



## Ron Atkins

June 21, 1950 - January 21, 2021

Ron Atkins, a.k.a. Santa Claus, 70, of Greer, began worshipping at the feet of Jesus on Thursday, January 21, 2021, after succumbing to Covid-19.

Born in Tryon, North Carolina on June 21, 1950, to the late James Hayden and Nellie McCraw Atkins, he lived most of his life in the Gowensville Community. Ron graduated from Landrum High School and worked with machine maintenance. He was a retired employee of Mitsubishi, and a devoted member of Gowensville First Baptist Church for more than fifty years, where he enjoyed working with children in Awana as well as talking and praying with those taking part in the monthly Second Saturday community meal food ministry. He considered members of the Branyon-Godseekers Sunday School Class his second family.

Ron enjoyed classic car events, cheering for the USC Gamecocks, listening to gospel music and relaxing in the Smokey Mountains with his family.

Known for his joyful nature, generosity, gregarious personality and active Christian faith, Ron took pleasure in sharing his love of Jesus with others. During the Christmas season, he assumed the persona of Santa Claus and delighted in having children pull his real white beard. As Santa Claus in Landrum and at numerous other locations he shared his message of the true meaning of Christmas.

Surviving are his wife, Victoria "Vicki" Wofford Johnson Atkins of the home; children, Anitra Fortney (Doug) of Greer, Brent Atkins of Greer, Kayla Atkins (Teddy Savoca) of Summerville, Heather Atkins (Andrew Taylor) of Easley; Evan Johnson (Brittany) of Williamston and Adam Johnson (Lanna) of Anderson; three sisters, Cheryl Anderson (Mike) of Landrum, Pennie Dyches (Ted) of West Columbia and Dale Bennett (Ron) of Landrum; a brother-in-law, Brad Wofford (Susie) of Aynor; five grandchildren, Hayden Foxx, Sarah Foxx, Adleigh Atkins, Evan Atkins and Dani Grace Johnson; and his beloved nieces and nephews.

He was also predeceased by his wife, Mary McKee Atkins and one daughter, Andrea Atkins.

Graveside services will be held 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at Gowensville First Baptist Church Cemetery, conducted by Pastor Josh Phillips and Pastor Bruce Schmidt. The family respectfully requests that guests wear masks and observe social distancing.

The family is at the home.

The family would like to thank the staff at the Greer Memorial and North Greenville Prisma Hospitals for their constant care during Ron's hospitalization.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Gowensville First Baptist Church c/o Children's Playground Fund, 5650 N. Highway 14, Landrum, SC 29356.

Online condolences may be made at [www.thewoodmortuary.com](http://www.thewoodmortuary.com).

# Events

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**JAN**   **Graveside Service**                      11:00AM  
**26**

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Gowensville First Baptist Church  
5650 N Hwy 14, Landrum, SC, US, 29356

# Comments

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“ prayers to the family ,was a co-worker for many year ,will be missed larry parker



**larry D parker** - January 28 at 08:42 AM

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“ Sending my condolences to Ron’s family. He was so full of life and a joy to be around. I enjoyed working with him at SSI.

**Holly M, PT** - January 27 at 06:39 PM

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“ So sorry for the family loss. We knew Ron years ago. He was a fun loving man. God Bless, Larry and Jessica Morris

**Larry and Jessica Morris** - January 27 at 08:55 AM

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“ Ron was a dear friend and a Godly man. Ron talked the talk and walked the walk of being a Christian. He touched so many people. I met Ron and Vicki when looking at the house. Bradley, my Son adored Ron and felt really close to him when meeting him during some work on their home. Vicki has been so sweet keeping us up with his condition while hospitalized. We will be praying for Vicki and family during this time of grief. He will be missed. Prayers and our Condolences to entire family and all of his friends!

**Donnie and Tresa Gregory/ Bradley Edge** - January 25 at 02:08 PM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ron Atkins.



January 25 at 09:06 AM

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“ Ron will be sorely missed by all. It's a sad day. You will never be forgotten. I smile when I remember all the times you did good for everyone. A most generous and genuine person

**kathy ponder** - January 25 at 08:02 AM

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“ Ron and I worked together many years. I am thankful for his friendship and the time we spent together. Ron enjoyed life and always greeted me with a smile and laughter. I will miss Ron and I pray for his family and loved ones and I will rejoice knowing Heaven is Ron's reward

**Don Brown** - January 25 at 05:59 AM

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“ Rest In Peace Old Friend



**Vicki Mcgee** - January 24 at 10:12 PM

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“ I am truly going to miss Ron. He was one of a kind. Always a pleasure to be around and the most giving person I have ever known. A Godly man that I will always remember his voice as he read the Bible. I loved to give him a hard time about the shamecocks. He took it well. And the never ending texts. I have kept them on my phone. This is heartbreaking. Love to you Vicki. If you need us I am here.

JAN & Rodney Cox

Jan Cox - January 24 at 03:59 PM

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“ Daniel and I send our sympathy for your loss. We enjoyed our trip up the Eastern Coast with you guys so much. Ron especially made us feel right at home with your group. He was a special person and his love for his wife was so evident. Continued prayers!

Carolyn Hatchette - January 24 at 02:56 PM

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“ My heart breaks for you and your family Vicki. Ron was a sweet godly man and I will miss him as will many. May God draw closer to you during your grief but give you a heavenly peace that only HE can give. I continue to pray for you. God bless you sweet friend.

Charlotte Neff - January 24 at 01:18 PM

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“ Ron, we are gonna miss you, it's hard to believe you're gone. RIP my friend till we all meet again.

Brenda Center - January 24 at 09:46 AM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ron Atkins.



January 24 at 06:54 AM

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“ Vicki,  
We are praying for you are we're so blessed by your and Ron's hospitality to Gabriel when he visited you. He asked me to let you know he is praying for you as well. My you know the confront of our Heavenly Father!  
We love you,  
Tony, Susan, Gabriel and Hannah

**susan wofford** - January 23 at 09:01 PM

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“ Ron was one of my oldest friends. We both grew up together in Gowensville, and after I moved to Greer we worked together for 31 years. After we both retired, we either called or text each other every week. I don't think he ever met a stranger, and was always smiling. Miss you my friend.

**Steve Campbell** - January 23 at 07:38 PM

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“ Mary Bennefield lit a candle in memory of Ron Atkins



**mary bennefield** - January 23 at 06:43 PM

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“ Vicki, and all the family,  
I am so sorry to hear of Ron's passing. Each day I would look on Facebook hoping he had recovered enough to go home. I loved Ron and his joyful nature. The last time I saw Ron, he and Vicki were celebrating their wedding anniversary. They looked so happy. Ron was a lover of people and I believe his calling of being a Santa each Christmas made him happy, with Mrs. Clause. I have had Covid since 12-5 but feel I am recovering. Right now I have bacterial pneumonia, just at dr's office yesterday and go back in 2 weeks so I am so sorry I will not be able to be at Ron's service. I would like to visit when we all get better. God's Blessings and Peace to all the family. I know this is so hard. Prayers

**Dale Wood** - January 23 at 04:45 PM



“ Ron was a Barnabas--an encourager. He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and overflowing with faith--the very essence of Santa who never failed to tell the true meaning of Christmas. We mourn with you, Vicki and family, and look forward to the day we will see Ron again in the presence of our Lord and Master.

**Dean Campbell** - January 24 at 12:07 AM



“ Ron will be missed. I always loved seeing him at our family gatherings. His love of children and classic cars was only surpassed by his love of his family and his savior. I pray that God will give you guys peace and comfort.

**Kirk Atkins** - January 24 at 04:04 PM



“ I have a picture in my phone of my husband and I sitting on Santa's lap at a Christmas church event at Gowensville First Baptist Church. Ron is the reason that we attended that church in the first place and eventually became members. Not only that, we joined his Sunday school class while we were there. He was extremely passionate about spreading God's word and and working hard for his church. Ron is also the reason we currently live where we live. In addition to being his church family, we were also neighbors, along with his sister, Cheryl, who is just as amazing. Not long after we met him and befriended him, my husband had to have kidney surgery. He came to the hospital to see us. Not only did he visit us in the hospital, he came to our house and brought dinner and even thought to bring Chef Boyardee Spaghetti and Meatballs for my kids. He was just thoughtful like that.

I could go on and on with wonderful memories of Ron. I want everyone that loved him to know that he impacted our lives greatly. He was not just some guy that we met. He was not just some guy that we went to church with. The fact that we crossed paths with him completely changed the direction of our lives. It is an honor just to have known him. We love you, Ron!

Love, Amanda, Josh, Bella, and Lily Godfrey

**Amanda Godfrey** - January 25 at 11:41 AM