



Donnie Tankersley

March 29, 1935 - July 19, 2025

Mrs. Donnie S. Tankersley of River Falls, age 90, went to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on July 19, 2025 while surrounded by loved ones.

Born in Royston, Georgia in 1935 to Jessie H. Smith and Mary Randall Smith, Donnie moved to Greenville at a young age and lived here the remainder of her life. She graduated from Parker High School in 1953 and married her husband, James B. Tankersley, the following year. They were married 52 years until his death in 2006. Donnie was a headstrong Appalachian woman whose seemingly only fear was snakes. She spent much of her time outside in the country, cooking delicious meals for family, attending church, traveling to nearby places, but mostly being a devoted wife. Despite her petite size, she became the primary caregiver of her 6'3 husband after his Parkinson's diagnosis.

At work, Mrs. Tankersley was a dedicated public servant to Greenville County, and spent nearly 40 years in service to our county. She began her career in the Sheriff's office under Sheriff Bob Martin. She was then repeatedly elected as Greenville County's Register of Mesne Conveyance from 1973 until her retirement in 1997.

Although she had an impressive and remarkable career as an elected official, she rarely spoke of her accomplishments because her greatest pride was her

family, which she spoke about at every opportunity, always boasting of their achievements. She is survived by her son Dr. James B. Tankersley, Jr. (Kathy) and daughter Ryan T. Chassereau, eight grandchildren: Dr. Ashely Tankersley-Thomas (Charlie), Jeanmarie T. Ethridge (Trip), Meghan E. Tankersley, Dr. James B. Tankersley, III (Elizabeth), Michael Chassereau (Crystal), Ellen Chassereau, Jacob Chassereau and Sarah Dobson (Andrew), and six great-grandchildren: Charles Worth Thomas, Jr., Cannon Woodruff Thomas, Ella James Thomas, Caroline Campbell Ethridge, Olivia Grace Chassereau, Lyla Dobson. In addition to her husband, Mrs. Tankersley is predeceased by all four of her brothers: Mitchell, T. Aulton, Kyle, Hyziser, and Barry Smith. The family extends their great appreciation to the staff and nurses at the Cascades for their care of Donnie in recent years.

Funeral services will be held at Howze Funeral Home in Travelers Rest on Friday July 25, 2025. Visitation will be from 1 pm to 2 pm, followed by funeral services at 2 pm. A private interment will be held at Gap Creek Baptist Church Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research at michaeljfox.org or the Alzheimer's Association at alz.org.

Cemetery Details

Gap Creek Baptist Church Cemetery

381 Gap Creek Rd.
Marietta, SC 29661

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 25. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

The Howze Mortuary
6714 State Park Rd./P.O. Box 369
Travelers Rest, SC

Funeral Service

JUL 25. 2:00 PM (ET)

The Howze Mortuary Chapel
6714 State Park Rd.
Travelers Rest
Travelers Rest, SC 29690
thehowzemortuary@yahoo.com

Tribute Wall

PH

“ Pat Hawkins lit a candle in memory of Donnie Tankersley



Pat Hawkins - August 10, 2025 at 02:07 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Donnie Tankersley.



July 24, 2025 at 05:15 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Donnie Tankersley.

July 24, 2025 at 05:15 PM

LE

“ Laurie Ethridge purchased the Simply Elegant Sp athiphyllum for the family of Donnie Tankersley.



Laurie Ethridge - July 24, 2025 at 09:05 AM



“ Jackie Lane lit a candle in memory of Donnie Tankersley



Jackie Lane - July 23, 2025 at 04:06 PM



“ Janice Smith lit a candle in memory of Donnie Tankersley



Janice Smith - July 23, 2025 at 12:50 PM



“ Such a delightful lady.



Sammie Thacker Tate - July 22, 2025 at 05:59 PM



“ Ryan and family, I'm so sorry for your loss. I met her many years ago when I would have title to real estates that needed recorded. She was a beautiful lady.



Nancy Lance - July 22, 2025 at 05:03 PM

JH

“ *Jonell Hart lit a candle in memory of Donnie Tankersley*



Jonell Hart - July 22, 2025 at 03:16 PM



“ *Joyful Memory was purchased for the family of Donnie Tankersley.*



July 22, 2025 at 02:51 PM

JO

“ *Janice S Owen lit a candle in memory of Donnie Tankersley*



Janice S Owen - July 22, 2025 at 01:21 PM

JO

“ *“Deepest condolences to your family for your loss.”*

Jim and Ryan - There's a special place in all of our hearts for our mothers, just like there's a special place in every mother's heart for her children. I am again sincerely sorry for your loss and all of you are in my thoughts and prayers ! Cousin, Janice Smith Owen

Janice S Owen - July 22, 2025 at 01:19 PM