



Mr. Donnie "Pepaw" Howard

January 22, 1946 - January 13, 2026

Funeral services for Mr. Donnie "Pepaw" Howard, 79, of Palestine, will be held at 11:00 AM on Friday, January 23, 2026, at Roquemore Missionary Baptist Church with Bro. Joe Best officiating. Interment will follow at Pine Grove Cemetery under the direction of Crawford-A. Crim Funeral Home in Henderson.

The family will receive friends from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM on Friday at the church.

Prior to the services in Henderson, a Celebration of Life service for Mr. Howard will be held at 7:00 PM on Thursday, January 22, 2026, at Bassett Road Baptist Church in Palestine.

Mr. Howard passed away January 13, 2026, at his residence. He was born January 22, 1946, in Fort Smith, Arkansas, to Vern and Rose (Caudle) Howard. Mr. Howard made Palestine his home since the late seventies, working for and retiring from Westwood Elementary after twenty-three years. God called him to preach the Gospel and he answered the call sixty-four years ago. He came to Henderson to attend Texas Baptist Institute and met the love of his life, Glenda Hand at Roquemore Missionary Baptist Church. He pastored six churches prior to moving to Palestine, he became the pastor at Bassett Road Baptist Church in 1980 and continued as the pastor until his

passing. Mr. Howard enjoyed working on cars, building houses, and helping as many people as he could with Texas Mission Builders. He also served the members of his community as the president of the Four Pines Water Board for many years. Mr. Howard found that the greatest joy in his life came from spending time with his family.

Mr. Howard was preceded in death by his parents, Vern and Rose Howard; wife of fifty-four years, Glenda Hand; mother and father-in-law, Estelle and Preston Hand; two brothers, and two sisters.

Survivors include his daughters, Lynde Cheek and husband Ron, Leanna Roseberry and husband Byron; grandchildren, Bobby Ray Mayo and wife Cheyanne, Billy Ray Howard and wife Mary, Rose Howard and husband Preston, Courtney Roseberry, Kaylee Rae Roseberry; great-grandchildren, Braighlyn Mayo, Gracelyn Mayo, Shaelyn Mayo, Waylyn Mayo, Donnie Wardell, Sam "Sambo" Vickery, Adeline Rae Howard; brothers, Raymond "Ray" Howard and wife Mary, Johnny Howard and wife Diane; sisters-in-law, Reba Howard, Juanita Howard, Carol Best and husband David, Cathy Pride and husband John, Gail Gibson and husband Bill; brother-in-law, Frank Gregory, Kevin Hand and wife Sharla; and a host of nieces, nephews, other family, and friends, along with many "adopted" and "foster" grandchildren.

Pallbearers will be Billy Howard, Bobby Mayo, Braighlyn Mayo, Ron Cheek, Byron Roseberry, and Preston Christensen. Honorary pallbearers will be his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to either The Texas Oncology Foundation, PO Box 515013, Dallas, TX 75251 or Texas Mission Builders P.O. Box 287, Huntington, TX 75949.

Words of comfort may be shared with the family at www.crawfordacrim.com.

Cemetery Details

Pine Grove Cemetery

CR 364 at FM 2867
TX 75654

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JAN 22. 7:00 PM (CT)

Bassett Road Baptist Church
907 Bassett Road
Palestine, TX 75803

Visitation

JAN 23. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Roquemore Baptist Church
6438 FM 2867 E.
Henderson, TX 75654

Service

JAN 23. 11:00 AM (CT)

Roquemore Baptist Church
6438 FM 2867 E.
Henderson, TX 75654

Tribute Wall

AJ

“ Bro. Donnie was my pastor at Smyrna Missionary Baptist Church in Huxley all through my teenage years. I was raised in church (every time the doors were open), and visited many other churches for revivals, fifth Sunday meetings, youth nights, midnight watch services, and the list goes on. I have known many preachers and pastors in my lifetime. This man of God right here was one that had probably the biggest impact on my life. His kindness, his leadership, and Christian walk left a lasting impression on me that has lasted in me, even now at the age of 65. The thing I loved most about him was his laughter.....oh that wonderful, rich, belly-shaking laugh. He had such a joy for life and was always front and center. If you wanted an example of "you can be a Christian and still have fun", that was Bro. Donnie. When my parents bought me my first car at 16, a used 1971 Dodge Dart that badly needed a paint job, it was Bro. Donnie who painted it blue for me and brought it back to life. I loved it even more because HE was the one who painted it! I loved and respected him so very much. When I married at 23, even though he had been gone from us for about 5 or 6 years at that point, there was never any question of who was going to perform the ceremony. It was always Bro. Donnie. I hadn't seen him in several years, but it was always a comfort just knowing he was just a couple of hours away. I have no doubt where Bro. Donnie is. I know he and my Daddy are having a rollicking good time in Heaven. Daddy is leading the choir, and Bro. Donnie is preaching. It brings me joy to know he is with The Father and Jesus now, but this world is not as bright and fun as it was a few days ago because he isn't in it. I've had a good cry (being selfish), but now I am flooded with memories of this amazing man who taught me so much. Rest in Heaven, Bro. Donnie. Give my Daddy a hug for me. Thank you for being such an important person in my life, for caring, for being a wonderful example of Christian love, and for all the many, many times you made me laugh. What a blessing you were to me, and I am so thankful God brought you into my life. Lynde and Leanna and families, please know that I am praying for you all. (P.S. Leanna, you were one of my first real life baby dolls, and I toted you around everywhere!).

Annette Furlow Jernigan - January 21 at 07:13 PM

PT

“ *Donnie was a class member of the Alma Senior Class of 1964. We mourn for the loss of a good person and friend. He was part of the class all our school years in Alma. We fondly remember him as a kind, caring and loving person.*

*Shirley Loyd
Pete Titsworth*

Pete Titsworth - January 18 at 08:38 PM

BC

“ *Mr. Donnie was a bright spot to all. His kind personalty touched so many as he lent a helping hand to so many families. Our condolences to his family.*

*Bill-Becky Lincoln Cooksey
Fort Worth, Texas*

Bill-Becky Lincoln Cooksey - January 17 at 07:56 AM

LE

“ *Dear Lynde n Leeanna n Family, Sorry 4 ur Father's death. Donnie was a special person. I heard lots of good things about him. It's been along time since I saw him. I luvd his Parents a lot. I remember going 2 his parents house when I was a young girl. My Grandparents would take me 2 their place a lot. Keeping all the Howard Family in my Prayers! Luv n Hugs, Lisa Beattie Evans*



Lisa Beattie Evans - January 15 at 08:40 PM