

The Lord's Prayer

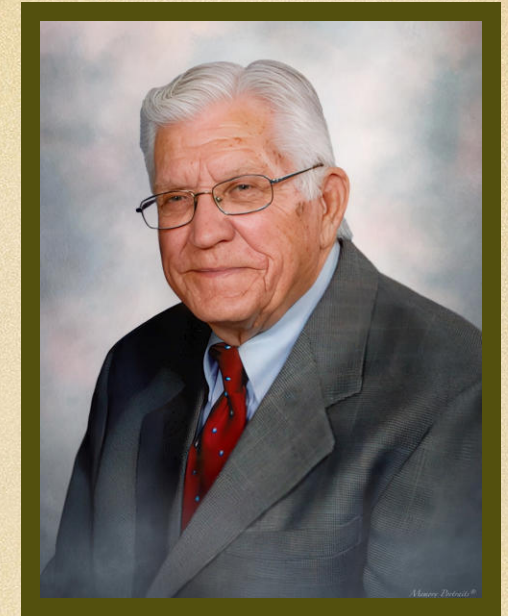
Our Father who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name;
Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen



During a time like this
we realize how much our
Friends
really mean to us.
Your expression of
Sympathy
will always be remembered.


Berry Funeral Home
& CREMATORY

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In Loving Memory of
John Wade Oakley
January 8, 1929 - June 20, 2025



Don't think of him as gone away -
his **JOURNEY'S JUST BEGUN**,
life holds so many facets -
this earth is only one.

Just think of him as resting
from the sorrows and the tears
in a place of *warmth*
AND COMFORT
where there are no days and years.

Think how he must be wishing
that we could know today
how nothing but our sadness
can really pass away.

In the *Hearts* of those he touched
And think of him as living
For nothing loved is ever lost -
And he was loved so much.
- Ellen Brenneman



Funeral Service

2 o'clock in the afternoon
Thursday, June 26, 2025
Memorial Chapel of Berry Funeral Home

Officiating

Rev. Douglas Huff
Rev. Gary Purvis

Interment

Fortsonia Community Cemetery

Pallbearers

John Graham, Kris Betz, Carlos Tan
Michel Betz, Cecil Oakley, Jr.
David Norman, Dennis Young

Contributions

Wounded Warrior Project
PO Box 758516 Topeka, KS 66675
<https://support.woundedwarriorproject.org>

Mr. John Wade Oakley, 96, of Elberton, entered into eternal rest on Friday, June 20, 2025, at Magnolia Estates of Elberton.

Born on January 8, 1929, in Oglethorpe County, John Wade moved as a young boy to the Fortsonia Community. A proud veteran of the United States Army, he served bravely during the Korean War and was awarded the Purple Heart, the Korean Service Medal with three Bronze Service Stars, and the United Nations Service Medal.

A hardworking man, he retired as a supervisor from Elberton Mills in 1978, later worked for Rock Smith Chevrolet, and became a familiar, friendly face at the Jones Ferry Road Recycling Center. He was a faithful member of Doves Creek Baptist Church.

John Wade was as strong as they come—so resilient that his legendary stories left people wondering how he was still standing. He had a true passion for the outdoors and found joy in hunting, fishing, turtle hunting, and gardening—especially growing tomatoes. But more than anything, he loved teaching others how to enjoy those same hobbies.

He enjoyed spending time in the kitchen, making homemade tea cakes, biscuits, chicken and dumplings, and of course, his famous turtle stew. He also loved to joke around and bring laughter to those around him—his quick wit and sense of humor were just as much a part of him as his kindness and strength.

Above all, "Pop" loved his family with his whole heart—none more than his beloved wife of 72 years, Virginia Reaves Webb Oakley, who he affectionately called "Jenny."

He leaves behind a legacy of love and laughter, survived by his daughter, Debbie Oakley Anderson (Mark) of Elberton; granddaughters: Ashlie Anderson Graham (John) of Charleston, SC, Laurie Anderson Betz (Kris) of Charleston, SC, and Katie Anderson Tan (Carlos) of Atlanta; and great-grandchildren: Madeline, Kate, Michael, Ben, Vanessa, and Nora Wade. He is also survived by his sisters: Betty Jo Butler and Judy McCannon, both of Elberton; sisters-in-law: Hilna Bond of Elberton and Nancy Webb of Cartersville; and a host of extended family and cherished friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Wade Carlton Oakley and Thelma Dora McCannon Oakley, and siblings: Barbara Jean Oakley and Cecil Oakley, Sr.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to the caregivers at Magnolia Estates, with special appreciation to Kelley Skelton and Kathi Vaughn as well as to Courtney Germany of Bristol Hospice and Beth Skinner of VA Home Health Care for their exceptional kindness and care.