

The Twenty-Third Psalm

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;
He leadeth me beside the still waters;
He restoreth my soul.
He leadeth me in the paths of
righteousness for His name's sake...
Yea, though I walk through the
valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me;
Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in
the presence of mine enemies;
Thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth over...
surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life and I will dwell
in the House of the Lord forever....*

In Loving Memory of

SAM ODELL WIDENER

July 25, 1936 March 22, 2026

MEMORIAL SERVICE

2:00 PM Thursday, March 26, 2026

Washington Ave. Christian Church

OFFICIANT

Pastor Jon Kohler

Lake Tanglewood Community Church

CO-OFFICIANT

Pastor Lennie McCay

Washington Ave. Christian Church

MUSICIAN

Claire Kohler

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

All of Grandad's Beloved Grand and Great Grandsons

Sam was born on July 25, 1936, in Putnam, Oklahoma to Sam and Fern Widener. He was a talented young man who had a gift for sports and the cowboy lifestyle. Sam played basketball and baseball, the latter earning him an opportunity to try out for the St. Louis Cardinals. He came from a large family and although his siblings would later move all over the country, they remained in constant contact and would visit each other as often as they could.

From an early age until he retired, he worked in all aspects of the grocery business, starting as a stocker and rising to management. It was always his dream to own his own business. In 1985, he was fortunate enough to make that dream a reality with the opening of his first Sam's Quik Way convenience store. He would go on to open additional stores before retiring in 2001. When not at work, Sam and Yvonne enjoyed time at their farm in Oklahoma where they raised cattle and entertained family.

Sam married the love of his life, Shirley "Yvonne" Didier, on March 6, 1954, in Oklahoma. They built their home on the values of faith and family. Together they had two daughters, five grandchildren, and sixteen great-grandchildren and were devoted members of Washington Avenue Christian Church.

Sam was preceded in death by his parents, Sam and Fern, his brother, Wendell, and his precious daughter, Ronda Thompson. Those left to cherish his memories are his beloved wife, Yvonne Widener, with whom he just celebrated 72 years of marriage, his daughter, Tara Wilson and husband Ben, and his prized grandchildren, Barry Wilson and wife Shelly, Macy Kohler and husband Jon, Julie Massie and husband Shaun, Marley Petrey and husband Shane, and Matthew Thompson and wife Andrea; as well as his 16 great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Washington Avenue Christian Church in honor of Sam Widener.

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