



Mr. Donald Wayne Leard

September 27, 1939 - February 18, 2026

Donald “Wayne” Leard, 86, of Royston passed away peacefully at his home with family by his side on February 18, 2026.

Born September 27, 1939, he was the son of the late Jesse Morgan and Zephine (Ridgway) Leard. Wayne was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and loyal friend. His family was the joy of his life, and he expressed his love not only in words, but in steady presence, quiet strength, and unwavering support.

A lifelong member of the Royston First United Methodist Church, Wayne lived out his faith with humility and consistency. His relationship with the Lord shaped the way he treated others – with patience, generosity, and grace. For many years, he owned and operated Leard’s True Value Hardware store in Royston. Upon retirement, he worked for Church Furniture, where he crafted and built furnishings for hundreds of churches along the east coast. Through his hands and his heart, sanctuaries were furnished, worship spaces prepared, and countless congregations were blessed by his dedication and skill. He will be remembered for his gentle heart, his steady faith, and the quiet ways he made the world better for those around him.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Sylvia Gay, and a brother, Larry Leard.

Survivors include his wife of 65 years, Bettye (McCollum) Leard; children, Robin (John) Osborne, Steve Leard, Kale English and Mandy (Stacey) DeBord; six grandchildren, and nine great grandchildren.

A memorial service celebrating his life and legacy will be held in the Royston First United Methodist Church at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 15, 2026, with Rev. Mac Enfinger and Rev. Matt Parker officiating.

The family will receive friends in the church gathering area immediately following the service on Sunday afternoon. During other times, the family will be at the home.

Pruitt Funeral Home in Royston is in charge of arrangements.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAR 15. 2:00 PM (ET)

Royston First United Methodist Church
Franklin Springs Street
Royston, GA 30662

Receiving friends immediately following

MAR 15.

The gathering area of Royston First United Methodist Church

Tribute Wall

AS

“ Prayers for the family of comfort. A great family to know. Wayne always had a happy smile for everyone he met. He will be missed.

A.Wayne Smith - February 23 at 10:42 AM

SW

“ SARA B WHITE lit a candle in memory of Mr. Donald Wayne Leard



SARA B WHITE - February 23 at 07:02 AM

RB

“ ROBERT & MAUREEN BATY lit a candle in memory of Mr. Donald Wayne Leard



ROBERT & MAUREEN BATY - February 23 at 06:59 AM

SB

“ We are sorry for your loss. May God be with you in your sorrow. Bud and Sylvia Brown

Sylvia Brown - February 22 at 12:43 PM

TG

“ Tammy Gay lit a candle in memory of Mr. Donald Wayne Leard



Tammy Gay - February 21 at 07:56 PM

SF

“ Bettye so sorry for your loss! May God comfort your family in the days always



Sylvia Floyd - February 21 at 05:47 PM

GH

“ Gloria Hill lit a candle in memory of Mr. Donald Wayne Leard



Gloria Hill - February 21 at 06:37 AM

GH

SO SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS, ROBIN,,PRAYING FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY,,BLESSINGS TO YOU ALL MAYBE GOD 🙏 CONTINUE TO KEEP YOU ALL IN HIS UNCHANGING HANDS 🙌

Gloria Hill - February 21 at 06:39 AM

DG

“ Mandy, so sorry to hear about your dad.
Thinking of you and the family. Prayers for
peace



Derrick Gable - February 20 at 08:31 PM

EB

“ Edward & Emily Banister lit a candle in
memory of Mr. Donald Wayne Leard



Edward & Emily Banister - February 20 at 04:00 PM

SG

“ Suzanne Greenway Gillespie sent a virtual gift
in memory of Mr. Donald Wayne Leard



Suzanne Greenway Gillespie - February 20 at 03:33 PM

BJ

“ Bettye, we're so sorry to hear this! Our prayers are with you and the
family!!

Bane and Barbara James - February 20 at 02:43 PM

RM

“ *Bettye, We are so sorry to hear of Wayne's passing. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.*
Terry and Robbie Moore



Robbie Moore - February 20 at 10:08 AM

PT

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.*

Pat Thornton - February 20 at 09:29 AM

JB

“ *Sorry to hear of Wayne's passing! He was a great man! Praying for Gods blessings and comfort for the family at this time and in the days ahead!*



Johnny and Maggie Banister - February 19 at 10:05 PM

GS

“ *George & Gaynelle Stowe lit a candle in memory of Mr. Donald Wayne Leard*



George & Gaynelle Stowe - February 19 at 04:17 PM

TL

Praying for you all

Tom Leach - February 19 at 08:32 PM

EC

“ *Sorry for your loss. Love to the family.* ”



Evelyn Cress - February 19 at 04:11 PM