



## Robert Howard Alkire

December 12, 1927 - February 26, 2017

Robert H. "Duke" Alkire, age 89, of Lakeland, FL, passed away on Sunday, February 26, 2017 after a brief illness. Duke was born on December 12, 1927 in Monongah, WV to the late Thomas W., Sr. and Joy D. Alkire. He was a member of Scott Lake Baptist Church since his move to Lakeland and a former member of First Baptist Church of Moreland, GA. He served in the U.S. Army in 1947 and 1948 at Fort Belvoir.

Along with his parents he is preceded in death by his beloved wife of 51 years, Ruth (Rice) Alkire, his brother, Harold Alkire and sister, Mary Lou Staten. He is survived by his son Ronnie H. (Joy) Alkire of Lakeland, FL, two daughters, Paula Cosentino of Duluth, GA and Carolyn (Paul) Brown of Stockbridge, GA. He is also survived by six grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren, one sister and three brothers.

After 37 years Duke retired from Owens Illinois Glass. He enjoyed sports and played softball and basketball in to his 70's. He loved to bowl, compete in Senior Olympics and remained active until he was 88 years old.

He loved and served his Lord throughout his life and his greatest pleasure was telling everyone of the saving grace of Jesus Christ. He served as a deacon at The Meadows Baptist Church, Heatherwood Baptist Church and The First Baptist Church of Moreland in Ga. Duke was a licensed Baptist

preacher and carried the message of God's love into prisons and retirement centers until he was called home. He also volunteered at hospice for over 12 years.

The funeral service is Saturday, March 4, 2017 at 11 AM in the sanctuary of The First Baptist Church of Moreland with Duke's grandson Christopher Brown officiating. Burial will follow the service at Southview Cemetery in Moreland. The family will receive friends Friday evening from 6 PM until 8 PM at McKoon Funeral Home, 38 Jackson Street in Newnan.

A memorial service will be held at Scott Lake Baptist Church in Lakeland, FL on Monday, March 6, 2017 at 11 AM. The family will receive friends from 10 AM until service time on Monday.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that memorial contributions be made in Duke's name to The First Baptist Church of Moreland, 2930 US-29, Moreland, GA 30259 or Scott Lake Baptist Church, 5811 Scott Lake Rd, Lakeland, FL 33813. Condolences may be expressed online to the family at [www.mckoon.com](http://www.mckoon.com).

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory 770-253-4580

# Cemetery Details

## Southview Cemetery

Harris Street (PO Box 201)  
Moreland, GA 30259

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 3. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home  
38 Jackson Street  
Newnan, GA 30263  
(770) 253-4580  
care@mckoon.com

## Service

MAR 4. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Moreland  
2930 US-29  
Moreland, GA 30259

# Tribute Wall

GS

“ To The Robert "Duke" Alkire Family, I share a recent memory of this your beloved father, grandfather and great-grandfather. While at Azalea Park he reconnected my Mother Ann Stevens to a Yankeetown kid, Dan Price, she knew when I was a kid as well. You see, our 3rd grade teacher at Yankeetown School was the one and only, Mrs Joy Alkire, Duke's mother. With Mrs Joy Alkire's love of music and her incredible talent, we were introduced to her world of gifts!! She inspired me to become a musician in high school and march with that band. I am so very grateful for Duke's reaching out to my mother and Dan Price and reminding this Faithful Yankeetown Kid just how precious life is. This morning when I called Mother with the news of Duke's passing she had already signed up for the bus ride to attend his FL memorial service at Scott OK Baptist Church on 3/6/17. Her words to me were, "Duke use to play an instrument on Sundays at Azalea Park and isn't it truly a small world that he reconnected us Yankeetown folks" after all the years. May you as Alkire family members just know how grateful we are for what his kind and generous gesture meant over the miles, over the years for memories made, cherished so very much. I am with you in spirit. May God's Peace be in your aching hearts and Blessings and Prayers to You All The Alkires. Gail Stevens from Portland, OR. I will mail a check to Scott Lake Baptist Church in Duke's memory.

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**Gail Stevens** - March 03, 2017 at 03:08 PM

GS

“ I worked with Duke the 37 years he was at Owens Illinois Glass Co. Duke was quite a gentleman, First a very "Godly" man, A good athlete. a better Umpire, some kind of Outstanding Bowler, and a friend to anyone who took the time to know him and his lovely wife, He will be surely missed, but never forgotten, Duke was one find man and loved our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.  
Rest in Peace,

Your Friend,

Glynn Shriver

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**Glynn R. Shriver** - March 03, 2017 at 08:30 AM

GK

“Duke” Alkire was always somebody special. It is with fond memories that I recall my first time bowling at Junction Lanes in Newnan. That was nine years ago when I began bowling. I had arrived for what was called Wednesday Fun Bowling. I did not know a sole, but as soon as I entered the building Duke came up to me and introduced himself. Then he asked me to join him on the lanes. I told Duke that I was just beginning and was not very good. He said that it did not matter how good I bowled – just come on and have fun. And so it went. Duke was such a good bowler that I was in awe and through the years truly valued his friendship.  
Gordon Kilgore

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**Gordon Kilgore** - March 02, 2017 at 01:08 PM

FC

“ From Paula's Office Co-workers purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Robert Howard Alkire.



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**From Paula's Office Co-workers** - March 02, 2017 at 12:35 PM

SS

“ Carolyn,  
Joel and I are praying for you & your family as you say goodbye to your sweet dad. Mr. Duke was such a Godly man, and I enjoyed listening to his words of wisdom during our bible study last year.  
Susan Smithgall

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**Susan P Smithgall** - March 01, 2017 at 09:31 PM

JA

“ Jeff and Martie Abney purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Robert Howard Alkire.



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**Jeff and Martie Abney** - March 01, 2017 at 07:27 PM



Trammell  
Britt

“ Carolyn, Paula, Ronnie, and family,  
Mr. Alkire was a very special man to me and to Charles. I will never forget his trips to YHC to pick me and Paula up for weekend visits back home. He was one of the kindest people that I have ever known. Will miss him , but know that he is home with the Savior He loves .  
Thinking of you all during this time,. love Mollie and Charles  
Trammell

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**Trammell Britt** - March 01, 2017 at 06:59 PM

SG

“ Sally and George Grace purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Robert Howard Alkire.



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**Sally and George Grace** - March 01, 2017 at 03:25 PM