



## Donald Gene Cochran

October 31, 1937 - January 27, 2022

Donald Gene Cochran Sr., age 84, of Pinson, AL, went to be with Jesus surrounded by his family on January 27, 2022. Don was born in Rome, GA on October 31, 1937 to Clarence and Esther Cochran.

He was a graduate of Woodlawn High School in Birmingham where he and his teammates won several state football championships. Don received a football scholarship to the University of Alabama in 1956, where he played his first two years under Coach J.B. Whitworth, and his last two years under Coach Paul Bryant. Don received All-SEC and All-American honors for his play under Coach Bryant, and was the Most Outstanding Player on Coach Bryant's first teams. He was drafted by the Houston Oilers in 1960, but chose to be an assistant coach under Coach Bryant in 1960 and 1961, as a part of the National Championship Team. Don had a lot of respect and admiration for Coach Bryant, as Coach Bryant did for him. Following his playing and coaching days at the University of Alabama, Don also coached at George Washington University and Oklahoma State University.

Don had a successful home building and remodeling business for many years, which he had an excellent reputation with numerous repeat customers, who became his friends.

Don enjoyed bass fishing and hunting, in which he spent many hours teaching his son, grandsons, and other family members and friends to enjoy as well.

Don is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 64 years, Sondra Cochran; son, Donald Cochran, Jr. (Tammy); daughter, Dana LeMaster (Spike);

brothers, Coleman Cochran Jr. (Judy), and Phil Cochran (Cynthia); grandchildren, David Fallin (Janie); Faith Lang (Adam); Brooke Richardson (Paul); John Sharbutt (Brittany); Bethany McCandless (Gavin); Jordan Sharbutt; Bailey Whitfield (Austin); Jenna LeMaster; 12 great-grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews close family members and friends, all who loved and will miss him dearly.

Don was a member of First Baptist Church of Trussville, and was in the Phil Foster Sunday school class.

Visitation will be Friday, February 4, 2022, at Deerfoot Memorial Funeral Home in Trussville, AL from 10 a.m. – 11 a.m., with service to follow. Burial will be at Jefferson Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Trussville concluding the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial may be made to the Alzheimer's Association - Alabama Chapter.

# Cemetery Details

## Jefferson Memorial Gardens

1591 Gadsden Hwy  
Birmingham, AL 35235

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 4. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Deerfoot Memorial Funeral Home  
5360 Deerfoot Parkway  
Trussville, AL 35173

## Funeral Service

FEB 4. 11:00 AM (CT)

Deerfoot Memorial Funeral Home  
5360 Deerfoot Parkway  
Trussville, AL 35173

# Tribute Wall

WM

“ I am Donnie's cousin 2 years younger, Wanda Phillips. His mother and my dad were brother and sister. In our younger years, we spent several summers together.. Last time i spoke with Donnie we talked about what big Christmas we shared at our grandmother's house. We haven't reached out to each other in a lot of years. When our families were close we shared many times together and made alot of memories. One summer at our great-grandad farm (Wilson). WE were 5 and 7 years old. Our moms made fudge put it in the fridge and told us not to open fridge while they went to barn to milk cow. Well we couldn't wait. so we opened fridge to ck. fudge. Slammed fridge door big platter on top of fridge fell and broke. We were caught. if we would meet them coming back from barn and confess we would be ok . We did but it wasn't ok. we each got switched with a tree switch.  
those good all days. Wanda Phillips McCann

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wanda McCann - April 08, 2022 at 02:39 PM

SD

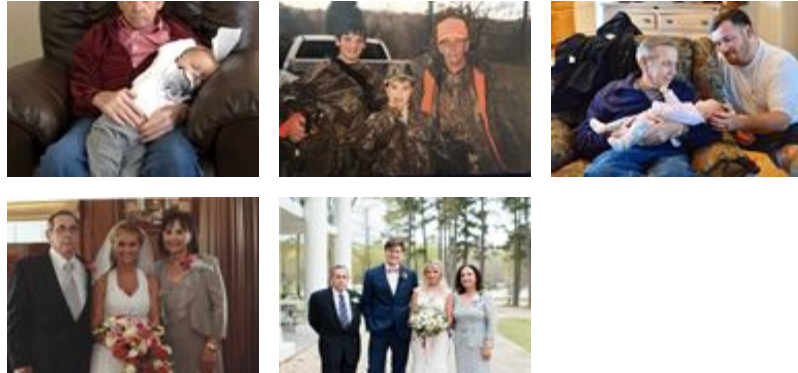
“ Sondra, I'm so sorry for your loss. I have so many wonderful memories of you and Donnie from High School. My husband, Bobby Dole, and I thought the world of Donnie. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

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sunny dole - February 16, 2022 at 07:43 AM



“ 36 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Deerfoot Memorial Funeral Home - February 04, 2022 at 09:59 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald Gene Cochran.*



February 03, 2022 at 03:07 PM



“ *Don and I have been in the same Sunday School class at First Baptist Church for several years. He had a very sweet smile . I enjoyed kidding around with him.. He will be missed.*

Jennifer Bain - January 31, 2022 at 10:21 PM

SP

“ Sondra,  
*We're deeply sorry for the loss of your husband. We know it is a painful happening, and pray that God will comfort you.*

*Chas Brown State Farm Trussville*

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**Susan Powell** - January 31, 2022 at 02:24 PM

KM

“ *Mr Cochran was such a southern gentleman. I loved talking with him. He loved God, his family and friends. I was blessed and honored to call him a friend.*

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**kathy Mayfield** - January 30, 2022 at 07:14 PM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Donald Gene Cochran.*



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January 28, 2022 at 08:39 PM