



## William Duane Ragan

September 13, 1931 - September 25, 2023

William Duane Ragan, 92, passed away peacefully at his home, built with his own two hands, surrounded by his loving family on Monday, September 25th, 2023. He fought the good fight and pressed towards the mark of the high calling of God and on that day when his strength was failing and his time had come, he sang praises to his King Jesus thanking Him for his life and faithfulness over the years. His family is deeply saddened by his passing and will miss him dearly but are united in the knowledge that God called him home according to his great plan our faith is anchored in the promise of the everlasting life through Jesus Christ. He lived his life with goodness and grace and his legacy is his family, his faith, and his music. The Bible says in Micah 6:8, "He hath shown the O' man what is good, and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with thy God." This is a picture-perfect image of the gentle man, William Duane Ragan. Duane was born to Dallas O. and Maudie Ragan on September 13, 1931, in Lowell, NC. Later his family moved to Travelers Rest when he was young, and they remained here throughout his life. Duane graduated from Travelers Rest High School and had an insatiable desire for learning through reading, taking many classes, and a lot of life experiences. Duane loved airplanes, trains, boats, and fishing. He always had multitude of projects going and loved to tinker. He was somewhat of a country version of a Renaissance Man meaning he could do just about anything he put his mind to and if he didn't know how, he would figure it out, He was known for his easy way, his huge humble heart

and strength of character but perhaps most of all for his musical talent and passion for playing the steel guitar. Duane was given the nickname “Killer” by his friends because he “killed” the steel guitar! He was a professional musician in his early years and even played at the Grand Ole Opry but walked away from that life after he found the Lord and made a personal choice to live his life more pleasing to God. Through the years he enjoyed playing at his church and loved playing his music at different venues and events including musicals at Center Stage, Greenville Little Theater and The Mill Town Players Community Theater. He also played for the SC Steel Guitar Association’s Convention as a featured performer on Friday evenings at George Creek Community Center in Easley, SC. Duane was cherished member of Scenic Hills Baptist Church where played his music with the Royal Blue Band always bringing happiness and the songs of the faith with enthusiastic spirit and remarkable musicianship.

Duane is survived by his loving wife Doris E. Ragan with whom he enjoyed 63 years of marriage and built a legacy of love and family together. He leaves three daughters and three sons-in-laws, Sherry L. Smith (Kevin), Gine R. Bond (Michael), and Amber D. Smith (Jonathan). He was blessed with 7 grandchildren, Arlen (Katelyn), Austin (Bella), Alicia (Drake), Andrew, Devyn (Mackenzie), Dallas, and Olivia. He also has three great-grandchildren, Dahlia, Luka, and “Baby Girl Smith” whom he was looking forward to welcoming into the family coming soon in October 2023! Duane also has a loving sister, Barabra Holt Poole, who has been a great joy in his life. He loved his family dearly and was a great inspiration, uniquely dedicated to each one in personal relationships, sharing stories of life and caring acts of kindness. In addition to his parents, Duane is predeceased by a brother, Ronald C. Ragan, and an infant sister Magdalene Ragan.

A memorial service celebrating the life of this man of great love, music, and humble servant of the Lord will be held at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, September 29th, 2023, at The Howze Mortuary Chapel. The family will receive friends and family from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m., prior to the service. Following the service,

the family will be at the home of the daughter, Amber Smith in Greer, SC.  
Online condolences may be expressed by visiting, <https://www.thehowzemortuary.com/obituaries/>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **29.** 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

The Howze Mortuary, Inc.  
6714 State Park Road  
P.O. Box 369  
Travelers Rest, SC 29690  
(864) 834-8051  
thehowzemortuary@yahoo.com  
<https://www.thehowzemortuary.com/>

## Memorial Service

SEP **29.** 4:00 PM (ET)

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

# Tribute Wall



“ *The Howze Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of William Duane Ragan*



The Howze Mortuary - September 28, 2023 at 04:34 PM

DR

*Thank you for stopping and telling us the death of William, we appreciate him greatly. Amen*

Don and Nancy Rholetter - October 27, 2023 at 10:56 AM

TP

*For some reason Mr.Ragan has been on my mind lately and I was so surprised and sad when I saw this. I always enjoyed our time at the steel guitar conventions. I always told him I was going to come there for a week for him to teach me some steel guitar but I never did. To his family , You have my sincere condolences and prayers for peace in the days ahead.*

Tony Padgett - November 14, 2023 at 04:28 PM

KE

“ *Such a sweet soft spoken Gentleman, but he could sure make that Steel Guitar Sing ,, we always enjoyed hearing him play ,, Doris our prayers are with you and your Beautiful Daughters we cherish the memories we have of Duane at Abundant Life may the arms of Jesus comfort you now 🙏. Rick & Kathy Eades*

Kathy Eades - October 02, 2023 at 07:33 PM

PK

“ So sorry for your loss. The family will be in my prayers and thoughts.

*Pam Mahaffey Kelly (ALC)*

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**Pamela Kelly** - October 01, 2023 at 09:47 AM

BC

“ Iam sorry to hear of Duane's passing, He was a very kind man to say the least. I know you all are heartbroken, you will all be in my prayers now and the days to come. I used to see him having breakfast with his friends, loved to talk to him, he always had a smile for you. I love you all may God carry you through this sad time in your lives, Becky Coggins

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**Becky Coggins** - September 29, 2023 at 10:00 AM

DR

“ Dear Family,  
I am so very blessed to have met your sweet father through my dad, Bob Dockery. Daddy loved and respected your dad so much! Bless you all through this time of grief. Love in Christ, Dottie Dockery Rhoden

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**Dottie Rhoden** - September 28, 2023 at 09:46 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of William Duane Ragan.



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September 28, 2023 at 06:09 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of William Duane Ragan.*



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September 27, 2023 at 10:26 PM



“ *AnnieMae Blackburn lit a candle in memory of William Ragan*



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**AnnieMae Blackburn** - September 27, 2023 at 03:40 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of William Duane Ragan.*



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September 27, 2023 at 01:55 PM



“ Sherry your daddy was such a great man! I loved to hear him play the Steel Guitar when he and his band would come play for our Chorus group. Veterans day will not be the same without him being on the stage with us. His amazing love for his family and God was very evident in the way you and your sisters have taken care of him daily for the last 7-8 months. You girls honored him the way he honored God! Know that he is literally playing his Steel Guitar in a Band of Angels!

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**Sherry Biondo** - September 27, 2023 at 01:21 PM

RR

“ My Uncle Duane was a gentle man with a ready smile, a kind (and often funny!) word for family and friends alike! He loved fully and with his whole heart! I've said before that I regret that time, distance and career prevented me from spending more time with Duane, Doris, Barbara and the rest of the extended family. I love Duane and the whole family and I will miss him and will hold him in my heart alongside my Dad, my Mom, and MaMa and PaPa Ragan.



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**Ronald Ragan** - September 27, 2023 at 01:20 PM