



Olan Clyde Burcham

January 26, 1934 - July 29, 2020

Olan Clyde Burcham, 86, of Phil Campbell, passed on to be with his Heavenly Father on Wednesday, July 29, 2020, at home.

He was born in Rienzi, MS, on January 26, 1934, to the late Eva A. Rorie & Eddie Clyde Burcham.

Olan graduated from Pearson High School (GA) in 1954. After high school, he was drafted into the Army and served from 1954-1956, including an overseas tour of duty in Guam. He received his Bachelor's degree from Mississippi State University in 1960 and his Master's degree from the University of Mississippi in 1963. A gifted teacher, beloved and respected by his students, he first taught math at Alcorn Central High School (MS) followed by teaching math & physics at Gordon Military College (GA). He then went on to teach math & physics at Northwest-Shoals Community College in Phil Campbell from 1967-1994, as well as serving as the Interim Dean of Northwest-Shoals from 1994-1996.

He loved the Lord mightily and served Him well, preaching the Gospel and leading many souls to Christ as pastor at numerous churches over the years: Bear Creek No. 1 Baptist Church, Orange Baptist Church, Waco Baptist Church, Gravel Hill Baptist Church, and Southside Baptist Church.

He loved bluegrass and Gospel music, picking and grinning on his mandolin and fiddle, and his family, especially his grandchildren, of whom he was their biggest fan.

The legacy he leaves behind through his teaching, preaching, mentoring, and life example is immeasurable and truly deserving of the words: "Well done, good and faithful servant."

He is survived by his devoted wife of 62 years: Clara Burcham of Phil Campbell; his sons: Tim Burcham and wife Joan of Jonesboro, AR; Greg Burcham and wife Karla of Falkville, and Jason Burcham and wife Krista of Russellville; his grandchildren: Daniel Burcham and wife Jaime, Hannah B. Ogard and husband Tyler, Megan B. McBride and husband Stephen, Will Burcham, Sydney Burcham, Ella Burcham, and Josie Burcham; his great-granddaughter: Rorie Ogard; his brother: Cleston Burcham and Betty of Iuka, MS; his sisters: Clara B. Price of Rienzi, MS, Betty B. Hickman of Corinth, MS, and Linda B. Knight and husband Dewey of Glen, MS; many nephews, nieces, cousins, other relatives, and a host of friends.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother: Rodger Burcham; his brothers-in-law: David Price and Talmadge Hickman; and his sister-in-law: Christine Burcham.

A private graveside service will be held at the Burcham Cemetery in Rienzi, MS, on Saturday, August 1, 2020 at 11:00 AM.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Gideons International.

Pinkard Funeral Home, Russellville, is directing.

Cemetery Details

Burcham Cemetery

Rienzi, MS, AL

Previous Events

Graveside Service

AUG 1. 11:00 AM (CT)

Burcham Cemetery
Rienzi, MS

Tribute Wall



“ *Pinkard Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Olan Clyde Burcham*



Pinkard Funeral Home - July 31, 2020 at 12:45 PM



I am very sorry to hear of his passing , sympathy for the family

Sherry Lawrence Wells - December 09, 2020 at 04:35 PM



“ *Mr. Burcham taught my physics class at Northwest and several of us heard him preach at Bear Creek. He was a fine teacher and a better man. I was thinking of him just the other day.*

Keith Boyett - January 17, 2025 at 08:22 PM



“ *I was honored not only to have Mr. Burcham as a teacher but as well to worship with him at Southaise. He was such a wonderful man and a true servant of God. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.*

Michelle Campbell - August 17, 2020 at 07:15 AM

BB

“ Was an honor to have worked with Mr Burcham at NW and to have known him

Bonnie Bragwell - August 02, 2020 at 10:04 PM



“ Lit a candle in remembrance of Olan Burcham.



Kristi Raney - August 01, 2020 at 01:27 AM

EB

“ Thankful to have known Mr. Burcham. One memory that will always stand out to me is how he went out of his way, to help me with my Chemistry class when he heard I was struggling with it. At the time, I didn't know he was a retired teacher. He helped me review the basics of Chemistry, and with that helped me pass my class. He was a very kind, patient person.



Elizabeth Benitez - July 31, 2020 at 07:59 PM



“ 49 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Pinkard Funeral Home - July 31, 2020 at 12:34 PM

VS

“ *Vic, Cindy Gracie And Kaleb Steele lit a candle in memory of Olan Clyde Burcham*



Vic, Cindy Gracie and Kaleb Steele - July 31, 2020 at 12:20 PM

DH

“ *Diane Hess lit a candle in memory of Olan Clyde Burcham*



Diane Hess - July 31, 2020 at 11:37 AM

CP

“ So thankful that Mr. Burcham shared his talent with our Morning Song Band at Haleyville First United Methodist Church. It was a blessing to hear music that uplifted the service and the congregation.

Clyde Putman - July 31, 2020 at 09:27 AM

MJ

“Mr.” Burcham was a kind teacher and mentor for my husband Gary and myself in the math classes at NWCC way back in 1976 -77. In fact that’s where my husband Gary and I met - in those math classes! I remember Mr. Burcham taking us to Shocco Springs for a BSU convention. Mr. Burcham also taught my younger brother Jonathan starting in 1988. He made an invaluable impression on him also. Years later “Bro.” Burcham pastored the church at Orange where my parents were members and they too became fast friends. I will always remember him as a kind and gentle soul with a passion for people. He poured so much of himself into us “kids” and for that I will be forever grateful. My life has been blessed to have known him and even more so since he had such an impact on my whole family. He loved you all and I hope you can take some measure of comfort knowing that he left such a positive impact on so many people. I’m sure he is rejoicing now in his new home with old friends - telling jokes, playing pranks and just being himself. Thank you all for sharing him with us.Love to you all...Melissa Johnson, Moulton, AL.

Melissa Johnson - July 30, 2020 at 05:25 PM

MC

Mr. Butcham was by far one of the best teachers. Some of my fondest memories of Northwest junior college were in his class. I’ll never forget his “gone fishing” sign when he was trying to grade exams. “All you’ll get by knocking on this door is sore knuckles” lol I pray his family finds peace and comfort knowing how many lives were enriched by him.

margarett channell - August 04, 2020 at 01:54 AM

AW

“ once my pastor and good friend, i'm sure he will be greatly missed.
God bless.

Aaron Waldrop - July 30, 2020 at 04:33 PM

DH

“ Diane Hulseley lit a candle in memory of Olan
Clyde Burcham



Diane Hulseley - July 30, 2020 at 03:57 PM

JM

“ Family,
Mr. Burcham was one of the best teachers I ever had at NWASJC.
Very kind and considerate. Know he will be missed. Trust he is
safely at home with God.
Jane KEETON McManus

Jane KEETON McManus - July 30, 2020 at 01:53 PM

DT

“ Olan was a great musician and friend. I knew him for 52 years. He
will be missed.

Dr Joe Teal - July 30, 2020 at 10:01 AM