



## Don J. Jones, Sr.

July 31, 1935 - September 8, 2024

So many people go through life and strive for recognition, great wealth, awards upon awards, and so many other accomplishments that will be their legacy. There are those individuals who do great works, for sure, but want their legacy to be one of a loving family, loyalty to friends and favor in the eyes of God. For Don Jones, that legacy of 89 years could be symbolized by a simple peppermint candy. Don felt like his mission in life was first to honor the God that created him, love the woman who shared 62 years of his life, and pour love out onto his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. If one met Don once or if you met him every day, he was going to slip his hand in his pocket and slip a simple peppermint candy into your hand. It was his way of saying God loves you and so do I. Sunday afternoon, September 8, 2024, was much like most days this time of year, hot and sticky outside in the heat of another summer day as the seasons transitioned toward fall. Most people agree that trees show their most radiant color as their season of beauty changes into the riot of fall color. Inside in the cool of a hospital room, Don's family held vigil as he peacefully answered the final call God would place on his life. Don obeyed that call, took that outstretched hand and silently slipped into eternity. As we grow older and walk toward that path that will take us into eternal life, many of us reveal our most wonderful traits as we strive to let our love for others burst forth and we want that legacy of love to be our most memorable trait. Don felt he had accomplished his mission of work and love here.

Don's journey in this life began July 31, 1935. He was born in Newnan to the late Hal Lyndon Jones, Sr. and his beloved wife Sara Martin Jones. Don lived his whole childhood in the same house. His family farmed the good earth, and they were anchored firmly in their property in northern Coweta County. Back in that day, Don spent three months every year away from school because there were crops to be harvested, cotton to pick, and the everyday task of tending cows. Each of the Jones' boys had his own cow and mule. Mr. Hal and Miss Sara were strict, but incredibly loving and intent on raising their family with an amazing work ethic. They taught them that everything they had was a gift of God and not to be squandered.

Don graduated from Newnan High School in 1954. He excelled in baseball and football and was a natural for running hurdles in track, once placing 2nd in the state. He gave his best to anything he attempted. Following high school, Don joined the Navy and Naval Reserves. While he was in the service, he married his beautiful love, Mildred Oliver. They shared 63 years of love, laughter and adventures together. Their life was full; to say the least as together they raised six children. After returning from the Navy, Don had gone to work with his brother Ronald in his grading business. He would later form his own business. After selling his grading business, he went to work for General Motors. A man with a houseful of children needed a job with benefits and a regular paycheck! Like all things he undertook, Don would excel at GM. He became a respected industrial engineer and retired when GM closed the Lakewood Plant. Don was offered a job in several states by GM, but he told his boss he was going home to Newnan.

The retirement years for Don and Mildred were filled with the endless activities of their grandchildren and great grandchildren. The happy couple loved to travel and made memorable trips to Hawaii and Alaska. As the years passed and travel was not an option, the doors to their home wore out the hinges as

visitors came and went in an endless stream, much to their delight. Don and Mildred were life-long members of the Newnan First United Methodist Church. They loved their church family in the Henry Kitchens Sunday School. Having their faith grounded in their church gave them a kindred bond with many people whom they loved and who loved them. Life took a serious turn when Don, in 2018, had to surrender his beloved Mildred to the God who had placed her in his life. There was a natural void in his life after her passing, but he chose to fill that void with happy adventures with his grandchildren and great grandchildren. Every day included a two-hour devotional, breakfast with his granddaughter Megan Ann, countless emails, keeping up with Judge Judy. The days came to an end with Family Feud and the Braves. When he was no longer able to anchor his pew at church, he embraced the idea of an online church which he shared with his son Stephen and grandson Andrew. He anxiously anticipated the twice-daily calls from "Susta" and Ruth and he enjoyed attending his GM retirement luncheons with his son Clay who he entrusted in everything he needed.

Besides his parents, Don was predeceased by his brothers Tommy Jones and Hal Jones, Jr., and his sister Gloria Jones Grenga.

Don is survived by his children: Don Jones, Jr., Leslie "Susta" Thomas (and Jeff), Merri Douglas (and Bruce), Stephen Jones, Clayton Jones, Sr.(and Donna), and Ruth Warren (and Tom). He had a heart full of love for his grandchildren Jessica (Cory) Sherman, Sydney Jones, Hunter (Emily) Thomas, Camden (Ryan) Nowicki, Matthew (Olivia) Douglas, Courtney (C.J.) Stanford, Bonnie Douglas, Shannon (Nick) Kimbro, Ashley (Matt) Neely, Abbigail (Charles) Ethier, Andrew Jones, Clay (Hannah) Jones, Jr., Leslie Jones Cooper, MeganAnn (Chaz) Hankee, Isabel Jones, Tayler Warren and Thomas Warren, Jr. and 20 great grandkids.

He is survived by his siblings Ronald D. Jones, Sr., Karen Malcolm and Marty (Joy) Jones.

It is a daunting task to try to capture such an amazing life of hard work, love, and service to others in a few lines of print on a piece of paper...think, a Goodyear blimp with a scrolling marquee! Don's life on earth was long and he accomplished much. His life will be most remembered for the infinite amount of love he showered on his family and friends, and it is that which will be remembered as his family and friends gather at McKoon Funeral Home at 38 Jackson Street on Friday, September 13th between 6:00 PM and 8:00 PM. A service of thanksgiving for this good man will be at Newnan First United Methodist Church on Saturday, September 14, 2024, at 3:00 PM. Online condolences may be expressed at [www.mckoon.com](http://www.mckoon.com). Those who may wish to do so, might honor his life by a gift in his memory to First United Methodist church 33 Greenville St. Newnan GA 30263.

When we remember this good and Godly man, remember his mints, for sure, but most importantly, remember that he wanted to share the love of the God he served and it was more than just a piece of candy. Amen.

Condolences may be expressed online at [www.mckoon.com](http://www.mckoon.com)  
McKoon Funeral Home and Crematory 770-253-4580

# Cemetery Details

## Forest Lawn Memorial Park

656 Roscoe Road  
Newnan, GA 30263

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **13.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home  
38 Jackson Street  
Newnan, GA 30263

## Funeral Service

SEP **14.** 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Newnan First United Methodist Church  
33 Greenville Street  
Newnan, GA 30263

# Tribute Wall



“ *McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Don J. Jones, Sr.*



-----  
**McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory** - September 13, 2024 at 01:32 PM

DP

“ *Mr. Don and Hal used to stop by my office and bring us all peppermints and baked goods. I will miss talking to Mr. Don on the phone and him emailing me the funny things he found on the internet. He brought a smile to my face every time I spoke to him. My prayers are with all of you during this time of loss.*

-----  
**Donna Pollard** - September 17, 2024 at 11:36 AM

AD

“ *Mr. Don Jones and beautiful Miss Mildred were two of the finest people one could ever cross paths with. I had forgotten about Mr. Don and his Peppermint Candy, but this act of kindness brought a smile to my face when reading some of the tributes. My brother, Avery, introduced my Mother and myself to the Jones family in the early eighties. Avery has been gone 40 years on September 30th. I lost my precious Mother in 2015 and my sweet husband in 2014. My prayers are with all of you during this difficult time. Angela Bentley Dendy*

-----  
**Angela Bentley Dendy** - September 14, 2024 at 04:30 AM

JJ

“ *Jane J Johnson lit a candle in memory of Don J. Jones, Sr.*



Jane J Johnson - September 13, 2024 at 07:53 PM

JJ

*Praying peace and comfort for all of the Jones Family! I am sure there was a glad reunion in Heaven. Love to you all.*

Jane J Johnson - September 13, 2024 at 07:54 PM

TO

*I was so sorry to hear about Uncle Don. I loved him dearly, best uncle ever. He got me a management training job at General Motors when I first started out in Life. Although it didn't last long because of the economy at the time, I will be forever grateful. He always remembered my birthday and I looked forward to his call. He gave me cuttings of grandma's rose bush. He will be in my heart and thoughts forever. Hoping for all the best to all my favorite cousins during this time of grief. Love you Uncle Don. Know you are in heaven with all our other loved ones that have passed.*

Tim Oliver - September 14, 2024 at 11:45 AM

JH

“ *So sorry to learn of the passing of Don Jones, Sr. He was a great man, loved by so many that he crossed paths with. I too remember him for the Peppermint candies he handed out each time I saw him in church. He was genuine and sincere in all he did and thus accomplished much in life. He will be missed.*

Jim Holt - September 13, 2024 at 07:26 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Don J. Jones, Sr..*



September 13, 2024 at 04:56 PM



“ *Sad to hear of Mr. Don's passing. He always had a kind word and a piece of candy on hand to make every person he met smile. Praying for peace for the family.*

**Mary Terry** - September 13, 2024 at 04:14 PM



“ *Gerrie Petty lit a candle in memory of Don J. Jones, Sr.*



**Gerrie Petty** - September 13, 2024 at 07:54 AM



“ *Mr Don was a precious, precious soul who always had a smile and a word of encouragement. It was a delight to see him when he would visit Dr Yancey's office! My deepest condolences to the entire family.*

*Angie Weathersby*

**Angie Weathersby** - September 13, 2024 at 06:21 AM

LL

“ Love, Kent & Lisa purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Don J. Jones, Sr..



Love, Kent & Lisa - September 13, 2024 at 06:17 AM

DG

“ Ruth and family, I always enjoyed seeing your dad when I came home to visit. He would give me a peppermint, of course. He is one of many pieces of my Newnan world, and sadly another one who has finished their journey.

Debra Hawk Gourley - September 12, 2024 at 11:34 PM

MC

“ So sorry to hear the sad news of Mr. don's passing. The Cornay family sends their thoughts and prayers to Mr. Don and family..

Merrill Cornay - September 12, 2024 at 06:54 PM

LK

“ Lawrence K. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Don J. Jones, Sr..

Lawrence K. - September 12, 2024 at 07:30 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Don J. Jones, Sr..



September 12, 2024 at 07:30 AM

BB

“ So sad to lose my buddy (and diving coach at the Elks pool). Always cheerful and upbeat , Mr. Don will be greatly missed. What a fine man. Our condolences to all his family. Bob and Jenn Blackburn.

Bob Blackburn - September 12, 2024 at 05:58 AM

JW

“ Ruth and family, I was so sorry to hear of Mr. Jones' passing. Thinking of you all during these difficult days.

Jennifer Welch - September 11, 2024 at 11:08 PM

MY

“ So sorry to hear of Mr Don's passing. Always enjoyed our conversations whether seeing him in town or visiting in his home. He is a good man and friend. Our prayers to the family, may God bless each of you with his peace and comfort in the days ahead. Retired Sheriff Mike and Bev Yeager

Mike&Bev Yeager - September 11, 2024 at 10:13 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Don J. Jones, Sr..



September 11, 2024 at 08:59 PM

CI

“ I will always cherish the way Mr. Don welcomed me into his home and his family and loved me like his own. What a testimony he was for the Lord! I'll miss him greatly and will listen to the voicemail he left me on my birthday every time I need a pick me up. Love y'all so much.

cindy - September 11, 2024 at 06:24 PM

VP

“ My greatest memory of Mr. Don, was singing in Sunday school while he lead us, Deep and Wide especially. Our neighbor for all of my growing up years, I remember him recovering from having his tonsils out. He was a wonderful man, who I will never forget.  
Victoria Hammond Pyles

Victoria Pyles - September 11, 2024 at 05:41 PM

JW

“ Joy Williams lit a candle in memory of Don J. Jones, Sr.



Joy Williams - September 11, 2024 at 05:30 PM

KP

“ Our hearts and prayers are with all of his family. The Poole family will forever remember Mr Jones and his handshake of peppermint candies with each of us at every baseball game of his grandson, Hunter; where you could always hear him cheer from the stands.. "Thata way, Hunta' " Forever the southern gentleman and man of God.. Rest in Peace, I know you're taking a peppermint to my Jim and talkin' baseball.

Kim Poole - September 11, 2024 at 05:10 PM

DK

“ Don’s memory will live forever in my heart. He never missed that chance to toss me a peppermint on Sunday morning! He and Mildred were so good to the Kinrades.  
I’m so sorry we will not be able to attend visitation or the service on Saturday. We will be present in spirit. Sending our prayers, love and God’s many blessings to all the Joneses.  
Love  
David and JoAn.

---

David Kinrade - September 11, 2024 at 02:28 PM

R.

“ Robney and Tina . purchased a sympathy card for the family of Don J. Jones, Sr..



---

Robney and Tina . - September 11, 2024 at 12:32 PM

TF

“ The Bonner Family lit a candle in memory of Don J. Jones, Sr.



---

The Bonner Family - September 11, 2024 at 12:19 PM

TF

“ The Lizard Thicket family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Don Jerry Jones.

---

The Lizard Thicket family - September 11, 2024 at 11:37 AM

TF

“ *The Lizard Thicket family purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Don J. Jones, Sr..*



---

**The Lizard Thicket family** - September 11, 2024 at 11:37 AM