



## Mr. Don C. Roberts

August 6, 1928 - December 31, 2016

Funeral services for Mr. Don C. Roberts, 88, who died peacefully on Saturday, December 31, 2016, will be held at 2 o'clock on Monday, January 2, 2017 in The Chapel of Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home. The Rev. Bo Boyle and The Rev. Richie Yow will officiate with a burial to follow in Middendorf Baptist Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in his honor to Middendorf Baptist Church Building Fund, 2202 Middendorf Road, Hartsville, SC 29550.

Don was born in 1928 as the second son to Wes and Irma Roberts in Moline, Illinois. In the early 40s, his older brother joined the Air Force and went to war. Soon after, Don volunteered for the Army at age 17, once he had completed high school. He followed his older brother to Germany as an army private in the 16th CONSTABULARY SQUADRON (Separate) "The Circle C Cowboys" in Berlin, Germany in late 1945/early 1946. With the collapse of the German government and local leadership, these soldiers provided general military and civil security, patrolled the borders, seized contraband and controlled displaced persons. The troopers for this squadron were selected from the best soldiers available to be further trained as soldiers and policemen, utilizing horses, motorcycles, and the iconic jeep to fulfill their duties. He kept his love for motorcycles and brought a few with him to Chesterfield County, SC.

From Germany, Don "Sarge" was transferred to Korea to serve in the 45th

Recon 45th Infantry Division in the early 1950s. In this unit, Don had both a horse and a tank as part of the new armored cavalry. This unit served on the front lines in the Korean war against the Chinese where major conflicts include Old Baldy Hill and Hill Eerie. There is a story Don was always happy to tell about his face getting cut open during an active engagement with the enemy (possibly shrapnel, forgive my poor memory) and walking with his gun in the shelter of an armored tank while the medic applied stitches. Troop movements don't stop and neither do you, even if you need your face put back together.

After returning from the Korean war, Don was transferred through Alaska, Texas and South Carolina, where he met Betty Ann Johnson. Ever a resourceful and ingenious fellow, he endeavored a release for his car on weekend so that he could go to Church (and go out Saturday night, not that he told that piece of information to the Colonel that impounded his car). Lucky for his children, Don followed through on his commitment to go to Church. The lovely, very talented and young piano player caught his eye and the courtship began.

Don and Betty married and had two children and practically adopted Betty's younger sister, Brenda, on whom he first practiced his quirky ideas around parenting. For over twenty years, Don worked at Boozer Lumber Company in Columbia, SC. where he and his wife raised their children. The many facets of the man has him as husband, protector and general mechanic for his lovely wife Betty, often saving her the trouble of purchasing cars, paying bills and picking out new dogs. He was an instructor and mentor to his son, Barry, as he grew into a manhood, later husband, father and intrepid gardener. Don was a fierce advocate for the equal rights for women, maybe this blossomed more strongly in him after the birth of his daughter; he always encouraged his daughter, Deanna, to be a strong, independent woman, wife and mother. To the spouses of his children, Wayne and Ingris, he adopted them into the family

and took it upon himself to catch up on all of the stories and lectures given to his children so that their spouses might also be enlightened. To his grandsons, Jacob, Drew and Ty, he was a life coach, general instructor and an amazing mechanic that could bring most anything mechanical back to life with duct tape, superglue and/or Betty's pantyhose.

To all of the folks whose lives he has touched, he has been a lively communicator with a fierce sense of humor and a strong sense of self. He has made those around him better and stronger people. We will greatly miss hearing his voice and seeing him around home but his memory and his name lives on in his family, friends and neighbors. And he would tell us all to be strong.

He is survived by his loving wife, Betty Ann Johnson Roberts of McBee, SC; son, Barry G. (Ingris) Roberts of Columbia, SC; daughters, Deanna "Deedee" Roberts (Wayne) Williamson of New Bern, NC; brother, Vaughn Roberts of Godley, TX; grandchildren, Jacob H Roberts, Drew M. Roberts, Tyler E. Williamson. He was preceded in death by his brother, Gary Roberts of Moline, IL.

# Cemetery Details

## Middendorf Baptist Church Cemetery

2202 Middendorf Church Road  
Hartsville, SC 29550

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 2. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home Chapel  
306 W Home Ave  
Hartsville, SC

## Service

JAN 2. 2:00 PM (ET)

Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home Chapel  
306 W Home Ave  
Hartsville, SC

# Tribute Wall



“ *Brown - Pennington - Atkins Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Don C. Roberts*



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**Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home** - January 01, 2017 at 05:35 PM

JB

*Phenomenal video for a remarkable, unforgettable man. I will never forget you, Uncle Don.*

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**Jennifer Bass-Patrick** - January 02, 2017 at 01:12 PM

 Patti Talley

*Don you sure LIVED a lot! May your grit, passion and spirit forever live through your kids and grandkids. You'll be missed only until we see you again!*

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**Patti Talley** - January 03, 2017 at 08:41 AM

SR

“ Don was my uncle. My father, Vaughn Roberts, was Don's older brother.

*From my perspective the extended family we Roberts's are a part of have always been distant yet universally loving on occasions when we came together.*

*The last time I saw my Uncle Dee (as we knew him) was twenty years ago when Don visited my dad in Alvarado, Texas. When I saw Uncle Dee I was taken aback. I felt this immediate and deep connection for, because of Don's hairline, hair color, skin color and complexion, physique (a novel physique most of us Roberts men have inherited), and his facial features, I felt I was looking into a mirror of what I would look like in twenty years. To this day, when I look into the mirror, I see my Uncle Dee. And being that I am quite satisfied with what I see in the mirror, I have always felt a particular affinity for Don since that meeting.*

*I might also add, that the few times I met my Aunt Betty when I was a small child, I was quite infatuated with her. I always saw her as so beautiful, fun, and charismatic.*

*My memories of Uncle Dee, and of you Aunt Betty, are few but so deeply satisfying when I call them to mind. May Uncle Dee rest in peace and peace be on you. I know you both have made this world and our experience of life immensely more rich.*

*(Randy) Steven Roberts*

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**Steven (Randy) Roberts** - January 06, 2017 at 06:52 AM

EJ

“ Dear Betty and family I'm so sorry for your loss. I pray that the Lord will comfort you during your time of need. I know Don is at Home in the Lord now but will always live in your heart and thoughts.  
Knoxie Ernest Johnson

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**Ernest K Johnson** - January 02, 2017 at 09:16 PM

NS

“ Nan & Ron Shearer sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Don C. Roberts



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**Nan & Ron Shearer** - January 02, 2017 at 10:14 AM

JM

“ I have so many fond memories of Mr. Roberts "Sarge". As a friend of Deanna "Dee Dee", I spent a lot of time with the Roberts family and they all - especially "Sarge" made me feel so welcome. I enjoyed his incredible knowledge of history and his ability to make you feel comfortable - like one of the family. I miss those days in my youth when I would visit and enjoy a pot of beef stew or cornbread and pinto beans with the ever colorful stories and wisdom imparted at the dinner table. I know that the Roberts family has lost a good man but feel happy to have had the opportunity to know him as well as reassured by the fact that he was cherished as a father, husband and friend.  
Joy McFarland

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**Joy McFarland** - January 01, 2017 at 06:14 PM

AW

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with all of your family. We are so very sorry for your dear loss.

*Toby, Amy & Katie Williamson*

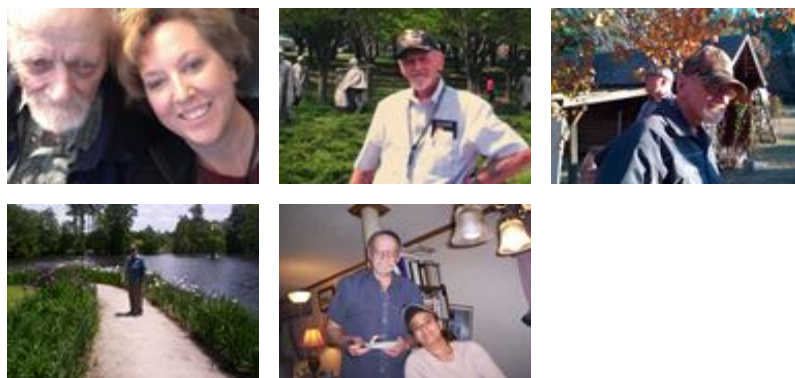


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**Amy Williamson** - January 01, 2017 at 05:40 PM



“ 53 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Brown-Pennington-Atkins Funeral Home** - January 01, 2017 at 05:09 PM

JT

“ Dear Mrs. Betty and extended family, we are so very sorry for your loss. May God comfort you and give you strength in the coming days. Your family is in our thoughts and prayers. We are sorry we are out of town and are unable to attend the service.

*Love and prayers to your family!!*

*Johnny & Sheila S. Tolson*

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**Johnny & Sheila S. Tolson** - January 01, 2017 at 03:59 PM

RS

“ Thoughts and prayers to the family.



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**Randy Atkinson & Gloria Smith** - January 01, 2017 at 11:30 AM

JB

“ Uncle Don was a man of honor, integrity, and commitment. I have so many wonderful memories of time spent with him. When I was pregnant with my son he used to compare stomach sizes with me and he would say how he was having twins. I also will never forget his speaking to the fifth grade students at Leaphart Elementary about his time in the war and the rations of horse meat people would get and how grateful they were to have meat to eat. He made you really think about your life and how easy we have it today. God bless you, Uncle Don. I love you. I am truly grateful to have known you.

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**Jennifer Bass-Patrick** - January 01, 2017 at 08:54 AM

BM

“ Becky McCarty lit a candle in memory of Mr. Don C. Roberts



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**Becky McCarty** - January 01, 2017 at 05:31 AM

JC

“ *Jim, Jeri, John, Kelly Cox lit a candle in memory of Mr. Don C. Roberts*



**Jim, Jeri, John, Kelly Cox** - December 31, 2016 at 10:06 PM

GG

“ *Glenn Gullede lit a candle in memory of Mr. Don C. Roberts*



**Glenn Gullede** - December 31, 2016 at 09:12 PM

.B

“ *. Gail Bullard lit a candle in memory of Mr. Don C. Roberts*



**. Gail Bullard** - December 31, 2016 at 09:12 PM



“ *In my prayers*



**Will McManus** - December 31, 2016 at 09:10 PM

LF

“ *Latangela Jacobs & Family lit a candle in memory of Mr. Don C. Roberts*



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**Latangela Jacobs & Family** - December 31, 2016 at 08:46 PM



“ *Jessi Allen lit a candle in memory of Mr. Don C. Roberts*



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**Jessi Allen** - December 31, 2016 at 07:34 PM

RS

“ *So sorry for your loss. I am praying for your family & here for you if you need anything.*



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**Rev. Tami Stover** - December 31, 2016 at 12:06 PM

JH

*Betty I just read about your husband. So sorry. My thoughts are with you.*

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**Janice Thomas Hughey** - January 02, 2017 at 03:34 PM