



## Donald Sanders

March 25, 1938 - April 22, 2026

Donald Sanders, affectionately known as “Sparky,” “Papa Smurf,” “Papa,” and “Grandpa Don,” was called home at the age of 88 on April 22, 2026, in Bald Knob, Arkansas. He was a big heart wrapped in a stubborn spirit, surrounded by love. A proud retired iron worker and pipeliner, Don’s craft built not only structures but also a legacy of strength and resilience. He had a big heart, an adventurous spirit, and a gift for storytelling.

Born on March 25, 1938 on ditch 13 in Bald Knob, Arkansas, to Sam and Mary (Elliot) Sanders, Don was a spirited individual who loved to whittle, fish, visit flea markets, and share stories. Gatherings around any table often turned into late nights of laughter as Don shared his tales of family, adventures on the job, and lessons learned (and taught) along the way. He would tell a story to anyone who would listen; chances are, he is currently telling Jesus how the pyramids were built.

Don was known for his mischievous sense of humor, famously causing a teacher to wet herself with a wind-up monkey that he let loose in class. He was adventurous, climbing several trees on a trip from Blanchard Springs just to get mistletoe, claiming he could sell it all in Ohio!

He is survived by his beloved brother, John (Bonny) Sanders of Bald Knob, Arkansas; two sisters, Mary Martin of Bedford, Indiana, and Betty Webb

(Jerry) of Searcy, Arkansas; and five cherished children: Sammy Sanders (Sharon) (Katheryn) of Huttig, Arkansas; Charles (Kathie) Sanders of Jacksonville, Arkansas; Donya (Lou Romska) Sanders of Vilonia, Arkansas; Donnie Sanders of New Springfield, Ohio; and Shannon (Dan) Lamb of Bald Knob, Arkansas. He will also be missed by his 12 grandchildren, many great-grandchildren, and even some great-great-grandchildren.

Don was preceded in death by his parents, Mary (Elliot) and Sam Sanders; his brother, Arnie Sanders; sisters Mildred Phits and Stella McDougal; his beloved wife, Cheryl Sanders; and six grandchildren.

Visitation will be held at Powell's Funeral Home in Bald Knob, Arkansas, on April 28, 2026, from noon until 2 PM, with a service to follow at 2 PM in the Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will take place at Fredonia (Holly Grove) Cemetery.

Pallbearers will include Justin Sanders, Josh Sanders, Daniel Jackson, Austin Jackson, Aiden Belasco, Cody Calhoun, Cameron Tarr, and Aaron Jarrell.

Donald Sanders was stubborn, as most Sanders are, but his adventurous spirit and zest for life will be remembered fondly by all who knew him. He brought joy and laughter to those around him, leaving behind a legacy of love, humor, and unforgettable stories.

Arrangements are entrusted to Powell Funeral Home, Bald Knob – Judsonia.  
[www.powellfuneralhome.net](http://www.powellfuneralhome.net)

# Cemetery Details

## Fredonia Cemetery

Stanley Road  
Bald Knob, AR 72010

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**APR 28.** 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services (Bald Knob)  
1272 Highway 367 North  
Bald Knob, AR 72010  
(501) 724-3201  
baldknob@powellfuneralhome.net  
<https://www.powellfuneralhome.net/>

## Funeral Service

**APR 28.** 2:00 PM (CT)

Powell Funeral Home & Cremation Services (Bald Knob)  
1272 Highway 367 North  
Bald Knob, AR 72010  
(501) 724-3201  
baldknob@powellfuneralhome.net  
<https://www.powellfuneralhome.net/>

## Interment

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APR **28** (CT)

Fredonia Cemetery  
Stanley Road  
Bald Knob, AR 72010

# Tribute Wall



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



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April 24 at 10:13 PM



“ *My condolences to you & your family! Love ya Donya will be praying for you & your family through this difficult time.*



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**Toni Rowell** - April 24 at 02:35 AM