



## Donald Scott Warden

November 10, 1957 - May 9, 2026

Donald Scott Warden passed away on May 9, 2026, at the age of 68. He was born Nov. 10, 1957, in Pontiac, Michigan to Homer Warden and Esther Florence Watson. He grew up in Milford, Michigan, caring for his horses and dogs. He received a BA in Anthropology at Michigan State University and then a Masters in Anthropology & Museum Studies at University of Arkansas in 1989.

In 1991, Don joined the staff of the Siloam Springs Museum where he quickly became a cherished member of the Siloam Springs community. If you visited the Museum, you may remember Don's kind, welcoming nature, and his ability to answer any question you might have. Don began oral history so a permanent file would be part of the archives. He brought history outside of the Museum through guided walking tours, historic home tours, Heritage Festival, Kids Day at the Farmer's Market, and many other community events.

Acting was another passion of Don's. His participation with the Sager Arts Center spanned several years. One of his last roles was the Stage Manager, in the play "Our Town". He joked that his white beard made him perfect for the part. He combined his acting talent with his love of history in a collaboration with the Sager Creek Arts Center. Don presented tales of the outlaws who visited the area in the 1800's on the porch of the old Park Hotel.

In 2012, he authored the book "Images of America: Siloam Springs" for Arcadia Publishing. On his 30th anniversary with the museum, the Mayor of the City of Siloam Springs, Judy Nation, read a proclamation honoring Don for

his years of service to the community and proclaimed January 20, 2022, as “Don Warden Day” in the City of Siloam Springs!

Don presented the history of Siloam Springs in many ways over his 35 years as Manager of Collections and Research. But he also shoveled the snow, swept the porch, reused everything, and simply cared for the museum building, the artifacts, the stories and the many people from different countries.

Don enjoyed his Methodist Church Family and his Grace Episcopal church family. Recently he faithfully attended Grace Episcopal Church which was within walking distance of his beloved 1910 home on Mt Olive.

There will be a service honoring Don at Grace Episcopal Church, Friday, May 22, 2026, at 10:00 am with a reception immediately following.

To send a memorial gift donations may be made to the Siloam Springs Museum or the Center for the Arts, previously the Sager Creek Arts Center in memory of Don.

Siloam Springs Museum  
P.O. Box 1164  
Siloam Springs, AR 72761

Siloam Springs Center for the Arts  
P.O. Box 7316  
Siloam Springs, AR 72761

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

MAY **22**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Grace Episcopal Church  
617 N. Mt. Olive  
Siloam Springs, AR 72761

# Tribute Wall

DD

“ Don was a dear friend who introduced me to the world of community theatre. It was his encouragement and support that inspired me to write four stage plays, two of which he helped to produce at Sager Creek Arts Center. Don was dedicated to preserving history and his love for community was evident in the many roles he stepped into throughout his career—from museum director to historic tour guide, to sharing his knowledge as an author and presenter. He loved acting and had the best ability to learn his lines with perfection.

*I will always be grateful to Don for his kindness and friendship. I was fortunate to get to know his parents and I know they were proud that he followed his dream.*

*Rest in peace my dear friend. You will be missed.*

*With love,  
Debbie DeShields*

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**Deborah DeShields** - May 21 at 06:24 PM

SW

“ Scott and Wendy Whitney purchased the Floor Plant for Sympathy for the family of Donald Scott Warden.



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**Scott and Wendy Whitney** - May 18 at 09:55 PM

DB

“ Don was a valued member of the Benton County Historical Society board and we will miss his endless historical knowledge of Siloam Springs and the surrounding area. Our prayers go out to his family and friends.

Don Barnett - May 14 at 03:20 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Don



Nolyn Hill - May 13 at 01:15 PM

MH

“ Don was the museum. He did a fantastic job safeguarding the history of Siloam Springs. You will be missed.

Marc Hayot - May 12 at 10:21 AM

SU

“ Sue lit a candle in memory of Donald Warden



Sue - May 11 at 11:09 AM