



Ronnie Leon O'Kelley

October 18, 1937 - March 24, 2026

Ronnie Leon O'Kelley, a devoted Christian, loving husband and father passed away on March 24, 2026, at the age of 88.

He was born on October 18, 1937, in Florence, Alabama. Ronnie lived a life grounded in faith, kindness, and unwavering love for those closest to him. He was a long time member and leader at Chickamauga Church of Christ. His relationship with God was the foundation of his life, guiding his actions, words, and the way he cared for others.

He honorably served his country both active and reserves in the United States Air Force. He retired from TVA in 2004. He found joy in his menagerie of pets he kept throughout his life, travel, scuba diving, naps, University of Tennessee football, coffee, woodworking, and desserts of all sorts. He especially treasured the time he spent with his children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and loved ones.

Above all else, he fiercely loved his family. He was a steady presence, a source of strength, and a constant example of what it means to love unconditionally. Whether offering guidance, sharing wisdom, or simply being present, he made those around him feel valued and supported. His legacy is one of faith, devotion, and deep abiding love.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Grady and Lorene O'Kelley and sister Virginia Ray Johnson of Florence, Alabama.

He is survived by his wife of over 60 years, Clara Norine O'Kelley, his son Tommy O'Kelley (Monna), daughter Sean Bell (David), three grandsons,

Conner Bell, Dylan O'Kelley (Katra Kelly), Cooper Bell (Sandra) and four great grandchildren, Cambree, Cohen, Cadley, and Callum Bell, two nephews and one niece.

A service to celebrate his life will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday, March 28, 2026, at the Chickamauga Church of Christ, with Min. Phil Burse officiating. Interment will follow in the Chickamauga City Cemetery. Visitation with family will be from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Friday, at the church and after 10:00 am on Saturday. In lieu of flowers, the family asks donations be made to Chickamauga Church of Christ missionary fund.

Arrangements by Wilson Funeral Home-J. Avery Bryan Chapel,
Chickamauga.

Cemetery Details

Chickamauga City Cemetery

Lee Ave.
Chickamauga, GA 30707

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 27. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Chickamauga Church of Christ
105 Crittenden Ave
Chickamauga, GA 30707

Visitation

MAR 28. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Chickamauga Church of Christ
105 Crittenden Ave
Chickamauga, GA 30707

Celebration of Life

MAR 28. 11:00 AM (ET)

Chickamauga Church of Christ
105 Crittenden Ave
Chickamauga, GA 30707

Tribute Wall



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ronnie Leon O’Kelley.



April 02 at 07:42 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ronnie Leon O’Kelley.

April 02 at 07:42 PM



“ Louise Bird O’Rear lit a candle in memory of Ronnie Leon O’Kelley



Louise Bird O’Rear - March 26 at 11:05 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ronnie Leon O’Kelley.

March 26 at 09:36 AM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ronnie Leon O'Kelley.*



March 26 at 09:36 AM



“ *Alisha & Leon Long lit a candle in memory of Ronnie Leon O'Kelley*



Alisha & Leon Long - March 25 at 09:40 PM



“ *Fady and Gina planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ronnie Leon O'Kelley.*

Fady and Gina - March 25 at 09:02 PM



“ *Fady and Gina purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Ronnie Leon O'Kelley.*



Fady and Gina - March 25 at 09:02 PM

CW

“ We were so sad to hear about the passing of a dear friend and Christian brother in Christ. Ronnie would quite what he was doing to go fix our daughters car when it broke down on the way back to her college. He was always there for you no matter the time of day. We love this family from the bottom of our hearts.

Charlotte Wilson - March 25 at 03:58 PM

RJ

“ Richard & Teresa Jackson lit a candle in memory of Ronnie Leon O'Kelley



Richard & Teresa Jackson - March 25 at 02:42 PM

RI

I'm so sorry for your loss. Ronnie was a great man and was always helpful and friendly. We loved him to death and he will be missed. We will be thinking of you Mrs. Norine and Tommy & Shaundra. Praying for you all.

Richard - March 25 at 02:44 PM

TW

“ Travis Ray & Little Wifey purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Ronnie Leon O'Kelley.



Travis Ray & Little Wifey - March 25 at 02:19 PM