



Donald Ray "Donnie" Slaten

June 17, 1949 - October 17, 2025

Donald Ray "Donnie" Slaten, age 76, of Gardendale, Alabama, passed away peacefully to be with the Lord on October 17, 2025.

Donnie was a devoted father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend to many. A proud graduate of Phillips High School, Class of 1967, and Jacksonville State University, he dedicated his life to teaching others, retiring from Trussville City Schools after 41 years as an educator and coach.

After retirement, Donnie moved to Auburn, Alabama, to be close to his daughter Natalie, her husband Brett Whiteside, and his precious grandsons, Davis and Kason.

He was an avid fisherman and found joy in time spent with family, watching his grandson play ball, and cheering on Auburn. Donnie lived by the mantra, "Life is good," and loved everyone "big, big, big."

He was preceded in death by his parents, Tennis and Lillie Slaten, and his brother, Auburn Lee Slaten. He is survived by his daughter, Natalie Whiteside (Brett); grandsons, Davis and Kason Whiteside; sister, Susan Robins (Jeff); and sister-in-law, Reba Slaten. He is also survived by his nephews and niece, Gary Slaten (Julie) and their children Kelly Benton (Steve), Amy Slaten, and Brian Slaten; Steve Slaten (Dawna) and their son Tyler Martin (Ashlee); Angie Leggett and her children Ashley Pugh (Clint) and Brook Tidwell (Jacob Wayne); Jeff Inman (Rachael) and their daughters Aleza, Luciana, and Lilah; Chris Robins (Laura) and their daughters Baylie and Sophie; and Craig Robins (Ashlin) and their children Gates, Miles, Palmer, and Madden. He is also survived by his former wife, Gina Flack (Mike), and Michael Flack (Hannah), as well as numerous friends who loved him dearly.

The family will receive guests at Gardendale Heritage Funeral Home on Monday, October 20, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. A funeral service will follow at 6:00 p.m., with a private family graveside service on Tuesday.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Alabama Wildlife Federation in support of the Youth Fishing Rodeo. <https://alabamawildlife.org/donate/>

Previous Events

Family will receive guests

OCT **20**. 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Gardendale Heritage Funeral Home
2214 Decatur Highway
Gardendale, AL 35071
(205) 631-8810
gardendalefuneralhome2@gmail.com

Chapel Service

OCT **20**. 6:00 PM (CT)

Gardendale Heritage Funeral Home
2214 Decatur Highway
Gardendale, AL 35071
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Tribute Wall



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald Ray "Donnie" Slaten.*



October 20, 2025 at 10:43 AM



“ *Love, The Mommas purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Donald Ray "Donnie" Slaten.*



Love, The Mommas - October 20, 2025 at 09:38 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donald Ray "Donnie" Slaten.*



October 20, 2025 at 09:23 AM



“ *The Pughs and The Hannahs purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Donald Ray "Donnie" Slaten.*



The Pughs and The Hannahs - October 19, 2025 at 07:31 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Donald Ray "Donnie" Slaten.



October 19, 2025 at 06:52 PM



“ I remember when you, Susan and I danced and sang in your parents home in North Birmingham while attending high School Together. God Bless My Friend In Heaven and Give Peace To His Family.

Patricia Dianne Morgan -Martin - October 19, 2025 at 06:08 PM



“ 99 files added to the album Life Tributes



Gardendale Heritage Funeral Home - October 19, 2025 at 05:02 PM



“ Wayne and Linda Bolt planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald Ray "Donnie" Slaten.

Wayne and Linda Bolt - October 19, 2025 at 12:44 PM

WB

“ *Wayne and Linda Bolt purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Donald Ray "Donnie" Slaten.*



Wayne and Linda Bolt - October 19, 2025 at 12:44 PM