



## Clayton Brooks

May 1, 1937 - May 6, 2020

Clayton Lon Brooks, husband, father, and grandfather died peacefully at his home in Clemmons, NC on Wednesday, May 6th at the age of 83 after a prolonged battle with multiple cancers. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Norma (Woodruff) Brooks, daughter Janet Brooks Carnell, son Stephen Brooks, his wife Elizabeth (Fox) Brooks, their daughters Isabel Engel and Sarah (Cate) Brooks, and his siblings Pawnee Choate, Gertrude Crouse, Zane Brooks, Nelson Brooks, Mary Alice Hudson, Viola Shaw, Wayne Brooks, and many nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by sisters Eva Campbell and Lorene Presnell and his brother Lacy Brooks. Clayton was born on May 1, 1937 to Lawnie and Bessie Brooks in Glade Valley, NC as the ninth of eleven children. He graduated from Sparta High School in 1955 as the class president and a student school bus driver. He later attended the Nashville Auto Diesel Academy with aspirations of becoming a mechanic. Clayton enlisted in the US Army in 1957 where he was trained as a Morse Interceptor at Fort Devens, MA before assignment to the Army Security Agency. He was given the rank Specialist E-4 with Secret Security clearance and served in Sinop, Turkey. Afterward he was assigned to Vint Hill Farms Station, VA. During these Cold War postings, he helped to gather intelligence on the Soviet military and their missile programs. His experience there eventually led him to his hobby of Amateur Radio where he earned a General Operator's license. He returned to Sparta briefly in 1960 before accepting a job at Piedmont Airlines. There he worked as an Agent in Roanoke, VA and later transferred to Smith Reynolds Airport in Winston-Salem, NC. After 33 years of service, and through Piedmont's merger with US Air, he retired from the airline in 1993. Later that year, Clayton found his true calling when he began work as a school bus driver for the Winston-Salem, Forsyth County school system. He was loved by the student riders as was made evident by the many gifts and cards he received from them over the years as well as a newspaper article spotlighting his dedication to them. He was often recognized in public by prior students where they also expressed fond memories of him. He eventually retired from the school system after 24 years in 2013. After fully retiring, Clayton and Norma enjoyed time with their family and traveled across the US and the UK. Their most recent trip to Ireland was cut short, and they returned home as the COVID-19 pandemic began to shut down much of the world. Clayton was an avid reader, loved playing music, and building furniture

and other things. Growing up on a farm, he had a talent to build or fix just about anything. His carpentry, electrical, plumbing and cabinet making skills allowed him to generously help family and friends in many, many projects. Although many loved ones have expressed the desire to attend a memorial at this time, Clayton would not have wanted to risk anyone's health in order to do so. Because of the pandemic, a small private service will be held for only the immediate family at this time. A public event to celebrate his life will be scheduled and announced at a later time when it is safe for people to gather. The family is especially thankful for the help of all of their neighbors, family, and friends who gave assistance in Clayton's final days. They made this difficult time more comfortable for Clayton and his family. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that donations be made to Trellis Supportive Care at [www.trellissupport.org](http://www.trellissupport.org). Grandview Memorial Funeral Home is proudly serving the Brooks family and if you wish, online condolences may be submitted to the family at [www.grandviewfuneralhome.com](http://www.grandviewfuneralhome.com).

# Comments

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“ Norma, I'm so sorry for the death of Clayton, was so glad to see him when he came in the store, I haven't been there much for a couple months. Will surely be thinking and praying for you and your family. Craig, Brad, Betty Jo, Smitherman's Hardware.



**Betty Jo Smitherman** - May 11, 2020 at 01:13 AM

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“ J. D. & LORRAINE BROOKS lit a candle in memory of Clayton Brooks



**J. D. & LORRAINE BROOKS** - May 10, 2020 at 05:47 PM

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“ Dear Norma, I am so sorry to hear of this great loss. I remember so many stories that you shared with me about your life with your beloved husband, including that trip to Scotland years ago. I hope that the many joy filled memories of times you shared together will bring you some comfort at this sad time.  
Blessings and sympathies,  
Kim V. Halden

**Kim V Halden** - May 10, 2020 at 12:54 PM

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“ Norma, I'm so sorry to hear the sad news of the loss of your husband. I pray for comfort for you and your family. May you feel God's love and peace.  
Liz Lamphear

elizabeth Lamphear - May 10, 2020 at 10:38 AM

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“ So sorry to learn of your family's loss. Deepest sympathy to all

Racine Douglas - May 10, 2020 at 09:30 AM

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“ Racine Douglas lit a candle in memory of Clayton Brooks



Racine Douglas - May 09, 2020 at 11:31 PM

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“ Norma, I'm so sorry for your loss. I only know Clayton through your talking about him during my years at Griffith but that was enough to know you two had a special relationship I appreciate so much your sharing information about his life. I'm really sad that this is a time where you're not available for hugs. I'm sending virtual hugs and lots of love

Margaret Harris - May 09, 2020 at 10:17 PM

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“ Sending love and prayers for the whole family. May God wrap you in His loving arms during this sad time. We love you! Shawn & Mariam Brooks



**Mariam Brooks** - May 09, 2020 at 09:04 PM

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“ So sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

**Linda Gentry** - May 09, 2020 at 06:13 PM

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“ Dalton Edwards lit a candle in memory of Clayton Brooks



**Dalton Edwards** - May 09, 2020 at 04:30 PM

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“ Clayton was such a sweet, caring, gentle soul. I will miss him greatly. Norma, I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your entire family.

**Jennifer Pence Vaughn** - May 09, 2020 at 04:04 PM

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“ Clayton was always a joy to see at the Family Reunions. He will be missed. Don and Tracy

**don woodruff** - May 09, 2020 at 04:03 PM

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“ So very sorry to hear of your loss. You are all in our prayers. Bill Joe Woodruff and family, Mt. Airy, NC



**Nanci Jo Goad** - May 09, 2020 at 03:06 PM

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“ Bryan And Terry Edwards lit a candle in memory of Clayton Brooks



**Bryan and Terry Edwards** - May 09, 2020 at 08:32 AM

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“ Norma and family. I remember the few times I shared fellowship with you and Clayton very fondly, and wish I could have known him better. Prayers are with you.;

**Donald Tise** - May 08, 2020 at 09:16 PM

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“ JimOsborne lit a candle in memory of Clayton Brooks

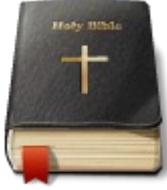


**JimOsborne** - May 08, 2020 at 08:42 PM

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“ So sorry for you all's loss. I know you will miss him. He can't return to you but you can go to him.



**Nancy Wooten** - May 08, 2020 at 01:27 PM

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“ I will always remember his sweet smile and big hugs. Family you will be in my thoughts and prayers I love you.  
Lori

**Lori B. Edwards** - May 07, 2020 at 11:49 PM

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“ Lori And Dalton Edwards lit a candle in memory of Clayton Brooks



**Lori and Dalton Edwards** - May 07, 2020 at 11:41 PM

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“ Joy Gardner lit a candle in memory of Clayton Brooks



**Joy Gardner** - May 07, 2020 at 09:30 PM

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“ Jim Hudson lit a candle in memory of Clayton Brooks



**Jim Hudson** - May 07, 2020 at 07:57 PM

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“ Sharrel And Judy Sexton Wyatt lit a candle in memory of Clayton Brooks



**Sharrel and Judy Sexton Wyatt** - May 07, 2020 at 06:28 PM

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“ Judy Lyon lit a candle in memory of Clayton Brooks



**Judy Lyon** - May 07, 2020 at 05:48 PM

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“ Danny And Barbara Lyon lit a candle in memory of Clayton Brooks



Danny and Barbara Lyon - May 07, 2020 at 05:41 PM