at 12:26 PM

KE

“ I remember watching Don check the dumpsters next to his shop every morning during the heat of summer. He wasn't looking for trash—he was looking for raccoons that might have climbed in and couldn't get back out. If he found one trapped inside, Don would quietly place a 2x4 in the dumpster so it could escape. It was a small, simple act of kindness, but it spoke volumes about who Don was—compassionate, thoughtful, and always willing to help when no one else was watching.

RIP brother!

kent - January 29 at 10:48 PM