



Merlin Devon Woodard

January 4, 1943 - January 13, 2026

Merlin Devon Woodard, known to many as “Woody,” was born on January 4, 1943, in Lakehurst, New Jersey. He passed away peacefully on January 13, 2026, leaving behind a legacy of hard work, dedication, faith, and love for family.

Throughout his life, Woody embraced a variety of careers that reflected both his strong work ethic and adaptability. He was a blueberry farmer, a bank auditor, a real estate broker, and a plant supervisor—roles he carried out with pride, responsibility, and integrity. No matter the profession, Woody was known for showing up, working hard, and doing things the right way.

Woody was a man of faith who attended Socastee Baptist Church and lived his life guided by his beliefs. He proudly served as a Gideon, valuing the opportunity to share his faith and help place Bibles where they could bring comfort, hope, and guidance to others.

Woody shared a loving life with his wife, Alice Madeline Woodard, who survives him. One of their greatest joys together was traveling—creating memories, exploring new places, and simply enjoying time side by side. In his quieter moments, Woody found comfort and enjoyment in watching classic westerns and war movies, often paired with time spent in the kitchen. Cooking was one of his simple pleasures, especially when it meant sharing a meal with those he loved.

Woody was a devoted father to Debi Small (Michael Small), Dawn Coleman (Steven Coleman), Devon Woodard (Kris Woodard), and Darren Woodard

(Joy Woodard), all of whom survive him. He is also survived by seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, who were a constant source of pride and joy throughout his life.

Visitation will be held at 11:00 a.m., followed by a service at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 17, 2026, both taking place at Socastee Baptist Church. Family and friends are invited to gather in remembrance and celebration of Woody's life.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to support Woody's son, Devon, who is living with ALS and is currently in the process of obtaining a wheelchair-accessible van. <https://www.gofundme.com/f/fund-devons-journey-towards-healing>

Woody will be remembered as a steady presence, a provider, a man of faith, and someone who valued family above all else. His legacy lives on through the lives he touched and the family he loved deeply.

To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of Merlin Devon Woodard please visit our Sympathy store

Cemetery Details

Hillcrest Cemetery

1000 Hwy 544
Conway, SC 29526
(843) 347-4909
office@hillcrestcemetery.com
<https://www.hillcrestcemetery.com/>

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 17. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Socastee Baptist Church
328 Flagstone Drive
Myrtle Beach, SC 29588-6104

Funeral Service

JAN 17. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Socastee Baptist Church
328 Flagstone Drive
Myrtle Beach, SC 29588-6104

Entombment

JAN 17. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

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