



## Ronald Gail Holder

August 3, 1944 - November 13, 2025

Ronald Gail Holder, 81, passed peacefully from this life on November 13, 2025 in Sulphur, Oklahoma. He was born on August 3, 1944, in Pauls Valley, Oklahoma, to Roy Malone Holder and Jessie (Sorrell) Holder.

Gail grew up in Pauls Valley, where he developed a lifelong love of adventure, the outdoors, and all things mechanical. As a young boy he enjoyed dirt track racing and was active in Boy Scouts, where, under the guidance of his father—who served as Scoutmaster—Gail proudly earned the rank of Eagle Scout. A 1962 graduate of Pauls Valley High School, he showcased his many talents both on and off the field. Gail played baseball and football, and he was also a member of the school band, playing baritone and cornet.

On November 27, 1963, Gail married the love of his life, Mary Sue (North) Holder, in Pauls Valley. Together they built a life centered on love, family, faith, and service. Gail was a longtime member of the First Christian Church of Pauls Valley, a member of Kiwanis, and he served as chairman of the Southern Oklahoma Mental Health Board.

Gail attended college for one year in Enid, where he played baseball as a pitcher and second baseman, later continuing his studies at East Central University where he received his bachelors in education and also his masters in education. Education became both his passion and his calling. Gail began his career as a sixth-grade teacher before moving into administration as a vice principal. He later served for many years as principal of Lee Middle School in Pauls Valley. During his time there, he created a computer program for

students—an innovative contribution still used by students today.

After his years in education, Gail transitioned into state service with the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services, working as a counselor in Oklahoma City and Lawton before eventually becoming a program manager. His commitment to helping others never wavered.

Gail poured his heart into his family. He coached little league football in Pauls Valley and when he wasn't there he could always be found supporting his kids in every endeavor they pursued. He taught them how to drive on dusty pasture roads while “pond hopping” to their favorite fishing spots. Camping trips, especially fishing at The Willows in Tishomingo, became cherished family traditions.

A natural tinkerer and lifelong learner, Gail was exceptionally tech-savvy. He loved fishing, woodworking, gardening, and outdoor cooking—especially smoking foods for family gatherings. His joyful curiosity and hands-on spirit made him a mentor to many.

Above all, Gail's greatest treasures were his wife, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He leaves behind a legacy of kindness, acceptance, and respect. He taught those around him to treat everyone the same, to behave with integrity, and to lead with compassion.

Gail's life was a remarkable testament to service, family, and quiet strength. His lessons will continue to shape the generations who loved him, and his memory will be held dearly by all who were blessed to know him.

Gail is survived by his wife, Mary Sue (North) Holder; Son, Matthew Ryan Holder and wife Kena of Sulphur, Oklahoma; Daughters, Shelly Lea (Holder) Thompson and husband Monte of Davis, Oklahoma, Shana Gale Presgrove and husband Shawn of Maysville, Oklahoma; Grandchildren, Hannah Hirschy and husband Truman, Huston Holder, Lucas Holder, Jaylea Thompson, Jaycea Averill and husband Tyler, Ashley Dotson and husband Chad; Great-grandchildren, Nolan, Harper, Peyton, Colt, Gunner, Hunter, Trinity; Nephew, Tommy Gene Holder and wife Shellie; Nieces, Ginger, Jay, Genee'; Sister-in-law, Sandy Crull; and a host of other friends and family.

Gail was preceded in death by his parents, Roy Malone Holder and Jessie (Sorrell) Holder; Brother, Charles Gene Holder and wife Peggy; Father-in-Law, Billie North and Mother-in-law, Letha North; Brother-in-law, Don Crull; and niece, Jana.

Services for Gail will be on Tuesday, November 18, 2025 at 11:00 A.M. at 1st Christian Church in Pauls Valley, Oklahoma with Pastor Elaine Howsley officiating. Services are under the direction of Wooster Funeral Home. If you would like to send your condolences to the family, you may do so at [www.woosterfuneralhomes.com](http://www.woosterfuneralhomes.com)

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

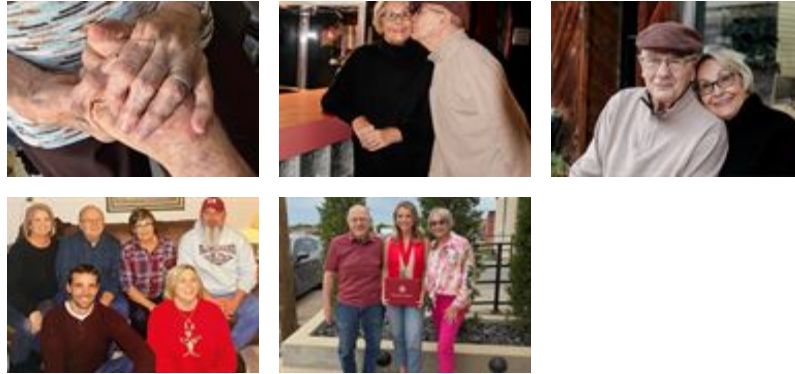
NOV **18**. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Christian Church- Pauls Valley  
300 N. Ash  
Pauls Valley, OK

# Tribute Wall



“ 85 files added to the album *Life Tributes* ”



Wooster Funeral Home & Cremation Services - November 17, 2025 at 08:39 PM

CW

“ carolyn wilkerson lit a candle in memory of *Ronald Holder* ”



carolyn wilkerson - November 17, 2025 at 12:29 PM