



Donald Ray Yandell

September 24, 1939 - May 25, 2016

Surrounded by a lifetime of family, friends, and happiness, Donald Ray Yandell went to be with his heavenly father on May 25, 2016.

He was born to Richard and Alpha Yandell on September 24, 1939. Richard was a school teacher for 44 years and Alpha was a loving and supporting wife and mother.

“D. Ray” as he was affectionately known, followed in his father’s footsteps and upon graduating from Southern Illinois University, he became a teacher at Vienna Grade School in 1961 where he taught for 21 years and then continued his career there as an administrator for the remaining 13 years until his 1st retirement in 1995. He continued his career briefly as Superintendent of Buncombe Grade School for 5 years before fully retiring in June of 2000. D. Ray loved teaching, coaching, and being with people.

D. Ray Yandell and Charlene Ellet were united in marriage on June 14, 1962 at the Methodist Church of Grand Tower Illinois. They made their home in Tunnel Hill and were blessed with 54 years of marriage and 2 daughters.

D. Ray is survived by his wife, Charlene, still at home in Tunnel Hill, two daughters and their husbands, Charlotte and Mike Leal of Tunnel Hill, and Donna and Mike Mott of Simpson, 3 beloved grandchildren, Austin Ray Leal of Tunnel Hill, Nicholas Allen Mott and his wife Amy of Tunnel Hill, and Alysha Mott of Simpson. D. Ray also has a great granddaughter to be born to Nicholas and Amy Mott in July. He also leaves behind his beloved cousins Kenneth and Steve Yandell and their family.

At the age of 9 years, D. Ray accepted Jesus Christ as his savior and became a Christian. He continued his walk with Christ and became a deacon in the Ozark Baptist Church where he served as Chairman of the Deacons and Sunday School Teacher for many years.

D. Ray particularly enjoyed the wonderful visits from all of his friends and family these past few weeks. He loved his family, his friends, and life, but most of all he loved his heavenly Father who now welcomes him home.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday morning, June 1, 2016, at 11 AM at the Ozark Baptist Church. Pastor David Michael Webb will officiate. Burial will be in the Reynoldsburg Cemetery.

Visitation will be conducted Tuesday evening, May 31, 2016, from 5 PM – 8 PM at Bailey Funeral Home in Vienna and from 10 AM – 11 AM Wednesday morning at the church.

Memorials may be made to the Ozark Baptist Church, 820 Ozark Road, Ozark, IL 62972

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 31. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Bailey Funeral Home
705 North First Street
PO Box 695
Vienna, IL 62995
(618) 658-2311
baileyfhinc@hotmail.com
<https://baileyfh.com>

Visitation

JUN 1. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Ozark Baptist Church
820 Ozark Rd,
Ozark, IL 62972

Service

JUN 1. 11:00 AM (CT)

Ozark Baptist Church
820 Ozark Rd,
Ozark, IL 62972

Tribute Wall



“ *Donald Ray Yandell*

January 30, 2023 at 12:19 AM



“ *Mr. Yandell was one of my very favorite teachers at Vienna junior high school. I believe there's a special place in heaven for the beautiful souls of teachers. He added much light to the world.*

Pam Enoch Morris - June 27, 2016 at 09:20 AM



“ *I have always had the utmost respect for D.Ray. He was a nice and fair person. He will be missed greatly.*



Matthew Prewitt - June 04, 2016 at 12:37 AM



“ *Thoughts and prayers to Mr. Yandells family. He was one of my favorite teachers*

Deidre Betts-Goeckner - June 03, 2016 at 07:36 PM



“ *So sorry to hear of D. Ray's passing, but find comfort in knowing that he is with his Lord. I will pray for your peace and comfort during the coming days. Love you all. Diana Hearn Pitre*



Diana Hearn Pitre - June 03, 2016 at 07:01 PM

TA

“ Terry Anderson lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Yandell



Terry Anderson - May 31, 2016 at 06:53 PM

MB

“ Mr. Yandell was one of the nicest people I've ever had the pleasure of knowing, even when he was my principal and then my children's principal. My heart breaks a little while I'm sure he's now with our Lord.

Melissa (Tippy-Avery) Bozarth - May 30, 2016 at 06:39 PM

JS

“ John Slack lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Yandell



John Slack - May 30, 2016 at 04:25 PM

RB

“ Rich And Karen Brumley lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Yandell



Rich and Karen Brumley - May 30, 2016 at 08:23 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Donald Ray Yandell.*



May 29, 2016 at 09:19 PM



“ *So sorry to hear of your loss. I will be lifting up your family in prayer.*
Lesla Redwine Paddack



Lesla Paddack - May 28, 2016 at 04:54 PM



“ *Offering sympathy and prayers in your loss with the passing of such a kind and caring gentleman. RIP D.Ray; job well done.*



Wanda Florey - May 28, 2016 at 09:58 AM



“ *Mark And Tracy J. Racey lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Yandell*



Mark and Tracy J. Racey - May 27, 2016 at 10:25 PM

DO

“ *Charlene, Charlotte, and Donna we are saddened by the loss of such a good man but rejoice in knowing he is with our Lord. Praying for you all.*

Danny & Beth O'Neal - May 27, 2016 at 06:55 PM

JA

“ *I have so much respect for D.Ray. He was a very kind and gentle man. I know he will be dearly missed by his loving family, yet there is joy in knowing that he is with his Heavenly Father, and that one day, we will see him again. I pray for peace for his precious family.*



Jennifer Abate-Barrett - May 27, 2016 at 10:40 AM

JB

“ *Julie Blanchard lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Yandell*



Julie Blanchard - May 27, 2016 at 03:38 AM

JF

“ *Jason Grant & Family lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Yandell*



Jason Grant & Family - May 27, 2016 at 02:01 AM

JF

“ So sorry for your loss. Thoughts and prayers with the family at this time.

Richard and Joan Owen



Joan Faulkner - May 26, 2016 at 09:51 PM

DC

“ Dianna & Larry Choate lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Yandell



Dianna & Larry Choate - May 26, 2016 at 08:10 PM

LR

“ Mr. D . Ray , what do you say he was a good neighbor in the community always a caring and concern person . My parents Alva and Evelyn Ross said many times thru out the yr,s how they were bless too have had him and his entire family has friends. D.Ray will b missed. Lonnie Ross.

Lonnie ross - May 26, 2016 at 07:25 PM

JH

“ Great teacher R.I.P.

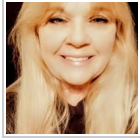


John Scott Hunsaker - May 26, 2016 at 07:14 PM



“ *I have always respected Mr. Yandell and I looked up to him as a mentor. My heart is breaking.*

Terri Waddell - May 26, 2016 at 06:38 PM



“ *Teresa Anderson lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Yandell*



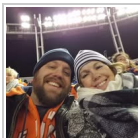
Teresa Anderson - May 26, 2016 at 05:56 PM



“ *Debbie Kerley lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Yandell*



Debbie Kerley - May 26, 2016 at 05:05 PM



“ *Gonna miss ya Dray!*



Daniel Densford - May 26, 2016 at 02:27 PM

VB

“ God took home one of the best men I have ever known. It has been my privilege to call Don one of my best friends as he married my oldest friend of more than 50 years, Charlene. May the Lord comfort his family during this time of grief.

Vivian Hill Butenhoff

Viv Butenhoff - May 26, 2016 at 02:12 PM

EK

“ Elizabeth Kerley lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Yandell



Elizabeth Kerley - May 26, 2016 at 01:43 PM

SH

“ Steve & Jeannie Housewright lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Yandell



Steve & Jeannie Housewright - May 26, 2016 at 01:06 PM

SM

“ Susan Masulla lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Yandell



Susan Masulla - May 26, 2016 at 12:42 PM

TM

“ Tammy Morris lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Yandell



Tammy Morris - May 26, 2016 at 12:28 PM

Pam Burnham

“ He was my husband's teacher in grade school, and both of us had him as a Sunday School teacher at Ozark Baptist. He was such a wonderful man with an extremely calm presence about him. I remember talking to him a couple times when I was going through a rough patch in my life He had such a simple and easy way of talking, which always made me walk away feeling as though I had nothing to worry about. God was definitely in him.....and he lived it. We've missed him since we moved away, and will doubly miss him now. It's nice to have the assurance that he is in Heaven with Jesus.
~Randall & P.J. Burnham



Pam Burnham - May 26, 2016 at 12:21 PM

NW

“ Neal & Carol Watkins lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Yandell



Neal & Carol Watkins - May 26, 2016 at 11:24 AM

PW

“ *Peggy Wetherell lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Yandell*



Peggy Wetherell - May 26, 2016 at 10:08 AM

PW

/saddened to learn of Mr. Yandell's passing. Appreciated his leadership and integrity as a former principal, as well as a teacher to my three children. He was a dedicated educator as well as a friend. He definitely left his mark on VGS and on his students as well as an administrator. Prayers to the family of a great man.

Peggy Wetherell - May 26, 2016 at 10:11 AM

AW

“ *Aleatha Wright lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Yandell*



Aleatha Wright - May 26, 2016 at 09:12 AM

Tara
Evans

“ *Tara Evans lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Yandell*



Tara Evans - May 26, 2016 at 09:05 AM

TM

“ Tom & Carmen Murrie lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Yandell



Tom & Carmen Murrie - May 26, 2016 at 08:03 AM

TM

Our prayers for all the family. I have always said that Mr. Yandell was my favorite teacher of all those I had in school. He was a great teacher and encourager, That was many years ago when I was in 6th grade. He was a friend to all.

Tom & Carmen Murrie - May 26, 2016 at 08:12 AM

GH

“ Gary & Janet Hacker lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Yandell



Gary & Janet Hacker - May 26, 2016 at 07:50 AM

KG

“ Mr. Yandell you was one of my favorite teachers as well as a friend God Speed see in in that big cloud in the sky my friend!



Kathy Henderson Goins - May 26, 2016 at 07:39 AM

FK

“ Our hearts go out to D. Ray's family. He loved God, family and always encouraged those around him.

Fred and Patty Klutts - May 26, 2016 at 06:33 AM



“ Jim Wood lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Yandell



Jim Wood - May 26, 2016 at 06:15 AM

James Jones

“ James Jones lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Yandell



James Jones - May 26, 2016 at 04:01 AM

Douglas Carl

“ Douglas Carl lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Yandell



Douglas Carl - May 25, 2016 at 11:38 PM

JH

“ Justin & Tricia Hartline lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Yandell



Justin & Tricia Hartline - May 25, 2016 at 11:01 PM

TT

“ Tara Thompson lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Yandell



Tara Thompson - May 25, 2016 at 10:41 PM

TA

“ You were the best Principle Vienna ever had...RIP.... Tasha Thibodeaux



Tasha - May 25, 2016 at 10:33 PM

SG

“ The earth has lost a beautiful soul. Someone who believed in us (kids) before we believed in ourselves. I'll always remember him giving me my first real job. He's up there, having one of those angel-children poke his belly so he can do his Pillsbury Doughboy laugh. Sincere condolences to the family, much love.



Suzanne (Price) Griffiths - May 25, 2016 at 10:16 PM

AB

“ Amanda Browning lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Yandell



Amanda Browning - May 25, 2016 at 09:53 PM

MS

“ Mike And Nancy Solomon lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Yandell



Mike and Nancy Solomon - May 25, 2016 at 09:38 PM

MS

So sorry for your loss our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time.

Mike and Nancy Solomon - May 25, 2016 at 09:41 PM



“ Mitzie Nichols-Augustus lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Yandell



Mitzie Nichols-Augustus - May 25, 2016 at 09:30 PM



“ Mr. Yandell was the perfect principal.....he inspired awe, respect, and fear while always having a kind smile for every student.

Shayne Bundren - May 25, 2016 at 08:54 PM

RH

“ *Rickey And Sue Harner lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Yandell*



rickey and sue harner - May 25, 2016 at 08:51 PM

PS

“ *Charlene, Charlotte and Donna, you have my sincere sympathy for the loss of your loved one.*
Peggy Jean Smoot



Peggy Jean Smoot - May 25, 2016 at 08:44 PM

BC

“ *Barbara & GA Clymore lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Yandell*



Barbara & GA Clymore - May 25, 2016 at 08:44 PM



“ *Mr. Yandell was a great, kind-hearted man and a wonderful principal. My grandparents both always thought the world of him, and he was kind enough to serve as pallbearer at their funerals. I know he will be deeply missed. Thoughts and prayers are with the family.*

Doug Mathis - May 25, 2016 at 08:40 PM

Hope Mallett

“ *What a wonderful man and great teacher/principle May God rest his soul*



Hope Mallett - May 25, 2016 at 08:35 PM

MN

“ *Michelle Cagle North lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Yandell*



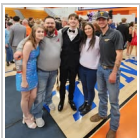
michelle cagle north - May 25, 2016 at 08:25 PM

Taylor Ames

“ *Taylor Ames lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Yandell*



Taylor Ames - May 25, 2016 at 08:14 PM



“ *Prayers for the family of Mr. Yandell! Such a wonderful man!*



Andria Davis-Nichols - May 25, 2016 at 08:14 PM

MM

“ Charlotte, I'm so sorry for your loss. Your dad was such a wonderful man. He was a people person and kid person. He spent as much time with the kids as anyone. He was such an inspiration to so many. Hugs and love to you and your family.



Mary Marks - May 25, 2016 at 08:00 PM



“ So sorry for your loss, fond memories of him from all the way back to my childhood.



Mike Ethridge - May 25, 2016 at 07:20 PM

SW

“ Sean & Falon Whitnel lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Yandell



Sean & Falon Whitnel - May 25, 2016 at 07:16 PM

MD

“ Margaret Dorsey lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Yandell



Margaret Dorsey - May 25, 2016 at 07:12 PM



“ *Best principal ever,great man remember talking fishing with him all the time at vgs*

Curt Craig - May 25, 2016 at 07:08 PM



“ *Jane Ross Wright lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Yandell*



Jane Ross Wright - May 25, 2016 at 07:06 PM



Clearon and Jane Wright

Jane Ross Wright - May 25, 2016 at 07:07 PM



“ *Jim & Pat Blankenship lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Yandell*



Jim & pat Blankenship - May 25, 2016 at 07:03 PM



“ *Sherri Buchanan lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Yandell*



Sherri Buchanan - May 25, 2016 at 07:02 PM

MR

“ Mike And Teresa Richerson lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Yandell



Mike and Teresa Richerson - May 25, 2016 at 06:47 PM

MH

“ Mary Lou Hynes lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Yandell



Mary Lou Hynes - May 25, 2016 at 06:36 PM

JR

“ James & Diane Rainbolt lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Yandell



James & Diane Rainbolt - May 25, 2016 at 06:23 PM

VB

“ I always looked up to your father as a fellow teacher. He was a good man and helped many teachers along the way. He will be greatly missed and you have my deepest sympathies and prayers. Love all of you.

Ms B



Vera Bedwell - May 25, 2016 at 06:23 PM

FK

“ *Floyd & Linda Koehler lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Yandell*



Floyd & Linda Koehler - May 25, 2016 at 05:51 PM

BW

“ *Bill And Barb Warmack lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Yandell*



Bill and Barb Warmack - May 25, 2016 at 05:50 PM

TT

“ *So sorry for your loss!!! Praying for ALL of the family!!!*



Ttrigg65@yahoo.com - May 25, 2016 at 05:48 PM

BR

“ *I am so sorry to hear of Mr. Yandell's passing.*



Bobby Rentfro - May 25, 2016 at 05:48 PM

JP

“ *Our sympathy for your loss. Jerry and Judy Phelps.*



Jerry & Judy Phelps - May 25, 2016 at 05:44 PM

LM

“ *Sorry to hear of D. Rays passing....Johnson County lost another great one.*



Larry and Carolyn McGill - May 25, 2016 at 05:38 PM

BT

“ *Becky Turley lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Yandell*



Becky Turley - May 25, 2016 at 05:26 PM

 Tabitha Pyle

“ *Tabitha Pyle lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Yandell*



Tabitha Pyle - May 25, 2016 at 05:22 PM

LO

“ *Loretta lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Yandell*



Loretta - May 25, 2016 at 05:12 PM



“ *My deepest condolences go out to his family. Love & Prayers, Barbara Averitt*



Barbara Soulsby - May 25, 2016 at 05:04 PM

KH

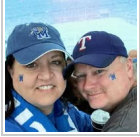
“ *Prayers for comfort at this time. Mr. Yandell was a sweet man. The Hales*

Karla Hale - May 25, 2016 at 04:45 PM

DT

So sorry to hear of D.Ray's passing. He was a wonderful administrator. He gave me my first teaching job. I remember when I was so upset and frustrated over an incident. I was reduced to tears and I just knew I made a wrong decision about teaching as a profession. He looked at me and said, "Donna, I promise you that every year you are here, teaching will get better and better." He was right. I loved being at Vienna and he was one of the main reasons I made it through! God blessed him as an administrator. Prayers for your family as you honor such a good man.

Donna Thurston - May 25, 2016 at 05:10 PM



“ *I'm very sorry to hear this. He was a very nice man. We always feared he had an electric paddle in his office when he was our principal but no one ever saw it. Prayers are with the family during this time. Eric and Lisa Whittington*

Lisa Whittington - May 25, 2016 at 04:29 PM



“ *Rev. Richard & Vickey Swiney lit a candle in memory of Donald Ray Yandell*



Rev. Richard & Vickey Swiney - May 25, 2016 at 04:07 PM