



## Donald Clay Ratcliffe

February 26, 1932 - August 13, 2024

Jackson, SC – Funeral Services for Donald Clay Ratcliffe, 92, who entered into rest will be conducted Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock from First Baptist Church of Jackson, Rev. Brian Henderson and Dr. Mark Riser officiating. Interment will follow in Southlawn Cemetery. The family will receive friends at the funeral home Friday evening from 4 until 7.

Mr. Ratcliffe was born February 26, 1932, in Bluff City, Virginia to the late Clarence and Festus Ratcliffe. He was a graduate of Pearisburg High School. Upon graduation of high school, Don and his best friend, Sidney Gilmore signed professional baseball contracts to play for the Bluefield Blue-Greys in the Appalachian League. Mr. Ratcliffe loved sports but as he grew older, he developed a great appreciation for the importance of academic achievement. He retired from Savannah River Site after 36 years of service. Mr. Ratcliffe was a longtime and active member of First Baptist Church of Jackson where he served as a Deacon, Sunday School Teacher and church grounds maintenance volunteer. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his first wife, Ruth Ratcliffe; brother, Dan Ratcliffe.

Survivors include his wife, Miriam Ratcliffe; daughters, Donna Ratcliffe Hooks (Dave) and Terri Ratcliffe Ryder (Alan); son, Kevin Ratcliffe (Sara); stepson, Douglas Arrington; grandchildren, Brad Hooks, Ashley Sorrells (Brian), Hampton Ratcliffe, Ella Ryder, Sara Davis Godbee (Caleb) and Taylor

Arrington; great-grandchildren, Hattie Sorrells and Clara Sorrells; sister, Geraldine Stanley; special caregiver, Casey Mason.

Pallbearers will be Barry Stanley, Jeff Stanley, Brad Hooks, Hampton Ratcliffe, Brian Sorrells and Caleb Godbee.

Honorary Pallbearers will be members of the Baraca Sunday School Class.

Memorials may be made to First Baptist Church of Jackson Playground Fund, PO Box 130, Jackson, SC 29831.

# Cemetery Details

## Southlawn Cemetery

4524 Whiskey Road  
Aiken, SC 29803

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**AUG 16.** 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Posey Funeral Directors  
1307 Georgia Ave  
North Augusta, SC 29841  
(803) 278-1181  
admin@poseycares.com  
<https://www.poseycares.com>

## Service

**AUG 17.** 2:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Jackson  
400 3rd St  
Jackson, SC 29831  
(803) 471-3640

# Tribute Wall

NB

“ We are so sorry to read about Mr. Ratcliff’s passing. He was such a wonderful Christian man who always greeted us with a loving smile. May God give you comfort and peace in the days ahead. Sending our love and prayers.  
*Alan & Nancy Bishop*

Nancy Bishop - August 17, 2024 at 03:18 PM

DD

“ Dallas & Donna purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Donald Clay Ratcliffe.



Dallas & Donna - August 17, 2024 at 09:29 AM

DH

“ Don and I first met in 1953 when we were apprentice pipe fitters at SRP working for BF Shaw. We finished our apprenticeship in 1957 during which time we both were assigned to the piping design department. We both were recruited by former supervisors to come to Perry FL to work as piping engineers for Triangle Engineering. We went together and lived together until our families joined us. I stayed with Don and Ruthie several months. We went to the Baptist church together, we fished and worked together. He was my BFF. I knew his whole family. Parents, siblings Dan and Gerry and daughter Terry. I went to medical school and he came to visit me in Tampa FL where I was an Emergency physician. I recently visited him in Jackson and I thank God I did. I know I will see you again Don.

*Wm. (Billy) Holsonback , MD*

Dr. William Holsonback - August 16, 2024 at 05:57 PM

RD

“ Ronny McIver and Amy McIver Danner purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Donald Clay Ratcliffe.



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**Ronny McIver and Amy McIver Danner** - August 16, 2024 at 12:53 PM

RD

“ Ronny McIver and Amy McIver Danner planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald Clay Ratcliffe.

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**Ronny McIver and Amy McIver Danner** - August 16, 2024 at 12:53 PM

AB

“ Allan and Amanda Barnes purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Donald Clay Ratcliffe.



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**Allan and Amanda Barnes** - August 16, 2024 at 11:02 AM

LL

“ Love you all... Cindy , Nicki and Laney purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Donald Clay Ratcliffe.



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**Love you all... Cindy , Nicki and Laney** - August 16, 2024 at 09:07 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Donald Clay Ratcliffe.



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August 16, 2024 at 01:30 AM



“ Sara and Scott Sereff planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald Clay Ratcliffe.

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**Sara and Scott Sereff** - August 16, 2024 at 01:30 AM



“ To all members of Mr. Ratcliffe's family. I've known him since small child which brought us together by church and his long friendship with my Daddy (Tom McElmurray). I will always remember his love for God, his family and friends. I never saw him without a smile on his face and he always spoke to all of us girls every time we attended church. He was a wonderful and Godly man. I know he will be greatly missed. I send my thoughts , prayers, and condolences to all his family and friends.

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**Donnell McElmurray Hornsby** - August 15, 2024 at 10:35 PM

RN

*I have known Mr. Don since my teenage years (1960s). We shared the same birthday and his sister, Mrs. Gerri was my precious Sunday School Teacher at Calvary Baptist Church in Barnwell, SC. Mr. Don's enduring smile and his affirmation and caring support of my commitment to God's call upon my life to be a Pastor impacted me greatly. He came to Calvary's 50th Anniversary and joyfully celebrated with me, as I was the guest Pastor, preaching during that event. We have been prayer partners for many years. My thoughts and prayers are with all of Mr. Don's family and friends as they grieve the the loss they experience. I also join them in the celebration of Mr. Don's life well lived lived in our presence and now celebrated throughout Eternity with our Lord Jesus after hearing the Words of our Heavenly Father, "Well done My good and faithful servant!"*

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**Rev. Frank Northcutt** - August 16, 2024 at 07:57 AM

CP

“*Big Don has always held a cherished place in my heart and life. I have countless, fond memories of him as the most enthusiastic supporter of our high school basketball team. He would often say, "Hey kid, wanna shoot a few hoops?"*

*A man of faith, family, hard work, and high standards, he was a true advocate for kids, seizing every opportunity to help them and share his wisdom. He was kind, laughed easily, possessed a warm smile, a dapper dresser and exuded peace and calm - truly a gentleman. Big Don will be deeply missed by all of us fortunate enough to call him a friend.*

*Miriam, Donna, Terri, and Kev, my thoughts and prayers are with you during these challenging days ahead.*

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**Cindi Branch, Ph.D.** - August 15, 2024 at 05:26 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memorial Video*



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**Posey Funeral Directors** - August 15, 2024 at 04:06 PM

MJ

“ *Mary J. purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Donald Clay Ratcliffe.*



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**Mary J.** - August 15, 2024 at 03:59 PM



“ *Love's Journey was purchased for the family of Donald Clay Ratcliffe.*



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August 15, 2024 at 11:32 AM

BG

“ *Bill and Carol Gattis planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald Clay Ratcliffe.*

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**Bill and Carol Gattis** - August 15, 2024 at 11:32 AM

DG

“ *Mr Radcliffe was a kind, helpful, smart gentleman who never missed an opportunity to seek me out with a word of appreciation and an offer of assistance. As a school administrator I could always rely on him to share his vast knowledge and a voice of reason. Our society and community are better because he passed this way. Hopefully his family is comforted by the memories and legacy he leaves behind.*

*Bill Gallman*

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**Dr. Bill Gallman** - August 15, 2024 at 11:08 AM

GR

“ *Glenn Gustafson 7017 Howells Mill Road, lit a candle in memory of Donald Clay Ratcliffe*



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**Glenn Gustafson 7017 Howells Mill Road,** - August 14, 2024 at 09:11 PM

DA

“ *Miriam, Donna, Terri, Kevin and family,  
I am saddened to learn of the passing of my friend, Don. He was always a friend to me and was a fine Christian gentleman. It was always a pleasure to talk with him. He will certainly be missed by his many friends. God Bless you. You are in my prayers.*

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**Don Alexander** - August 14, 2024 at 08:49 PM

KJ

“ *Donna and family I'm so sorry to learn of your dad's passing.  
Sending prayers of comfort*

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**Karen Johnson** - August 14, 2024 at 07:08 PM

JK

“ I am so sorry to hear of the passing of Mr. Ratcliffe. He was a very special man and he will be greatly missed. The whole family will be in my prayers. My most sincere condolences go out to all of you.

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**Jasmine Blakely Kean** - August 14, 2024 at 05:41 PM

JF

“ New Mr Don from way back in younger years at First Baptist. Always seemed so nice and dressed well

So sorry for your loss.

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**James Fulghum** - August 14, 2024 at 05:01 PM

JS

“ Miriam and Family, words cannot express how much we will miss Mr. Don. He impacted everyone he met. I still remember the first time I ever met him 8.5 years ago. It was a privilege to know him all these years and we are sending you all love and hugs and prayers during this time of great sadness. - Jamie and the UEW SC family

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**Jamie S.** - August 14, 2024 at 04:18 PM

KM

“ Miriam, Donna, Terri, Kevin and all family members,

My thoughts and prayers are with you today and in the days ahead. May the LORD give you the peace that passes all understanding. Love you.

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**Karen Copeland Muns** - August 14, 2024 at 02:58 PM