



## Gerald "Jerry" Wade Hester, Jr.

May 19, 1955 - January 3, 2026

Mr. Gerald "Jerry" Wade Hester, Jr., age 70, of Douglas, Georgia, passed away Saturday evening, January 3, 2026, following a recent decline in health.

Jerry was born May 19, 1955, in Chula Vista, California, to the late Gerald Wade Hester, Sr. and the late Betty Jean Hilderbrand Hester. He was a loving son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, foster parent, and friend to all who knew him. He worked most of his life in various aspects of the farming industry, from planting and cultivating crops, to harvesting and trucking them to market. He could often be found spending time with his family, and when time permitted, enjoying his favorite fishing spots. He was a longstanding member and deacon of New Hope Baptist Church.

Jerry will be forever missed by his loving wife and helpmate of 52 ½ years, Donna Marie Carver Hester of Douglas, Georgia; his 4 sons: Russell McRae Hester of Douglas, Georgia; Ryan Alfred Hester (Megan) of Ambrose, Georgia, Rhett Wade Hester (Courtney) of Hazlehurst, Georgia, and Rhen Lige Hester (LaRan Sayer) of Wray, Georgia; a foster daughter, Tori Mays of Hawkinsville, Georgia; grandchildren: Walker Hester, Cash Hester, Hunter Hester, Laura Nell Hester, Roper Hester, and Sophia Sayer; bonus grandchildren: Kaitlyn Kirkland, Slade Smith, Cameron Kirkland, and bonus great granddaughter, Sylvie Kate Smith. Jerry also leaves behind 3 sisters: Susie Hester of Dublin Georgia, Gail Hester of Wrightsville, Georgia, and

Becky Frost (Anthony) also of Wrightsville, Georgia; 2 sisters-in-law: Judy Stone (Chester) and Kay Carver; a brother-in-law, Michael Carver, as well as a number of nieces, nephews, and extended family members.

A funeral service to honor Jerry will be held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, at 2:00 PM at New Hope Baptist Church in Ambrose, Georgia, with Rev. Derrick Smith officiating. Interment will follow in Chaney Cemetery just outside Douglas, Georgia, with Rev. Rodney Courson officiating. Jerry's family will receive friends from 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM on Tuesday, January 6, 2026, at Ricketson Funeral Home, Inc., and then 1-hour prior to his funeral service at the church.

Active pallbearers will include Lee Bookout, Scott Merritt, Landon Gaskin, Logan Gaskin, Ashten Jewel, Nathan Hattaway, Nicholas Vickers, and Chan Carver.

Honorary pallbearers will include Danny Grantham, Vic Paulk, Steve and Linda Carver, Eddie and Marie Vickers, Dennis and Diane Paulk, Wendell and Judy Sturgis, and the Coffee County Livestock Show Team - Past and Present.

Condolences, kind words and fond memories may be shared with Jerry's family at [www.ricketsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.ricketsonfuneralhome.com).

Jerry's arrangements have been entrusted to the kind and compassionate staff of Ricketson Funeral Home, Inc. of Douglas, Georgia.

# Cemetery Details

## Chaney Cemetery

Jimmy Lott Lane  
Douglas, GA 31535

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 6. 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Ricketson Funeral Home, Inc.  
305 West Ward Street  
Douglas, GA 31533  
(912) 384-1155  
ricketsonfunhm@windstream.net  
<https://www.ricketsonfuneralhome.com/>

## Visitation

JAN 7. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

New Hope Baptist Church  
977 New Hope Church Road  
Ambrose, GA 31512

## Funeral Service

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JAN 7. 2:00 PM (ET)

New Hope Baptist Church  
977 New Hope Church Road  
Ambrose, GA 31512

## Interment

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JAN 7 (ET)

Chaney Cemetery  
Jimmy Lott Lane  
Douglas, GA 31535

# Tribute Wall



“ Ricketson Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Gerald "Jerry" Wade Hester, Jr.



Ricketson Funeral Home - January 06 at 12:46 PM

DG

Please accept our heartfelt condolences. May God's love surround you and give you strength. We love you Mr. Jerry.

Your girls at Prepaid Superstore

Daneka Graves - January 08 at 01:09 PM

KH

“ Kelly, Mary Ann, Robin and Linda Hester purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Gerald "Jerry" Wade Hester, Jr..



Kelly, Mary Ann, Robin and Linda Hester - January 06 at 03:14 PM

MH

“ May God's Grace surround each of you and bring you Peace.



Miriam Vickers Holland - January 06 at 02:43 PM

SR

Donna and family; our prayers are with you during this time of grief and praise. Been there too many times myself. Please feel the hugs Leo, AvaRae and I are sending to you and all the family. May God hold you in His loving arms and give you peace beyond understanding. Love in Christ  
Sharon Ricketson and kids.

Sharon Ricketson - January 06 at 06:07 PM

CC

“ Our deepest sympathy to the family

Connie Carver - January 06 at 12:02 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Gerald "Jerry" Wade Hester, Jr..



January 06 at 11:47 AM

BC

“ Bruce and Sheryl Carter planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gerald "Jerry" Wade Hester, Jr..

Bruce and Sheryl Carter - January 06 at 11:47 AM

SP

“ Steven P. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gerald "Jerry" Wade Hester, Jr..

Steven P. - January 06 at 10:58 AM

YH

“ We will never forget the trip that you and my husband visit Cumberland Island with Ambrose School. My son Jacob and Ryan were busy fellows at that time. Gopher still talks about that now. I must admit he enjoyed your company. You will surely be missed. The Hicks family is praying for strength for the Hester family.

Yolenda Hicks - January 06 at 07:53 AM

RF

“ Randy and Matthew spivey and family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Gerald "Jerry" Wade Hester, Jr..



Randy and Matthew spivey and family - January 05 at 07:23 PM

RF

“ Randy and Matthew spivey and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gerald "Jerry" Wade Hester, Jr..

Randy and Matthew spivey and family - January 05 at 07:23 PM

JT

“ JIMMY THIBODEAUX purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Gerald "Jerry" Wade Hester, Jr..



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**JIMMY THIBODEAUX** - January 05 at 05:13 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Gerald "Jerry" Wade Hester, Jr..



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January 05 at 04:03 PM

LA

“ Love, Allison, Nick and Colin Anderson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gerald "Jerry" Wade Hester, Jr..

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**Love, Allison, Nick and Colin Anderson** - January 05 at 04:03 PM