



Dr. Dalton Ham

July 28, 1937 - April 21, 2022

Dr. Dalton Ham of Nixa, Missouri received his eternal reward on April 21st, 2022, at the age of 84, surrounded by family and friends. Dr. Ham was a retired school superintendent and a faithful member of Southgate Baptist Church. He was born July 28th, 1937, at his home in Jasper, Arkansas, to Rual Custar and Goldie Nina (Burdine) Ham. Undoubtedly, he was welcomed home by his Savior saying, “well done my good and faithful servant.”

Other than his relationship with Christ, nothing was more important to him than his family. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Donna Marie (Garrett) Ham of Nixa, Missouri; children Richard Ham and wife Michelle of Bentonville, Arkansas; Jennifer Jackson and husband Eddie of Nixa; and Brian Ham of Chicago, Illinois; grandchildren Garrett, Stephanie, Carter, Lauren, Sabrina, and Ethan and six great-grandchildren Sophia, Kaylin, Ainsley, Trey, Magnolia, and Winnie. He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers Dennis Ham (infant), Carl Ham, and sister Meredith Whitson. He received no greater joy than sharing stories with them and hearing of their exploits as well as vacationing, golfing, and spending time with them.

He was a lifelong Baptist, serving as a deacon, gifted Sunday school teacher and innumerable committee leadership positions. He served on the board for Missouri Baptist’s Windemere Retreat and Conference center, Missouri Baptist University, and Missouri Baptist Convention. He never tired of serving and made it his mission to help further the gospel in any way possible.

A lifelong educator and master storyteller, Dr. Ham retired as a superintendent

at School of the Osage. He started his career as a teacher in Deer and Plumerville, Arkansas. Education was “in his genes.” His father was a county superintendent and his mother a schoolteacher. Although he lost his father when he was only 16, his impact lasted his entire life and clearly guided his priorities. After marrying, he took his new bride to pursue opportunities in Kansas City, Missouri, where he was a teacher and principal. He left education to work for Sears Roebuck and as an insurance agent in Kansas City where he was very successful. After a few years, however, he was pulled back to his life-long vocational calling of teaching and mentoring. Dr. Ham served as the superintendent in Purdy, Ava, East Newton, and School of the Osage. He built life-long friendships at each district. He was a “superintendent’s superintendent,” garnering numerous awards for his work in education. He served on numerous professional boards including the Missouri Association of School Administrators (MASA), and the Missouri State Retirement System. In 1986, he received the Outstanding Educator Award from MASA for his work to improve standards in education. In 1994, he was MASA Superintendent of the Year for the State of Missouri. He was a recognized expert in school affairs, often called upon to help craft laws to improve education in Missouri. Perhaps one of his most prized distinctions was an award given to him by teachers at School of the Osage when he retired. Some of the accolades included, “always has students’ best interest at heart...compassionate...remarkable knowledge...trusted advisor...skilled diplomat...a true Christian” and innumerable laudatory comments about his character. Even after retirement, he passed the series 6 and 7 exams and worked as a financial consultant helping Missouri schools maximize their investments. As with all his endeavors, he was extremely effective, becoming the #1 Producer for Cadre Securities in 2001. He maintained lifelong relationships with other retired superintendents and administrators. Of all his accomplishments, Dr. Ham was most proud of his family. He made his children’s spiritual development a priority and often used his quick wit and oratory skills to teach important scriptural precepts to them. When reflecting

on his impact, his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren will quickly relate a song, a story, a joke, or a one-liner that he used as a launching point to capture teachable moments. He celebrated his family's success, making sure to tell everyone he met how proud he was of them.

Dr. Ham truly never met a stranger. He was gifted with an extraordinary memory for people's names and faces, often recognizing someone he hadn't seen for decades, asking them about their spouse and children by name. He could relate to anyone from any station and was keenly interested in their welfare and what was going on with them. Former students frequently relate interacting with him during a difficult period and how his interaction changed their direction. Even while in the hospital, he would ask people caring for him. "Where did you go to school and who was your principal and superintendent?".

A graveside service will be held at 2:00 pm on April 27th, 2022, at the Plumerville Cemetery (Plumerville, Arkansas). A visitation will be held on April 30th, 2022, at 1:00 pm, followed by a memorial service at 2:00 pm at Southgate Baptist Church in Springfield, Missouri.

If you should choose to donate to an organization in lieu of flowers, please consider the Gideons, the Missouri Baptist Children's Home or St. Jude's Children Hospital.

Cemetery Details

Plummerville Cemetery

736 Sardis Rd.
Plumerville, AR 72127

Previous Events

Graveside Service

APR **27**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Plummerville Cemetery
736 Sardis Rd.
Plumerville, AR 72127

Visitation

APR **30**. 1:00 PM (CT)

Southgate Baptist Church
5701 S Farm Rd 157
Springfield, MO 65810
<https://www.southgate.org/>

Memorial Service

APR **30**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Southgate Baptist Church
5701 S Farm Rd 157
Springfield, MO 65810
<https://www.southgate.org/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Dalton Ham*

January 30, 2023 at 02:08 AM



“ *Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- All Red was purchased for the family of Dr. Dalton Ham.*



April 27, 2022 at 02:40 AM



“ *Nolan Carrier again! I meant to say, "There was no doubt he walked with Jesus!"*

Nolan D Carrier - April 26, 2022 at 06:23 PM



“ *Dalton was a true friend. I loved to be around him because there was going to a good story and a bunch of encouragement. He was the Head of the Class professionally. Everyone else was trying to catch up with Dr. Ham. One of God's great blessings on me was putting Dalton, Donna and the Ham Clan in my life. There was doubt he walked with Jesus! Pastor Nolan D Carrier*

Nolan D Carrier - April 26, 2022 at 06:19 PM

JA

“ Dalton was my 7th grade teacher at Deer High School. Deer, Arkansas. A student in my class could really sing Johnny Cash’s song, sometimes Dalton would let him get up and sing. One time Paul Ray was singing and I giggled. WELL, Mr. Ham said “little girl, you think that is so funny, you get up here and sing”, but I can’t sing. “You think it’s so funny, you sing anyway,”. So I got up, started trying to sing a Kitty Wells song, but I sounded more like Simon Crum. That is what I remember about Mr. Ham a very nice man and teacher. Over the years I have seen him and met his sister. Sympathy and Prayers are extended to the family. 🙏

Jimmie Lee (Ingram) Hankins Atkinson - April 26, 2022 at 11:24 AM



“ Plants-A-Plenty was purchased for the family of Dr. Dalton Ham.



April 26, 2022 at 10:58 AM



“ Springtime Wishes was purchased for the family of Dr. Dalton Ham.



April 24, 2022 at 09:50 PM

WB

“ Donna, we are so sorry for your loss. While growing up in Plumerville, Dalton, Mr.Ham, spent quite a bit of time in our home and at our table. He was so quick witted that he kept laughter and good conversation as he and our daddy bantered back and forth.Mother and Daddy adored him and we considered Dalton as family. I know he will be so missed by his family, but his memory will remain in ours. Thank you for allowing me this very heartfelt sympathy to Donna, his children and grandchildren.

Wilma Bowling Bonds - April 24, 2022 at 12:32 PM

JA

“ Donna and family, my sincere condolences for your loss. Dalton helped me so much with my professional career. He was a friend that I respected and will miss.
Jack Andris

Jack Andris - April 24, 2022 at 09:33 AM