



## Don Bethard

September 17, 1945 - March 14, 2026

Funeral services for Don Bethard, 80, of Longview, Texas, will be held at 12:00 pm, Friday, March 20, 2026, at Woodland Hills Baptist Church with Kase Kuykendall, Charles Hunt, and Jeff Bethard officiating. Interment to follow at Sunset Memorial Park in Gilmer. The family will receive friends from 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm, Thursday, at McWhorter Funeral Home.

Don was born on September 17, 1945, in Little Rock, Arkansas, to U.G. Bethard and Jackie Haley. He was raised in Hughes Springs, lived and worked in Gilmer, and spent his retirement years in Hot Springs Village, Arkansas, before returning to Longview. He passed from this life on March 14, 2026, in Longview, Texas. His faith, family, and friends were the most important things to him.

Don graduated from The University of Texas in Austin. He was a pharmacist and the owner of the Med-Shop Pharmacy for many years. He enjoyed his retirement golfing, fishing, hunting, and traveling the world with his wife, family, and friends.

Those left to cherish his memory are his wife, Judi Bethard; daughter, Amanda 'Mandy' Davis, son-in-law, Mike Davis; grandchildren, Kyli Parz and Nate Davis; brothers, Wayne Bethard (Wanda), and Tony Bethard (Gail); nieces and nephews, and many lifelong friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; son, J. D. Bethard; and his nephew, Jarrell Bethard.

Pallbearers will be Tyler Buller, Bill Parrymore, John Nelson, David Skinner, Gary Patterson, Tommy Smith, Laney Grimmett, and Chris Bethard.

Memorial donations can be made to Shriners Children's Hospital, <https://donate.shrinerschildrens.org> or Tunnel to Towers, <https://t2t.org>.

A reception will be held immediately following the graveside service at the First Baptist Church gymnasium, 217 W. Cass St., Gilmer, Texas.

Please visit Don's online registration book at [www.mcwhorterfh.com](http://www.mcwhorterfh.com) to leave a memory for the family.

# Cemetery Details

## Sunset Memorial Park

1582 US Hwy 271 S  
Gilmer, TX 75645

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR **19**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

McWhorter Funeral Home  
1074 St. Hwy 300  
Gilmer, TX 75645  
(903) 734-7070  
[info@mcwhorterfh.com](mailto:info@mcwhorterfh.com)  
<https://www.mcwhorterfh.com>

## Service

MAR **20**. 12:00 PM (CT)

Woodland Hills Baptist Church  
2105 E. Loop 281  
Longview, TX 75605

# Tribute Wall

CN

“ *May our Heavenly Father comfort and bring peace to Don's family. He is a good man. ❤️*



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**Carolyn Novoa** - March 25 at 03:38 PM

CP

“ *CARLA LYNN POTTER lit a candle in memory of Don Bethard*



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**CARLA LYNN POTTER** - March 20 at 09:09 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Don Bethard Funeral Service*



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**McWhorter Funeral Home** - March 20 at 06:06 PM

BP

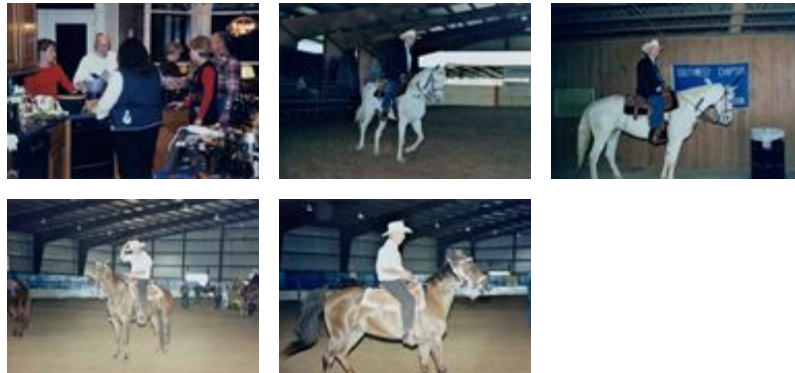
*Don Bethard's funeral services.*

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**Bill Parrymore** - March 20 at 09:41 PM



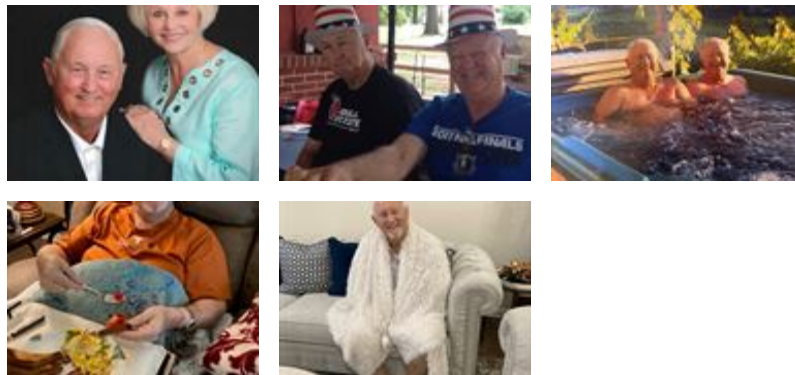
“ 11 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



McWhorter Funeral Home - March 19 at 02:19 PM



“ 81 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



McWhorter Funeral Home - March 19 at 12:33 PM



“ (sharon &. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Don Bethard.

(sharon &. - March 19 at 09:36 AM

RO

“ Reese O. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Don Bethard.

Reese O. - March 19 at 09:30 AM

LB

“ Judi, Mandy, and family, please accept my condolences on your loss of Don. He was a very nice man and a great boss. He helped a lot of people through the years. I have many fond memories of working at The Med Shop. May God grant you peace and comfort during this very difficult time and for the lonely days ahead. 💕💕



Linda Bond - March 18 at 08:33 PM

PD

“ So sorry to hear of Don's passing. May God grant you strength and comfort during this time. 🙏🙏🙏 Bobby and Patsy Dehart



Patsy Dehart - March 18 at 11:54 AM

DO

“ Don Bethard was an amazing role model to me. I cherish the memories we made showing horses in Texas and Missouri. My true friend. RIP Mr. Don



David Ogle - March 18 at 11:37 AM

CT

*Very well said, David. He sure loved you and Polaris! Don inspired me to pursue a career in the funeral business. Still going strong 27 years later. My sincerest condolences to Judy and his family.*

**Christopher Teel** - March 18 at 12:06 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Don Bethard.*



March 18 at 11:29 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Don Bethard.

March 18 at 11:29 AM

JM

“ *Jody and Jennifer (Bishop) Mask purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Don Bethard.*



**Jody and Jennifer (Bishop) Mask** - March 17 at 08:37 PM

JM

“ *Jody and Jennifer (Bishop) Mask planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Don Bethard.*

**Jody and Jennifer (Bishop) Mask** - March 17 at 08:37 PM

DE

“ I am hearbroken that Don is no longer with us and I know how hard this is going to be for you and the family because I am living right now. The thing that gives me comfort is knowing Jarrell and him are fishing on a lake or a river somewhere, Love You! Denise

Denise - March 17 at 05:41 PM



“ Finest Farewell Spray was purchased for the family of Don Bethard.



March 17 at 05:28 PM

JM

“ Judy, Ty and Lex, Jennifer and Melanie purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Don Bethard.



Judy, Ty and Lex, Jennifer and Melanie - March 17 at 01:53 PM

JM

“ Judy, Ty and Lex, Jennifer and Melanie planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Don Bethard.

Judy, Ty and Lex, Jennifer and Melanie - March 17 at 01:53 PM

LF

“ Love Gary & Traci (Haws) Clarke & family purchased the Large Basket Garden for the family of Don Bethard.



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**Love Gary & Traci (Haws) Clarke & family** - March 17 at 01:46 PM

LF

“ Love Gary & Traci (Haws) Clarke & family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Don Bethard.

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**Love Gary & Traci (Haws) Clarke & family** - March 17 at 01:46 PM

PC

“ Pure Heart Ministry Church purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Don Bethard.



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**Pure Heart Ministry Church** - March 17 at 01:45 PM

PC

“ Pure Heart Ministry Church planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Don Bethard.

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**Pure Heart Ministry Church** - March 17 at 01:45 PM

SJ

“ So sorry, Judy! I know he will be missed! I enjoyed serving on ISD Board with him for many years!!!! RIP Don!



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**sandy Johns** - March 16 at 09:35 PM