



# ROGER GALE DUREN

JANUARY 13-1951 - MAY 18, 2026

## My Dad

Our family has grown large, and because of this, there is seldom “one-on-one” time with dad or anyone else. It’s not a bad thing. It’s beautiful and fun and crazy. But before dad’s last stroke, he still needed someone with him at all times. During the rare and far between times that mom wasn’t able to be at his side( she was almost always with him), my sisters and I would sit with him. I really had some “one-on-one” time with him then. We sat outside in the warm sunshine and listened to the old country music he loved. We watched old westerns, which I was never willing to do before. It turns out some of those old western stories were really good. There is always one of the good guys trying to help someone in need or going through a rough time. It really reminds me of my dad. He didn’t show up on a horse, but he is one of the good guys, and he would show up in a pick up truck ready to help wherever he was needed. I don’t think I can look anywhere in my home and not see my dad. He had a hand in remodeling most of my house, and scattered throughout his children and grandchildren’s homes are tables, toy chests, and trunks that he made with his hands. My dad really is one of the good guys. He is one of the reasons I have always been able to see my Heavenly Father as a good guy, always ready to help in rough times. Dad talked about Jesus with a flat top guitar, singing old hymns like “In the Garden,” “The Old Rugged Cross,” and “I’ll Fly Away.” The songs he sang have shown me how he loves Jesus and how Jesus loves me. Dad sang everywhere he went...the grocery store, restaurants...he loved to sing. We will all miss him and his singing so much. But it brings me joy to remember passages in God’s Word that describe singing in the presence of the Lord. I know he is singing all the time now, and I hope he is playing the finest flat-top guitar ever made.

-Ramona Miller

Roger Gale Duren, age 75, of Sherwood, passed away May 18 2026. He was born in Batesville, Arkansas on January 13, 1951 to Paul Duren and Nobia Miller Duren.

Roger grew up in Zion, Arkansas surrounded by a large family and many great friends. As the youngest child, with three older sisters, he was known for being mischievous. It was not uncommon for him to be gone from morning to night, fishing and playing outside. As a teen Roger played point guard for the Melbourne Bearkats basketball team. He graduated from Melbourne High School in 1969. He attended college at ASU Beebe. He also developed a passion for music and learned to play the guitar. Freida and Roger’s first date was at the Melbourne Town Square Hootenanny, where he sang on the stage, much to Freida’s surprise. He would carry this love of music throughout his life playing for his wife, family and friends.

Roger worked for the State of Arkansas for 36 years. He retired as the Administrator of Motor Vehicle in 2016. He was a craftsman in his free time, building furniture and renovating the homes of family and friends over the years. He was always willing to help with any project anyone could dream up. He helped coach his children in sports and sat through more dance recitals than any person ever before. He was an extraordinary husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, spending every weekend cooking countless burgers and hot dogs for anyone who wanted to come. Everyone knew they were welcome to come play wiffleball, swim and eat a good meal. He was extremely generous. He taught his family the value of good morals and ethics. He also taught them to love the Lord.

Roger is preceded in death by his parents Paul Duren and Nobia Miller Duren; sisters, Paula Williams and Minnie Ellen Duren.

He is survived by his wife, Freida; his children, Ramona Miller (Steve), Jessica Shaw (Mark), Marissa Duren, and Jacquelyn Bowman (Bo); his grandchildren, Nathan Duren (Mary), Cole Miller (Bailey), Devin Shaw (Brooke), Natalie Shaw, Houston Shaw (Natalie), Walt and Stevie Bowman; his great-grandchildren, Hank, Dru and Liv Duren, Rebekah, Mackenzie and Savannah Shaw, Dannie Miller and Kimber Shaw; his sister, Cliva Marlin; and many beloved nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

A funeral will be held Thursday, May 21, 2026 beginning at 11:00 AM at That.Church in Sherwood with visitation one hour prior (10am). Roger’s final resting place will The Old Philadelphia Cemetery in Larkin, Arkansas at 3pm.