



William Donald "Donnie" Lanier

September 25, 1929 - April 29, 2022

The family is at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Tod Lanier 2611 Birchwood Dr., Albany, GA 31721.

William Donald "Donnie" Lanier—92, of Albany—died Friday, April 29 at Phoebe Sumter in Americus. His funeral service will be held Tuesday, May 3rd, 12:00 PM, at Byne Memorial Baptist Church with Reverend Mark Jackson Officiating. Immediately following, a graveside service will be held at Riverside Cemetery. Visitation with family will be held at the church one hour prior to the service at 11:00 AM. Mr. Lanier was born September 25, 1929 in Albany, GA to Jefferson Bradwell Lanier and Angeline Knapp Davis Lanier. He graduated from Albany High in 1947 and attended North Georgia College for two years before transferring to Georgia Tech, where he received his Bachelor's in Civil Engineering. He then served 2 years in the US Army with the Corps of Engineers during the Korean War. When he returned to Albany, he worked in the private sector as a civil engineer for several years before beginning a career with the City of Albany—first as City Engineer, then as Director of Public Works for over thirty years before his retirement in 1989. He filled in at Byne Christian School as a high school math teacher for several years during the 1990s and 2000s, tutoring many as a "hobby" (pro bono) for many more years at the school and in his home. Mr. Lanier was first a member of First Baptist Church where he taught the youth, young adults, and RAs. He became a member of Byne Memorial Baptist Church in 1957, where he

served faithfully in many roles and capacities until his death. He taught hundreds of Bible classes, including Sunday School, Training Union, Wednesday night classes, small at-home classes, and anywhere that he could share his extensive knowledge and passion for God's word, pointing others to a relationship with Christ. At Byne, he served in many capacities—as a deacon, member of the building committee, pastor search committees, and ESL teacher. He and his wife Sylvia participated in 17 separate mission trips across the globe, and taught Bible studies at the Autry and Calhoun state prisons. He was also active with the Gideons for many years. Outside of his church interests, Mr. Lanier was known as a wonderful family man and father to his three children, 7 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren. He was respected, loved, and admired by all who knew him and was a mentor and role model to so many. He was known especially for his integrity, character, humility, and his servant's heart and love for others. Mr. Lanier's other interests and hobbies included YMCA volleyball, church league softball, fishing, canoeing, camping, nature photography, birdwatching, woodworking, yardwork, and spending time with his family. He also coached little league and pony league. He was known for making hundreds of trips down the Flint River in his canoe paddling family, friends, and young adults for fishing and recreation. He loved outdoors and nature. He was a member of Albany Audubon Society, running bluebird routes, and Albany photography clubs. In his last few years, he loved his senior Albany YMCA exercise class that he attended four times per week. Mr. Lanier was preceded in death by his parents, his brother Bradwell Lanier, and his wife Sylvia Sue Smith Lanier. His survivors include children Lewis Tod Lanier and wife Kyoungah Kim Lanier; David Charles Lanier and wife Cathy Lynn Lanier; Sue Angeline Lanier Freeman and husband Greg Freeman, all of Albany, GA. His grandchildren are Amanda Leigh Lanier Fagiano and husband Anthony Fagiano; Nathan Donald Lanier and wife Anna Burns Lanier; Andrew Martin Lanier and wife Brittany Poplin Lanier (Shalimar, FL); Lanier Allen Freeman (Americus, GA) and Kendyll Ashley Freeman (Lexington, KY); and, Rachel Hwayeon Seo and

Hannah Seungyeon Seo (Seattle, WA). He also leaves behind 6 great grandchildren under the age of 7. He leaves behind a wonderful legacy and name to his family. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Byne Memorial Baptist Church or the Gideons ministry. You may sign the online guestbook and share your memories on Kimbrell Stern's website at www.kimbrellstern.com.

Cemetery Details

Riverside Cemetery

200 Cotton Ave
Albany, GA 31707

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 3. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Byne Memorial Baptist Church
2832 Ledo Rd
Albany, GA 31707

Funeral Service

MAY 3. 12:00 PM (ET)

Byne Memorial Baptist Church
2832 Ledo Rd
Albany, GA 31707

Tribute Wall

JA

“ I know this comes late, but I remember Mr. Donnie from my aunt Mary Emma Williams, who worked for his mother, Ms. B.J. Lanier, I got to meet the whole family Mr. Brad, Mr. Donnie, all of their children, the whole family were great God fearing people, including Mr. Donnie’s wife Mrs. Sylvia, and Mr. Brad’s wife Mrs Dot. so many memories.

Jacqueline Williams Jackson

Jacqueline Jackson - February 24, 2024 at 01:05 PM

PW

“ My fond memory of Mr. Lanier was when he asked me to retype his notes on the book of Revelations in the Bible. Mr. Lanier gave me a timeline of when he needed the project he had assigned to me completed. The notes were to be typed without error for he would be distributing them out to different ones. I found myself typing them at work (Phoebe) I got a little repercussion..nothing I couldn’t handle. But, I had the project completed in the allotted time. When I handed Mr. Lanier the finished work....the smile on his face as he read and reread them for accuracy and his nod of approval meant everything to me at that moment.

Rest In Peace Mr. Lanier.

Patricia “Ann” Williams - May 31, 2022 at 04:46 PM

DS

“ Mr. Donnie was the best Sunday School teacher, the best Training Union teacher and fellow Christian. My life is richer because I was able to sit and listen to him and call him a friend. What a great reunion he and Sylvia must be having! Two of the most precious people I have known. Sending a hug to Todd, David & Sue, love you all.

Diana Swails - May 23, 2022 at 03:20 PM

BC

“ I got to know Donnie while I was working with Jimmy Davis at Landau & Davis. Donnie was well respected, a skillful engineer, and was great to work with. No matter how difficult the situation, he always had smile on his face and was able to come up with a good solution. He will be missed.

Bill Cannon - May 08, 2022 at 10:22 AM

GR

“ Mr. Lanier was my Sunday School teacher for many years. I learned so much from him and have so much respect for him...and his entire family! Sincerely, Glen Ragan

Glen Ragan - May 06, 2022 at 10:31 PM

DT

“ I first met Mr Donnie at Cardiology Associates in the PT clinic. Did his finger sticks for his Coumadin levels. He was always such a gentleman. He'd come in taking his hat off and tipping his head meekly to say hello. Later met again at Byne church when we joined. With much love and respect, praising the Lord for his new Heavenly home.

Debbie Titus - May 03, 2022 at 05:46 PM

RB

“ One of the finest men I have ever known! I had the priviledge of serving with him at Calhoun state prison and learn from him. Robin Bartlett

Robin Bartlett - May 03, 2022 at 05:03 PM

MC

“ If the measure of a man is how his children act, serve and love others Mr. Lanier has set an example every one of us should follow. David & Sue Lanier are two of the most fascinating and incredible people I knew growing up and they were always pointing me to Jesus. It's a short trip from here to where Mr Lanier is now, but we will all make the journey soon. Thank you Mr. Lanier for leading your kids in truth and righteousness and soon, we will all, who know The Lord Jesus as Savior, see you shortly.

Matt Cox - May 03, 2022 at 10:46 AM

SI

“ Don Lanier was the kindest and smartest man I've known. Much of what Susan & I know of scripture came from his teachings and we are much richer for it. I look forward to reuniting with him. Steve & Susan Ivey

Steve Ivey - May 02, 2022 at 05:48 PM

PM

“ I only met Donnie Lanier once, but I have learned so much about him, and have come to realize what a mighty man of God he was. He adored his family and his family adored him. May you all share peace as you experience the amazing memories he has left behind for all of you. My sincere sympathy and prayers go with you each.

Patsy Martin

Patsy Martin - May 02, 2022 at 04:58 PM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of William Donald "Donnie" Lanier.



May 02, 2022 at 01:37 PM



“ Donnie Lanier was such a wonderful, special man of God. I had the great blessing of sitting in his Sunday School class for years at Byne as did my two sisters. He was kind and strong, such a role model for a Christian living a life of unwavering faith. Along my life's journey, I am so aware of how fortunate I was, and my sisters were, to have known Donnie. God's blessings and grace to his family. Dr Hal Fulmer

Hal Fulmer - May 02, 2022 at 10:56 AM



“ Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of William Donald "Donnie" Lanier.



May 01, 2022 at 09:32 PM



“ Peace & comfort to this family. In Christian love & friendship, Emily Greene & Debbie Greene Blanchard



Deb B - April 30, 2022 at 04:44 PM