



## Don Helms

September 16, 1940 - March 31, 2023

Conway...

Donald Wray Helms, age 82, passed away Friday, March 31, 2023.

Mr. Helms was born in Charlotte, NC a son of the late Wiley Wray Helms and the late Mary Myrtle Skipper Helms Lyerly. Mr. Helms grew up in Horry County and graduated Conway High School in 1958. He furthered his education at Clemson University majoring in Civil Engineering and graduated in 1965. He served six years in the Army, eight years working with the Federal Highway Administration, worked in Construction and Real Estate, and was President and owner of Helms Realty for fifty years. Mr. Helms served twenty-five years of dedicated service on the Horry County Planning Commission, where he was Chairman for twenty years. He was recognized for his service by the South Carolina Senate and the South Carolina House of Representatives. During his service the commission developed subdivision regulations, zoning ordinances, comprehensive plans, land development regulations, revision of the planned unit development standards, open space standards and other policies on growth issues. He was on the Horry County Board of Realtors, HGTC Advisory Board and Conway Rotary Club (Distinguished Service Award, 1993). Mr. Helms was appointed by the Governor to Horry Georgetown Technical College Commission in 2007 where he served sixteen years. Don was a member of First Baptist Church where he was baptized in

1945. He was president of the Sidney Floyd Sunday School class for over 40 years. He was an avid golfer and Clemson Fan. He loved all sports and especially Clemson football. He was an IPTAY Representative for over forty years.

Survivors include his wife of 63 years, Betsy Helms of Conway; one daughter, Beth Helms of Conway; one son, David Helms (Kathy) of Chapin; one grandson, Hunter Helms; and two brothers, Terry Helms (Barri) of Charlotte, NC and Al Lyerly (Jennifer) of Columbia.

In addition to his parents, he is predeceased by a brother, John Lyerly.

The family will receive friends Saturday, April 1, 2023 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel.

Funeral services will be held at 4:00 PM Sunday, April 2, 2023 at First Baptist Church of Conway with Rev. Rocky Taylor and Rev. Scott Johnson officiating. Burial will follow at Hillcrest Cemetery.

Please sign an online guestbook at [www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com](http://www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com)

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel is in charge of the arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Hillcrest Cemetery

1000 Hwy 544  
Conway, SC 29526  
(843) 347-4909  
<https://www.hillcrestcemetery.com/>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 1. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Conway Chapel  
606-610 Beaty Street  
Conway, SC 29526

## Funeral Service

APR 2. 4:00 PM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Conway  
603 Elm Street  
Conway, SC 29526  
<http://www.fbconway.org>

# Tribute Wall

SW

“ *Shannon Ca Williams lit a candle in memory of Don Helms*



Shannon Ca Williams - April 11, 2023 at 01:43 PM

SW

*Betsy and Beth, I am so sorry for this sad news. You are in my thoughts and prayers.*

Shannon Williams - April 11, 2023 at 01:45 PM

RJ

“ *To the Helms family. May God Bless you and keep you strong during your time of bereavement. Mr. Helms was a good man. He left a legacy for you all to follow. God Bless your family .*

Ronald Conwell Jr. - April 05, 2023 at 10:49 PM

BS

“ *Betsy, Beth and David,  
Our deepest sympathy to you on Don's passing. We have great memories of our times together with you all, and especially at various Rotary events.  
Don will be long remembered for his community service, his servant leadership and his many kindnesses to others.  
Love, Betty and Bob*

Bob/Betty Squatriglia - April 05, 2023 at 01:01 PM

GO

“ George & Dawne Oliver lit a candle in memory of Don Helms



George & Dawne Oliver - April 04, 2023 at 01:05 PM



“ Mrs. Fields With Sympathy Combo Tin was purchased for the family of Don Helms.



April 03, 2023 at 05:25 PM

GM

“ Mr helms was a tremendous influence on my spiritual being. He will be missed



Gene McDowell - April 03, 2023 at 04:42 PM

EM

“ Don was one of the first people to get me involved in planning for Horry County's future. I saw him regularly on Sunday Morning in his designated seat at First Baptist and yes we would debate the Gamecocks vs Clemson. Grateful for his love on Conway and Horry County setting the foundation for our growing community. Peace to Betsey. Beth and David. Elwin Miles

Elwin Miles - April 03, 2023 at 09:53 AM

DC

“ Oh my,How his mom loved him!Thoughts prayers and my deepest sympathy Betsy!When the milestone is complete the journey ends swiftly!Doris C.Johnson

Doris C.Johnson - April 03, 2023 at 09:32 AM

BC

“ So very sorry to hear about Donald. Prayers for you all. He will be missed. Ken and Beth Calhoun.

B. Calhoun - April 02, 2023 at 03:39 PM

JT

“ Betsy I'm so sorry to see this. You and Donald were so loving to me. Part of the reason you were so dear was the love he felt for Tommy. Now they are together once again. Sending you and your family my heartfelt condolences with my prayers and love

Judy Tucker - April 02, 2023 at 08:37 AM

KF

“ Betsy, Beth & Family  
We are so sorry to hear about Don. You are in our thoughts & Prayers as you go throughout the difficult days ahead. God bless you with peace, comfort & love. Kitty & Jamie Franklin



Kitty Franklin - April 01, 2023 at 10:55 PM

MH

“ So sorry to hear about your loss. Don will be missed by many in Conway. Mike and Debbie Hardee

Mike and Debbie Hardee - April 01, 2023 at 09:21 PM

RA

“ Don Helms was a great Rotarian , a great asset to the church and a good friend. My feelings of sympathy are with you at his passing.

Randy Alford - April 01, 2023 at 07:07 PM

MT

“ So sorry for your loss! 🙏❤️

Minnieree Thompkins - April 01, 2023 at 06:54 PM

JH

“ David so sorry to hear about the passing of your Dad. Your family are in our prayers . James A, Herring

James A Herring - April 01, 2023 at 02:41 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Don Helms.



April 01, 2023 at 02:16 PM

SB

“ Susan Baiden lit a candle in memory of Don Helms



Susan Baiden - April 01, 2023 at 01:27 PM

BS

“ Don was such a strong mentor to me and my career. A fine man is now in Heaven. Prayers are going out to all Don's family and friends. You will never be forgotten my friend.

*Brent Schulz*

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**Brent Schulz** - April 01, 2023 at 11:17 AM

SR

“ *Betsy and family*

*I was so sorry to read of the passing of Don. May God grant you His peace and comfort now and in the days ahead.*

*Sylvia Richardson*

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**Sylvia Richardson** - April 01, 2023 at 11:16 AM



AL

“ *Ann And Steve Lee lit a candle in memory of Don Helms*



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**Ann and Steve Lee** - April 01, 2023 at 10:09 AM

BJ

“ *Betsy, Beth and David,  
I am heartbroken to hear of your loss of Don.  
Best neighbor ever.  
May your memories sustain you in the coming  
days.  
Much love, Betty F Jordan and Kevin*



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**Betty F Jordan** - April 01, 2023 at 09:39 AM

RB

“ *Rhonda Butler lit a candle in memory of Don  
Helms*



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**Rhonda Butler** - April 01, 2023 at 09:31 AM

LF

“ *Liston Wells and family purchased the Beautiful i  
n Blue for the family of Don Helms.*



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**Liston Wells and family** - April 01, 2023 at 08:18 AM

LS

“ *Lynn Allsbrook Spires lit a candle in memory  
of Don Helms*



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**Lynn Allsbrook Spires** - April 01, 2023 at 01:05 AM

LS

*So very sorry, Fine gentleman always willing to help. He and Betsy and Beth are the best neighbors anyone could ask for. May God comfort you in this time of great loss. Prayers are with you. Much Love, Lynn Spires*

Lynn Allsbrook Spires - April 01, 2023 at 01:12 AM

PB

“ *Betsy and family, I am so very sorry for your loss. Don had a big heart a big smile that we will all remember. Keeping you all in my prayers.*

Paula Bratcher - April 01, 2023 at 12:58 AM

BB

“ *In 2002 when myself and my husband, Tom, joined First Baptist Church, Don and Betsy welcomed us and we became friends. He was quite a successful Southern gentleman with a wealth of knowledge of Conway and Horry County, which he shared with us. We grew to love him and Betsy and he will be remembered forever. Please accept my deepest condolences to Betsy and the entire family. I definitely know he is now sitting next to Jesus. Sadly, Barbara Barksdale*

Barbara B. Barksdale - April 01, 2023 at 12:33 AM

AL

“ *I'm so sorry for your loss but I'm sure my dad and Mr. Witherspoon are happy their buddy and "partner in crime" has joined them. They're probably entertaining all of heaven as I write this. My prayers are with you.*

Anita Lee - March 31, 2023 at 10:40 PM

GJ

“ Conway has lost a True Southern Gentleman. A Christian man that loved his family and community. You will be greatly missed my friend Please accept our deepest sympathy in this time of great loss. 🙏🙏

Gene and Linda Johnson - March 31, 2023 at 08:21 PM

DW

“ So sorry to hear this news. Don and Betsy were such dear friends to my parents. Prayers for the family at this difficult time.

Dan Winfield - March 31, 2023 at 04:59 PM

GO

Betsy and family I have you'll in my thoughts and prayers. Donald will be missed by many friends. We had great times traveling around playing golf and at Conway Golf Club.

George Oliver - April 01, 2023 at 08:48 AM

HS

Betsy and family, I was so sorry to hear about Don. He was a big help to me starting out in real estate and became a great friend. He will be missed by so many and especially you and the family. You are in our prayers and thoughts. Henry Shelley

Henry W. Shelley - April 02, 2023 at 12:02 PM