



Don Phillips

March 11, 1935 - February 21, 2025

With a heavy heart the family of Don Phillips, a beloved figure in Mentone, Alabama, at the age of 89, departed this world peacefully at his home on February 21, 2025, surrounded by his loving family. His death marks the end of an era for many who knew him not just as a guitarist but as an instructor, mentor, and friend.

Don Phillips was not just a guitarist; he was a musical soul whose talent and passion influenced countless individuals in DeKalb County. From the moment he picked up the guitar, it was clear that music was his calling. Over the years, Don became a local icon, known for his finger picking style. He was a cherished member of the music community. He was presented the Roland Walls lifetime achievement award at the 2012 Fiddlers Convention in DeKalb County.

We will gather to remember the extraordinary life of Don Phillips with a celebration of Life service to be held later by his family.

He is survived by his loving wife, Helen Prestwood Phillips of 62 years; and many other family and friends.

Tribute Wall

SW

“ I took guitar lessons from Don for about a year and a half or so when I was between 13 and 15 years old in the early 70s. He drove to our house in his Volkswagen Beetle that our dog hated. I'd tell him a song I'd like to learn, and he would get the lyrics, figure out the chords and then bring it the next week and we'd work on me learning how to play it. He taught me finger picking patterns and lots of chords. I enjoyed that time very much. I left Ft. Payne after college and always wondered how Don was doing. I would have loved to have sat down with him to show him what I had learned after the lessons stopped. The gift he provided has lasted a lifetime and I still play today. My condolences to the Phillips family. I know he will be missed.

Scott Walker

Scott Walker - April 30, 2025 at 09:57 AM

RB

“ Don was kind, compassionate and extremely talented. He was my guitar instructor and friend. He played and sang at my wedding in 1981. The painting he made for my wedding present still proudly graces the wall of my home. He left a mark on my soul and so many others. What a beautiful life to celebrate! My condolences to his family.

Rebecca Blevins Berg

Rebecca Berg - February 24, 2025 at 09:29 AM

HB

“ Great Guy!Teacher, Friend, and Customer, Family man. first met Don and his Wife many years ago at the Store at Fischer Crossroads. Don was not only a great guitarist, but was a professional at every thing he did. not to mention that he came from very good roots. He was an icon in the community and will be deeply missed. God Bless

Howard Babb - February 23, 2025 at 10:54 AM