



## Don G. Garvin

February 6, 1933 - June 28, 2023

Don Goode Garvin, former Cherokee Nation Tribal Councilman, 90, of Muskogee, Oklahoma passed away Wednesday, June 28, 2023. He was born on February 6, 1933 near Hanson, Oklahoma. His parents were Ben “Tuff” Garvin and Elsie Gertrude Garvin. He had three sisters, Bernice Myers, Leola Acree (both deceased), Madanelle Kirk of Broken Arrow; and one brother, Herbert Garvin (deceased).

Don was married to his sweetheart, the love of his life, Jo Elaine Williamson on June 20, 1959 in Muskogee. He is survived by his wife Jo Elaine; daughter Jill Tipton and husband John; two granddaughters, Jennifer Arnold and husband Jerry, Jessica Anthis and husband Kevin; five great-grandchildren, Gracie Dawn Arnold, Alivia Jade Arnold, Elliot James Anthis, Elloise Lucille Anthis and Everett William Anthis, along with many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Don was one of the descendants of George Blair and Nancy Blythe, both came to Indian Territory on the “Trail of Tears” and Obediah Benge and Margaret Blair.

He was a depression kid growing up during the depression days on a farm/ranch just east of Sallisaw, Oklahoma. Growing up he always wanted to be a cowboy, like “Gene and Roy”. He was 14 before their home had electric power and indoor plumbing. He graduated from Central High School near Hanson, attended Connors Junior College, graduated from Oklahoma State University, and received a master’s degree from Southeastern State

University. Don worked three jobs at OSU and worked his way through college with the help of his parents. He graduated from the Basic Infantry Officers' School at Fort Benning, Georgia. He attained the rank of Captain in the Air Force Reserves.

Don moved to Muskogee in 1955. He was a mathematics teacher and coach in Muskogee Public Schools for 36 years, and he also taught math at Sequoyah High School for 7 ½ years for a total of 43 ½ years in education. He was the league director for the Muskogee Knothole Baseball Association for two years. Additionally, Don was a rancher, real estate broker, home and swimming pool builder, and a deacon at Central Baptist Church.

After retiring from teaching, he was elected for four terms to serve on the Cherokee Nation Tribal Council representing the Three Rivers District for 18 years. He was very proud of the \$26,000,000 joint venture for the Three Rivers Health Center in Muskogee. He was a member of all six committees, and every year he was elected to be co-chair of the Education Committee. He served as the secretary for the Tribal Council for 8 years. He loved serving the Cherokee citizens.

Don was actively involved in the community as well as being a member of many organizations. He served on the advisory board for Arvest Bank, co-chair of the Cherokee Nation Education Committee for 18 years, secretary of the Cherokee Nation Tribal Council, Trail of Tears, National Rifle Association, Five Civilized Tribes Inter-Tribal Council, Five Civilized Tribes Museum, National Congress of American Indians, National Indian Education Association, Cherokee National Historical Society, National Association on Aging, Oklahoma Education Association, Murrow Indian Children's Home Board of Trustees, Connors State Alumni Association, Oklahoma State University Alumni Association and was a United States Army and Air Force veteran.

Public viewing for Don will be 1-5PM both Saturday, July 1 and Sunday, July 2 at Cornerstone Funeral Home.

Don's life will be celebrated at 10AM, Monday, July 3, 2023 at Cornerstone

Funeral Home Chapel with Mr. JT Carvell officiating. Interment will follow at Greenhill Cemetery with military honors being presented.

Funeral services are under the direction of Cornerstone Funeral Home, 1830 N. York Street, Muskogee, OK. Condolences may be made to the family online at [www.cornerstoneofmuskogee.com](http://www.cornerstoneofmuskogee.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Greenhill Cemetery

1500 N. York Street  
Muskogee, OK 74403

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 1. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

CORNERSTONE FUNERAL HOME  
1830 N York St  
MUSKOGEE, OK 74403

## Visitation

JUL 2. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

CORNERSTONE FUNERAL HOME  
1830 N York St  
MUSKOGEE, OK 74403

## Service

JUL 3. 10:00 AM (CT)

Cornerstone Funeral Home Chapel  
1830 N. York St.  
Muskogee, OK 74403



# Tribute Wall

GB

“ *Mr. Garvin was my math teacher at AR. He was as great educator and a good man. He helped me move forward in life. RIP.*

Gordon Beck - May 24 at 10:56 PM



“ *Don G. Garvin*

October 23, 2023 at 09:38 AM

CW

“ *It was always a pleasure to be in Dons' company. I did not know him well but you did not have to know him to respect him and appreciate his many contributions to our community. His early life of hard work and strong principles prepared him well for a lifetime of decency and goodness. He was naturally gifted for teaching and leading whether in the classroom, at home or his community. I was saddened to learn of his passing but wish those who loved and knew him best will recall often and fondly many wonderful treasured times with this remarkable man. Many heartfelt condolences, Carolyn Cahoon Watts*

Carolyn Watts - July 04, 2023 at 06:11 PM



*Thank you*

Jill Tipton - July 17, 2023 at 10:29 AM

CF

“ Chad Smith and famil planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Don G. Garvin.

Chad Smith and famil - July 03, 2023 at 12:23 AM

TR

“ The family of Jimmy Rogers planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Don G. Garvin.

The family of Jimmy Rogers - July 01, 2023 at 10:25 AM

TR

“ The family of Jimmy Rogers purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Don G. Garvin.



The family of Jimmy Rogers - July 01, 2023 at 10:25 AM



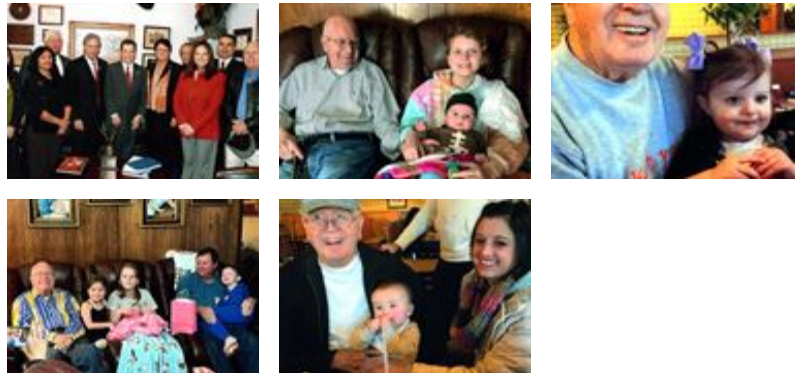
“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Don G. Garvin.



June 30, 2023 at 11:54 AM



“ 14 files added to the album Life Tributes



Cornerstone Funeral Home and Crematory - June 30, 2023 at 10:24 AM

CS

*Don was an extraordinary person and served the Cherokee Nation with honor. He cared about people and was always happy and pleasant. He was the ultimate citizen servant. We all will miss him and remember his contribution to all that had the opportunity to meet him.*

Chad Smith - July 03, 2023 at 12:09 AM

LS

“ *Mr. Garvin was a bright spot in my life starting in 8th grade. He was my math teacher and was a great teacher. Once I figured out beneath his strict sober demeanor he had this telling smile and chuckle we became lifelong friends. When I became a realtor we reconnected and picked right up. Of course he always wanted to buy cheap and sell high and we shared many laughs over our differing opinions but always ended up laughing. We stayed in contact intermittently through my 45 year career and he was so smart and business minded. When I reflect on Mr. Garvin now I smile and can hear his chuckle. Prayers for Mrs. Garvin and family who he loved so dearly.*



Linda Sizemore - June 29, 2023 at 07:47 PM



*Thank you!*

**Jill Tipton** - July 01, 2023 at 09:51 AM

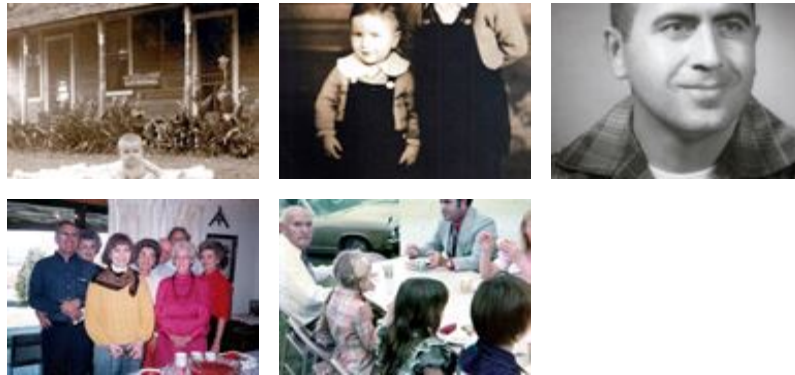
MH

*Don Garvin was my math teacher at West Junior High about 1956 or so. I think it may have been his first of teaching. He was one of my favorite teachers and I hated it when he left to go to teach at Alice Robertson. I last visited with him in the late '90s when he called my friend Jan Sheets about a business matter in Tahlequah and I answered the phone. He came to my Muskogee Class of 1961 reunion in 2011 and still remembered me.*

**Ms. Michael Wilson Huff** - August 07, 2023 at 03:50 AM



“ 44 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



**Cornerstone Funeral Home and Crematory** - June 29, 2023 at 06:26 PM

PG

“ *Pennie Green lit a candle in memory of Don Garvin*



**Pennie S Green** - June 29, 2023 at 02:29 PM