

OBITUARIES

Dolphus Derrall Stalvey Sr.

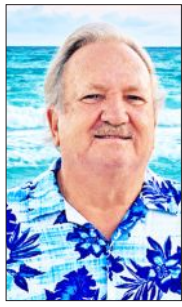
Dolphus Derrall Stalvey, Sr., 73, a child of God, a builder of things that last, and a man who loved his family deeply, passed away on Sunday, May 3, 2026.

He first gave his life to Christ more than 40 years ago, recommitting himself along the way with humility and conviction. Most recently, he was a member of Lighthouse Assembly of God. He lived his faith, day after day, in how he served others.

Born April 18, 1953, in Homerville, Georgia, to the late Harold and Alberta Stalvey, he married the love of his life, Ruth Roberts Stalvey, on May 7, 1977, in Fort White, Florida. The life they built never came easy and never had shortcuts, but it was grounded in commitment and unconditional love. Dolphus and Ruth were always in it for each other and in it together.

Dolphus was humble, hardworking, and wholeheartedly devoted to the Lord, his family, and anyone he saw in need. A master carpenter by trade, he volunteered for countless construction projects throughout his life. This included numerous churches, home improvements, custom furniture, and crafts. Each carried a touch of love only he could bring.

He had the rare ability to create. Whether it was wood, music, or paint, he brought things to life. He could pick up a guitar or saxophone and play almost any song by ear without ever reading sheet music. Later in life, after watching Bob Ross on PBS, he taught himself to paint and created more than 20 landscape paintings in a single month to give away as Christmas



gifts. That was who he was. If he made something, it was meant to be shared.

He loved to travel with his extended family, creating cherished memories from ski trips to Vermont and beach trips to Santa Rosa, Tybee Island, Caribbean cruises, and beyond. His favorite trip was to Israel with his two sons, where he walked the places Jesus walked.

In 1988, he made a decision that would shape generations, moving his family to Tennessee after years of visiting the Smoky Mountains. Two years after Dolly Parton became part owner of a new theme park, he became one of her earliest employees at Dollywood. He worked behind the scenes in its formative years and later guided guests through areas few ever saw, including the Celebrity Theater and Dolly Parton's private dressing room. It was a chapter he was proud of, marked by hard work and moments around Dolly. A photo from one encounter has hung on the wall of his living room every year since.

Even then, he remained a builder at heart. In Gatlinburg, he built chalets during a time of rapid growth, while continuing to serve churches and family members, often without pay, simply because someone needed help. Relatives across the Southeast still have something built by his hands in their homes.

After retiring from

full-time construction, he pursued another lifelong dream of entrepreneurship by owning a tractor trailer under contract with Nestlé USA for 13 years before fully retiring.

In retirement, he did not slow down. He just reinvested his time building differently through helping others with his hands. For himself, he restored his beloved 1966 Ford Galaxie, completing one of his longtime goals even after learning of his illness.

His roots in Clinch County stretched back generations. His great-great grandfather, John Stalvey, was among the earliest settlers in the area and is buried in what is now known as the Stalvey-Hilliard Cemetery. Historian Folks Huxford records an 1853 account of John sharing with Dr. John Homer Mattox—after whom the town of Homerville was named—that a railroad would one day run through Mattox's land. Though dismissed at the time, that railroad was eventually built along the very path described and remains in use today, tying the Stalvey family to the earliest story of the town Dolphus called home.

Dolphus has always held great respect for his ancestors and made

Herrin named Head Start Staff of the Year

Angela Carr, Head Start Director, is pleased to announce that Ms. Dianna Herrin has been named as Clinch County Head Start Staff of the Year for 2025-2026. The center is operated by action pact, your local community action agency.

Center Coordinator, Caroline Thomas stated, "she shows the children true love and her passion for children is shown through her work ethic each day. Ms. Herrin is a floater and works in all of the classrooms assisting wherever she is needed.

Head Start services are for children from birth to compulsory school age, as well as pregnant women and expectant families. Eligible participants include children whose families meet the federal low-income guidelines — that is, whose incomes are at or below the federal poverty guidelines or who participate in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Supplemental

Security Income, or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program public assistance services. Other eligible participants include children who are in the foster care system or experiencing homelessness. Programs may also accept a limited number of children who do not meet any of those eligibility criteria.

Head Start services are available at no cost to children ages birth to 5 in eligible families. Head Start Preschool services work with families with children ages 3 to 5. Early Head Start services work with families with children ages birth to 3, and many also serve expectant families. Many

and the staff of Pearlman Cancer Center and South Georgia Medical Center for the extraordinary care they provided, giving us more time than we ever expected.

The compassion shown by so many in this community from the moment of his diagnosis is something we will always cherish. We know he felt that love, and we know we are not walking this journey alone. We ask that you continue to walk with us as we celebrate the life of a great man, Dolphus Stalvey.

He built more than what he could hold in his hands. He built a double scoop of life, a family, and a legacy that will stand for generations.

A memorial service was held at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 7 at Lighthouse Assembly of God with Rev. Donald Stalvey and Rev. David Inman officiating. A graveside service followed at Pine Forest Cemetery. Active pallbearers were Jose Guerrero, Danny Holmes, Kevin Metts, Dewayne Stalvey, Lavell Stalvey, II, and Everett Willis.

You may share condolences to the Stalvey family at www.roundtreefuneralhome.net.

Arrangements are by Roundtree Funeral Home.



Above, Dianna Herrin, left, being congratulated by Caroline Thomas.

Head Start programs operate both Head Start Preschool and Early Head Start services. Our program delivers child development services in a center-based setting. All Head Start programs continually work toward our mission for eligible children and families to receive high-quality services in safe and healthy settings that prepare children for school and life.

The Clinch County Head Start Center is currently taking applications for the 2026-2027 program year. Please contact the Family Advocate Office at (912) 487-5304 to learn more or to schedule your eligibility application.

Head Start services are available at no cost to children ages birth to 5 in eligible families. Head Start Preschool services work with families with children ages 3 to 5. Early Head Start services work with families with children ages birth to 3, and many also serve expectant families. Many

Head Start programs operate both Head Start Preschool and Early Head Start services. Our program delivers child development services in a center-based setting. All Head Start programs continually work toward our mission for eligible children and families to receive high-quality services in safe and healthy settings that prepare children for school and life.

Metal FX Manufacturing, Inc.
Galvanized Steel Frames
Roofing • Steel Buildings • Shelters
Professional Installation or Do It Yourself

Hwy 129 5 Miles North Of Alapaha
229-468-3146 www.metalfx.net

Roundtree Funeral Home
"Service with Dignity and Honor"
Since 1982
240 Dame Ave. • Homerville, GA 31634
Call: (912) 487-5325 or Fax: (912) 487-2050
www.roundtreefuneralhome.net

PEACH STATE SUMMER THEATRE

GEORGIA'S MUSICAL THEATRE

JUNE 5 - JULY 4, 2026

on the Campus of Valdosta State University
Presenting in Rotating Repertory

Sponsored in part by
MILLER HARDWARE COMPANY & WILD ADVENTURES THEME PARK
JOSEPH and the AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

FOR DETAILS AND THE ONLINE BOX OFFICE, GO TO

valdosta.edu/psst

In-person box office opens May 23, 2026

The Valdosta Daily Times
Corporate Sponsor

WALB NEWS 10
Media Sponsor

TALK 92.1
Community Sponsor

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Occupational Therapy

Regain Independence, One Step at a Time

Our Occupational Therapy services are designed to help you get back to the activities that matter most—whether it's dressing, cooking, or returning to work. Our therapists work closely with patients of all ages to improve strength, coordination, and daily function after illness, injury, or surgery. We offer personalized care to help you live more independently and confidently.

Call (912) 470-2532 for more information.



Clinch Memorial HOSPITAL

we give you peace of mind, which gives us peace of mind.

simple human sense

Lutz, Brown, Peagler & Manley
INSURANCE AGENCY

28 East Dame Ave. • Homerville
912-487-5411



Auto-Owners
INSURANCE
LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS