



Donald "Don" O. Rhodes

December 24, 1945 - June 9, 2023

Don "Ramblin'" Rhodes of North Augusta, South Carolina, passed away in Augusta, Georgia, on June 9, 2023. A memorial service will be held at the American Legion Post #71 in North Augusta, SC, on Saturday, June 24, 2023 at 11:00am with visitation beginning at 9:00am. Interment will be in Bellevue Memorial Gardens, Grovetown, GA.

The Chamblee, Georgia, high school 1963 graduate and The University of Georgia - School of Journalism 1967 graduate, was immediately hired by Morris Communications Company as a police beat reporter for the Savannah Evening Press.

Don wrote these words "About the Author" in his last book NORTH AUGUSTA, THE WESTERN GATEWAY OF SOUTH CAROLINA, LITTLE KNOWN STORIES ABOUT A LITTLE KNOWN TOWN published in April 2021:

"DON RHODES is publications editor of the multi-media Morris Communications Company and publications manager of the National Barrel Horse Association and The Augusta Futurity.

The native of Gainesville, Texas, covered politics and entertainment for the Augusta Herald and The Augusta Chronicle (1970 — 1993) before being transferred within the MCC family-owned business to the corporate

communications department (1993 — present).

His nationally-known music column Ramblin' Rhodes observed its 50th anniversary in October of 2020.

He has served on the board of directors for the Augusta Museum of History; the North Augusta Arts & Heritage Center and the Heritage Council of North Augusta.

He has been historian of the Jesse C. Lynch Memorial American Legion Post 71 in North Augusta and was made an honorary lifetime member of the Augusta Genealogical Society.

His first book was a collection of columns: Down Country Roads with Ramblin' Rhodes in 1982. His other books include: Entertainment in Augusta and the CSRA, 2004; Ty Cobb: Safe at Home, 2008; Say It Loud! My Memories of James Brown, Soul Brother No. 1, 2009; Mysteries and Legends of Georgia, 2010; Icons of Georgia: 50 Views of the Peach State, 2011; and Legendary Locals of Augusta, 2014."

Those that knew Don considered him a "local legend". His music associates — country, bluegrass, R&B, and gospel -- included entertainers such as Bill Anderson, Brenda Lee, Dolly Parton, Becky Hobbs, The Judds, and locally James Brown, Flo Carter, and The Lewis Family.

He made friends easily and cherished them dearly. He was internationally known Sharon Jones' "fishing buddy" and took action to have the North Augusta Amphitheater named after her. James Brown would tell people, "Don saw me perform in Vietnam!" Don penned the plaque at the James Brown statute in downtown Augusta, GA. He was a walking computer chip (encyclopedia for us older folks) with facts about a kaleidoscope of people, events, history, music, musicians, literature, media (past and present), and so much more that entered his realm of thoughts.

Don achieved the rank of Sergeant in United States Army, where he served

his country devoutly during the Vietnam war.

One of the earliest childhood photos of Don is about age 4 years standing in front of a typewriter. Writing was his destiny, and he was recognized with numerous awards for his publications, lectures, and good deeds. As he wrote for his own grave marker, "LOVED HIS FAMILY GOD & READERS".

Don is preceded in death by his life-partner, Ervin Edward "Eddie" Smith, Jr.; mother Ella S.

Rhodes; parents Ollen and Jean Swann Rhodes; sister Ann Rhodes Holland, and brother Mike Spence.

His memory is kept alive by brother Larry (Teresa) Rhodes of Goose Creek, SC; brother Doug (Bobbi) Spence of Grovetown, GA; sisters Linda Rhodes (Jerry Bela) Humphreys of Grovetown, GA, and Jan Rhodes (Jerry) Jarriel of Collins, GA; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Don would appreciate memorials made to any animal humane society or shelter, any music school, historical society or veterans' organization.

Cemetery Details

Bellevue Memorial Gardens

4501 Wrightsboro Road
Augusta, GA

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 24. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Jesse C. Lynch Memorial American Legion Post #71
333 East Spring Grove Avenue
North Augusta, SC 29841

Memorial Service

JUN 24. 11:00 AM (ET)

Jesse C. Lynch Memorial American Legion Post #71
333 East Spring Grove Avenue
North Augusta, SC 29841

Tribute Wall



“ Posey Funeral Directors created a Tribute Video in memory of Donald "Don" O. Rhodes



Posey Funeral Directors - June 19, 2023 at 07:48 AM

JM

This tribute was a beautiful remembrance of a beautiful person. The smile he wore in almost every photograph was indicative of the way Don approached life. He never met a stranger, never forgot who he met, and was never forgotten by them.
Julian Miller

Julian Miller - June 19, 2023 at 11:46 AM

MM

Don was a real friend to me and others who knew him. He had such a gift for researching and sharing historical stories and facts about history in our region. He will be truly missed, but not forgotten. For Don- “ Thanks for the memories! “ Milledge Murray

Milledge Murray - June 21, 2023 at 07:48 AM

BH

Don and I became friends through our mutual friend, Mieke Appel, back in the Urban Cowboy days when I was living in L.A. Not long after that, I moved to Nashville and got to see him a lot, when he would come to town for Fan Fair and other country music events. Don was a big supporter of my music. He even booked me some gigs in Augusta back in the day! We shared a lot of laughs through the years. He always remembered my husband Duane during the Masters Tournament, by sending him the newspaper articles. Don was a gentle soul and a true friend to so many of us. Sending love and prayers to his family.

Becky Hobbs - June 21, 2023 at 04:27 PM

RN

I met Don through the Augusta Chronicle and marveled at his one-man, it seemed, creation and execution of the arts section of the paper, that came out weekly, I believe. He was a legitimate, full-fledged character whose energy and engagement seemed on overdrive all the time. What a smile and an ability to just woo you with his conversation and his florid pen. The man could write and write. And he did not miss out on much, his bucket list was probably non-existent. Most of all, he left a lasting gift to others with his humor and his ferocious talent.

Rudy N Nyhoff - June 25, 2023 at 04:12 PM



“ Donald "Don" O. Rhodes

October 06, 2023 at 06:29 AM

 Nancy Lindroth

“ I met Don thru Augusta Genealogical Society, where he was a speaker and a volunteer. When we moved the society-library from Broad Street to the new location, Don was there to help box up books. He and my husband enjoyed working together. My husband passed away and Don attended the service on May 9th. It was very kind of him, as he and David only worked together on that move several years ago. He remembered, which says a lot since he knew so many people. When he spoke at our meetings, you knew it was going to be entertaining. He will be missed.

Nancy Lindroth - July 05, 2023 at 12:49 PM

BW

“ Don can never be forgotten or replaced. He had such a heart for people and for history. He gave so much to us here at the library and I will certainly miss his friendship as well as his help to me as a 'walking encyclopedia' of local culture.

Barbara Walker
Library Manager
Nancy Carson Library

Barbara Walker - June 23, 2023 at 09:44 AM

TF

“ The Coffee Bluff Pictures Family purchased the S imply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Donald "Don" O. Rhodes.



The Coffee Bluff Pictures Family - June 22, 2023 at 06:39 PM

LB

“ Don became a great friend the first time I talked to him on the phone, and when we finally met in person it was like we had known each other forever. Almost everyone who knew him will say he never met a stranger, but it is true. And everyone he met fell in love with him, his beautiful spirit, and his wonderful stories. He was a great journalist and an even greater historian, and one of Georgia's greatest gifts. He will be truly missed. - Lacy Barnes, Coffee Bluff Pictures

Lacy Barnes - June 22, 2023 at 06:24 PM



“ 2 files added to the album LifeTributes



Posey Funeral Directors - June 22, 2023 at 10:14 AM

LJ

“ Don was a true friend of North Augusta as evidenced by his unique book about his hometown. Whenever I needed historical information, Don would always come through with about five times the information I expected. His lifetime experiences with all the people he met in the entertainment world was unbelievable. Ramble on!

Lark Jones - June 21, 2023 at 07:03 PM

LD

“ Love, Beckaroo and Duane purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Donald "Don" O. Rhodes.



Love, Beckaroo and Duane - June 21, 2023 at 04:46 PM

KH

“ We were saddened to hear of Don's transition from this earthly life. He had a special affection for the Parade of Quartets and the Howard family. He actually was more well versed in the history of our television program than most of us. He wrote about us in his book and in the Augusta Chronicle. We will forever cherish his contributions to society.
Karlton L. Howard

Karlton L. Howard - June 18, 2023 at 10:17 AM

FF

“ My heart is filled with sadness . Don was my close friend for so many years . I will miss all of the good times we had together and all of our weekly conversations . My thoughts and prayers are with the Rhodes family and pray God gives you peace . Flo Carter and family



Flo Carter and family - June 15, 2023 at 06:39 PM

AD

“ Don was a long time friend, amusing, fun, syndicated, and a Great Journalist. My sympathy goes out to his family and friends. Don will be a Great loss to his journalistic talent, and all of Augusta. He will be missed.

H. Allan Davenport

ALLAN DAVENPORT - June 15, 2023 at 03:55 PM

PS

“ with our deepest sympathy,Eddie & Phyllis Sampert.

phyllis sampert - June 13, 2023 at 08:42 PM

BB

“ Bruce Bennett lit a candle in memory of Donald "Don" O. Rhodes



Bruce Bennett - June 13, 2023 at 05:22 PM

NH

“ Nancy Harrison-Watson lit a candle in memory of Donald "Don" O. Rhodes



Nancy Harrison-Watson - June 12, 2023 at 04:53 PM