



## Don Welman Brown

February 13, 1953 - March 9, 2021

Don Welman Brown (1953-2021) of Grantville, Georgia, returned home into the loving arms of his Father in Heaven on March 9, 2021. The youngest of three children, he was born in American Fork, Utah on February 13, 1953, to Clark Kendall and Ellen Walker Brown.

His early years were spent living in American Fork, where he made many dear friends and many wonderful memories. After graduating from American Fork High School, Don served a two-year mission in Spain for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Upon returning from his mission, he entered Brigham Young University and earned a degree in History. He went on to use this degree to teach history as well as Spanish at The Heritage School in Newnan, Georgia. In the words of The Heritage School, "Mr. Don Brown gained legendary status during his twenty-seven year career at The Heritage School as a GISA State Championship Basketball Coach, the Dean of the Upper School Students, a gifted Spanish educator, and a celebrated World History teacher. Many students regarded him as the most influential man and teacher they have ever known."

Don married Debora (Debbie) Ann Thomas on March 24, 1976 in the Salt Lake City LDS Temple. She was the love of his life and, by his own admission, their marriage and ensuing life together was the best choice he ever made. They brought into the world five beautiful children, who blessed their lives with boundless joy. Nothing, however, made him happier than his nine grandchildren. He loved them dearly and never missed an opportunity to ensure each knew of his love for them, especially with sleepovers and pancakes. During their married life, Don and Debbie lived in many places: Orem, Utah; Madison, Wisconsin; Las Vegas, Nevada; Southern California; Roswell, Georgia; and for the last twenty plus years in Grantville, Georgia. Everywhere they went, they touched people's lives for good. His quick wit, kind heart, and humility helped him become a role model for all of those around him. Don was also quick to help anyone in need and always gave the best advice. Don was an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints where he served in many capacities including Elder's Quorum President, Sunday School President, and Young Men's President. A gentle giant, he dedicated his

life to the service of his fellow man, and his love of the gospel was contagious.

Don is survived by his children: Rebecca Ferguson (Ian) of LaGrange, Georgia, Ryan Brown (Sarah) of Dothan, Alabama; Erin Janson (Jon) of Senoia, Georgia, Lindsay Kelshaw (Matt) of Carrollton, Georgia; and Jennifer Kunkler (Kevin) of Sharpsburg, Georgia. Grandchildren: Catherine and Walker Brown, Riley, Emily, and Samuel Janson, Graham and Eden Kelshaw, Cooper and Morgan Kunkler. Also, his brother Kendall Brown (Margie) of Orem, Utah and sister Mary Carter (Bruce) of Orem, Utah; mother-in-law, Bonnie Thomas of Highland, Utah, and brother-in-law: Richard Thomas (Melinda) of Phoenix, Arizona; sister-in-law Nancy Murphy (Dale) of Alpine, Utah; brother-in-law Randal Thomas (Jodee) of Rochester, Minnesota; brother-in-law Robert Thomas (Trina) of Saratoga Springs, Utah; and Sally Jensen (Mitch) of American Fork, Utah; and many cousins and nieces and nephews. Don was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Debora Ann Brown, father Clark Kendall Brown, mother Ellen Walker Brown, father-in-law Claude Ray Thomas, grandparents, and other loved ones—all who loved him dearly and were waiting on the other side to embrace him and welcome him home.

The service celebrating the life Don lived is Monday, March 15, 2021 at 2:00 PM at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 821 Old Atlanta Hwy, Newnan, GA with Bishop Matt Hutson officiating. Due to a limited number of 100 people being allowed to attend the service, those who are unable to come may view the service live through zoom, <https://zoom.us/j/98906030228?pwd=K0F2dVIINjhRajZUd1JwQ3l4Und5dz09>

Don will lie in state from 1:00 PM until service time on Monday at the church. The family will greet friends Sunday evening from 4:00 PM until 6:00 PM at McKoon Funeral Home, 38 Jackson Street, in Newnan.

To continue his legacy, Don's children and grandchildren will be establishing the Don W Brown Scholarship for The Heritage School and details will be forthcoming. Condolences may be expressed to the family online at <http://www.mckoon.com>.

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory 770-253-4580

# Cemetery

---

**Forest Lawn Memorial Park**  
656 Roscoe Road  
Newnan, GA, 30263

# Events

---

**MAR 14**    **Visitation**    04:00PM - 06:00PM  
McKoon Funeral Home Chapel  
38 Jackson Street, Newnan, GA, US, 30263

**MAR 15**    **Service**    02:00PM  
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints  
821 Old Atlanta Hwy, Newnan, GA, US, 30263

# Comments

---



“ Coach Don,  
We knew the Brown's a lifetime ago. Our girls played softball together and Don even coached Lindsay (Carter). I am so sad to hear the news of his passing. I just can't believe it. Please know the Sweatman family is praying for your family.  
Love you,  
Selena Sweatman

**Selena Sweatman** - March 16 at 02:36 PM

---



“ The guidance and lessons coach Brown offered throughout our time together remain prominent, timeless principles in my life today.  
  
In the end, the love you take is equal to the love you make.  
  
RIP coach Brown. You love on through us.

**number24** - March 15 at 10:06 AM

---



“ I'm so sorry for the loss of Bro. Brown. My heart goes out to his children and you're all in my prayers! Sis. Brown was always so kind and helpful to me as well as my babies were growing up and we would see her at the health department. Bittersweet it is to not be able to see your loved ones in this life anymore, but I do believe they're together again. #familiesareforever

**Eve Olsen** - March 15 at 08:51 AM

---



“ The impact he made in so many lives can never be counted. He shared the best part of himself by being your friend... have comfort in knowing, only the best are taken early because their work is done, he gave his all to life and dedication to his family. He will be missed. Rest In Peace, my friend

**Brenda McKoon** - March 14 at 09:22 AM

---



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Don Welman Brown.



March 14 at 09:01 AM

---



“ Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Don Welman Brown.



March 13 at 05:56 PM

---



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Don Welman Brown.



March 13 at 04:51 PM

---



“ I am sorry for your loss! Your parents were the best! Prayers for peace and comfort during this difficult time.

**Debbie Olmstead** - March 13 at 04:11 PM

---



“ To Don's children and grandchildren:  
So saddened to hear of Don's passing. I knew him in High School where we played basketball together. A number of Friday nights were spent in his basement in American Fork playing pool and having a good time. Not surprised at his accomplishments and the impact he has made in the lives of students and those who knew him. May God bless you with the sweet memories of talented, honorable and good father and grandfather..  
Max Ditlevsen

Max Ditlevsen - March 13 at 12:32 PM

---



“ I was so sad to hear the news of Mr. Don's passing. He was such a kind person, a true gentleman. I always enjoyed talking to him whenever he was in the office. One thing for sure he loved his family! You children were very blessed with two awesome loving parents. Your mom was always so sweet when my kids were little and going to seei Dr. Thomas. Just know I am praying for God's peace to surround you all. Will be thinking of you all in the coming days. Sybil Rainey

Sybil Rainey - March 12 at 11:04 PM

---



“ I grew up across the street from Don in American Fork, UT. We are the same age and had many memorable childhood adventures together. I have reflected often on these times and have missed our close association since Don moved away. My thoughts and prayers are with those left behind but grateful for the reunion with those who have preceded him. May I pass on some sage counsel that brings me comfort in the passing of a loved one. “We can't appreciate joyful reunions later without tearful separations now. The only way to take sorrow out of death is to take love out of life.”  
President Russell M. Nelson.

May God be with us till we meet again.  
Jesse Richard Adamson

Jess Adamson - March 12 at 03:04 PM

---



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Don Welman Brown.



March 12 at 02:50 PM

---



“ Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of Don Welman Brown.



March 12 at 01:12 PM

---



“ Mark and Jessie Brown purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Don Welman Brown.



**Mark and Jessie Brown** - March 12 at 01:09 PM

---



“ Aunt Pat & Uncle Roger Christ and family purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Don Welman Brown.



**Aunt Pat & Uncle Roger Christ and family** - March 12 at 11:37 AM

---



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



March 12 at 11:25 AM

---



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



March 12 at 11:02 AM

---



“ Don you were a great man and will truly be missed by all that you touched throughout your life. I will miss your talks so much. Watch over us and your family!

**Simone DuPree** - March 12 at 10:23 AM

---



“ Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Don Welman Brown.



March 12 at 09:29 AM