



## Leon Cunningham, Jr.

May 28, 1937 - March 14, 2026

With heavy hearts yet profound gratitude for a life well lived, we mourn the loss of our dear Mr. Leon Cunningham, Jr., who departed this world on March 14, 2026, surrounded by the love of his family in the comfort of his home in Eastaboga, Alabama. He was 88 years old, a steadfast beacon of faith, love, and diligence throughout his life's journey.

Leon was born on May 28, 1937, in Eastaboga, to the union of Leo Cunningham and Lillian Johnson Cunningham. From an early age, he embraced the light of Christ, finding his spiritual home at Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church. His commitment to serve extended as he became a member of the church choir, Chairman of the Deacon and Trustee Board, as well as taking on the role of a deacon and trustee, always striving to uplift through song and service. Leon's melodic voice echoed beyond the church as he traveled with the renowned Gospel Pilgrim Jubilees, sharing the joy of gospel music far and wide.

His pursuit of knowledge and service led him to join the United States Air Force, where he honorably served for 21 years. During his time in the military, he traveled the globe, earning multiple commendations for his dedication and expertise in law enforcement and corrections. After retiring from the Air Force, Leon continued to serve his community through a distinguished career in Civil Service in Cheyenne, Wyoming, where he dedicated over two decades before

returning home to enjoy the fruits of his labor.

Leon's journey through life was marked by his unwavering dedication to his cherished wife, Doretha Cunningham. Their love story began in Mississippi in May of 1958, where Leon, drawn by destiny, encountered the beautiful Doretha Hanks. After a year of courtship, they united in holy matrimony on May 20, 1959. Together, they built a vibrant family, welcoming nine children who would come to know him as the best father one could ask for. His role as a husband and father was his greatest joy; he was indeed her best friend, her best man, and a pillar of strength. Following countless adventures across the states, in 1998, the family returned to Munford, Alabama, where roots deepened and memories flourished. Leon found immense joy in music, and it was often said that his heart danced to the rhythm of family gatherings and church celebrations. His parents and his church were the cornerstones of his life—a life well-lived, filled with laughter, love, and unwavering faith in God.

Leon was more than a husband and father; he was a God-fearing man whose faith defined his life. He found joy in nature, often sitting by tranquil riverbanks, rod and reel in hand, valuing the simple moments of peace. As a passionate sports fan, he would cheer exuberantly for his beloved Alabama Crimson Tide and the Dallas Cowboys, embodying the spirit of camaraderie and enthusiasm in every game.

On that peaceful Monday morning, Leon answered the Master's call saying "Well Done My Good and Faithful Servant" leaving behind a legacy woven with love, wisdom, and memories that all who knew him will cherish. He is now reunited in eternal rest with his parents, Leo and Lillian Cunningham; his brother, Walter Gene Cunningham; and his sister, Nellie Cunningham.

He leaves behind his devoted wife of over 67 years, Doretha Cunningham; sons Walter Lee (Laura) Cunningham, Leon Eric (Karen) Cunningham, James

Douglas (Darcey) Cunningham, and James (Mikeitha) Johnson; daughters Shirley Yvonne Cunningham, Lillian Denise (Clevonland) Wilson, Cynthia Faye Cunningham, Felicia Kay Cunningham, and Aletha Ann Cunningham Moore; brother Larry (Shirley) Cunningham; special friend, Gean Tuck; twenty-two grandchildren; thirty great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; and a multitude of relatives and friends who will miss him dearly.

In this moment of sorrow and remembrance, let us also celebrate the remarkable journey of Leon Cunningham, Jr., whose life was a testament to faith, love, and family. May his legacy forever inspire all whose lives he touched.

# Cemetery Details

## Kelly Springs Memorial Gardens

351 Curry Station Rd  
Munford, AL 36268

# Previous Events

## Public Viewing

MAR 27. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

S.M. Goodson Funeral Home  
217 Coosa St. East  
Talladega, AL 35160

## Celebration of Life

MAR 28. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Shady Grove Baptist Church  
801 Jennifer Road  
Munford, AL 36268

# Tribute Wall



“ To Doretha, children and and extended family I extend my condolences and prayers too you all. I'm saddened in Mr. Leon's passing and I so will remember him fondly always. I love you all my surrogate family! May God's love, peace and strength encompass you all in your time of bereavement/grief. 🤔🙏 I love you, Robin and children. #Biloxi MississippiRoots 🍷🥰👍

Robin O. Griffin - March 26 at 10:44 PM



“ Pastor and First Lady Donald Battles planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Leon Cunningham, Jr..

Pastor and First Lady Donald Battles - March 26 at 08:43 PM



“ Pastor and First Lady Donald Battles purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Leon Cunningham, Jr..



Pastor and First Lady Donald Battles - March 26 at 08:43 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Leon Cunningham, Jr..



March 26 at 07:20 PM

LF

“ Love Carol Cunningham & Duron Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Leon Cunningham, Jr..

Love Carol Cunningham & Duron Family - March 26 at 12:23 AM

LF

“ Love Carol Cunningham & Duron Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Leon Cunningham, Jr..



Love Carol Cunningham & Duron Family - March 26 at 12:23 AM

LF

“ Latoya Ford & Wilson Family purchased the Ocean Breeze Spray for the family of Leon Cunningham, Jr..



Latoya Ford & Wilson Family - March 25 at 01:48 PM

EH

“ Edward & Tyra Hawkins lit a candle in memory of Leon Cunningham, Jr.



Edward & Tyra Hawkins - March 20 at 08:23 PM



“ *Barbara Wilson sent a virtual gift in memory of Leon Cunningham, Jr.*



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**Barbara Wilson** - March 18 at 05:13 PM



“ *Reginald And Vanessa Nash lit a candle in memory of Leon Cunningham, Jr.*



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**Reginald and Vanessa Nash** - March 16 at 06:47 PM



“ *Rlp Deacon Cunningham u will be truly missed praying for healing & strength for the family.*



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**Shenetha Jones** - March 15 at 03:36 PM