



## Fred Donald (Don) Claunch

December 23, 1946 - June 14, 2025

Don Claunch, 78, of Russellville, passed on June 14, 2025.

He leaves to cherish his memories: Marilyn Claunch, wife of 32 years; Laurel Ann Marie Bussman and David Bussman, children; Grace Bussman, daughter-in-law; Caleb, Edith, Isaac, Ethan, Benjamin Bussman, grandchildren; Reggie Claunch, Katrina Harrison, Gaylena Rhodes Long, sisters-in-law; Elizabeth Kennedy, mother-in-law; Kathy Claunch, Jennifer Cornelius (Scot), Shyloh Stringer (Sean), Sophie Dash (Abhilash), nieces; Jeff Claunch, nephew; Roberta Richardson, cousin...and a host of friends!

Don was preceded in death by his parents, Clifford and Etoile Claunch; his brothers, John Claunch and Robert Claunch (Edith).

Don's memorial service will be held Tuesday, June 17, 2025, at North Highlands Church of Christ in Russellville. Visitation will be 5:00-7:00 pm and the service follows at 7:00 pm. All are held at the church. Spry Funeral Home is assisting the family.

Don Claunch was an amazing "Trooper" in his struggle with pancreatic cancer. His attitude was "live like you are living," so there were many precious times, even during his illness. His FAITH in GOD remained STEADFAST. His prayers of PRAISE, around the table at home, were humbling and beautiful!

His family is thankful for the wonderful legacy of faith that Don is leaving!

“Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised,  
And His greatness is unsearchable,  
One generation shall praise Your works to another,  
And shall declare Your mighty acts.” Psalm 145:3-4

Don Claunch was a man at peace with God who could embrace the simple pleasures of life: sitting on the back porch sipping lemonade...while watching the hummingbirds at his feeders and other birds in the maple trees, working in his flower and vegetable gardens, hiking in nature areas, and especially attending church and spending time with his family. He was very devoted to his wife, Marilyn, and a loving example to Ann Marie, David and Grace, and the precious grandchildren. He had an especially close relationship with his niece, Kathy, like a big brother. Don loved his family and friends.

Most of all, Don is respected for his strong faith in God and his example of truly LIVING the Christian life. He had a tremendous capacity to love. He was known for his warm smile, his kindness to others, and for being a “Southern gentleman.” As stated by Oswald Chambers: We are meant “to be seen as the everyday essence of ordinary life EXHIBITING the MIRACLE OF GOD’S GRACE.”

One of Don’s favorite verses (Philippians 4:8) reveals his heart’s desire to exhibit God’s grace in his own life; please read.

Even in the illnesses that Don faced, he never let go of his knowledge of God’s unchanging character: the God of great love, who sent His own Son to die in our place. Don’s greatest joy would be to point you to Jesus, as revealed in Isaiah 53:5-6: “But He (referring to Jesus) was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and with His stripes

we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way, and the LORD hath laid on HIM the iniquity of us all." Don lived in the knowledge of God's grace!

Don's family wants to thank you for the love poured out to them: all the prayers, cards, phone messages, and every gift of kindness! They are truly grateful! Your attendance at Don's funeral would bring them great joy!

# Cemetery Details

## Knights Of Pythias Cemetery

Russellville, AL 35653

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 17. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

North Highlands Church of Christ  
2101 N Jackson Avenue  
Russellville, AL 35653

## Service

JUN 17. 7:00 PM (CT)

North Highlands Church of Christ  
2101 N. Jackson Avenue  
Russellville , AL 35653

# Tribute Wall



“ *Spry Memorial Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Fred Donald (Don) Claunch*



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**Spry Memorial Chapel** - June 17, 2025 at 01:06 PM

MW

“ *I met Don (he introduced himself to me as "Freddy Don", and that is how I knew him until we lost touch) when I was around 12 years old. He drove by my house every single day on his way over the hill on Gaines Ave to his house a few blocks toward the old Jr. High School. He was by far, the nicest, kindest, most joyful person I had ever met, but it was his blond hair and his blinding smile that stays with me. Freddy Don called me every single year on my birthday (June 12) for the next ten years, maybe longer, until I moved away to Atlanta. He even called and asked Mother to tell me after I had left for the University of Alabama. Thank you for sharing this tribute to your husband, father, grandfather....there has never been a better person that God put on this earth than Fred Donald Claunch. It makes me laugh and cry at once to know how happy his life turned out to be, exactly as it should have! My most heartfelt condolences for the loss of this beautiful person who I will always remember with great fullness in my heart.*

*Margaret W. Webb  
Class of 1970  
Former neighbor of "Freddy Don"*

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**Margaret W. Webb** - July 15, 2025 at 12:02 PM



“ Dear Claunch family,  
 I'm sorry to read of your loved one's passing,  
 and may all find comfort in our Lord's word  
 during this time of sadness.



In John 11:23-26, “Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

The above scripture is a wonderful promise from our Lord Jesus, and those who have passed on are now in the care of our Lord God, who has shown his love for us through his Beloved Son.

God's continued blessings be upon you all; your loved one's reward is waiting.

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**John Lunsford** - June 18, 2025 at 01:50 AM



“ 50 files added to the album LifeTributes




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**Spry Memorial Chapel** - June 17, 2025 at 12:27 PM

MR

“ *Don was a Christian man of the highest caliber. A true friend to all in both word and deed. His like is rare and will be sorely missed*  
*Malcolm Ritchie*

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**Malcolm Ritchie** - June 16, 2025 at 09:10 PM