



Earl Robert Dechant

June 30, 1938 - September 27, 2025

Earl Robert Dechant, 87, of Crawfordville, passed away at home with his wife by his side on September 27, 2025. Born in Philadelphia, he spent most of his early years in Newcastle, Pennsylvania. Earl earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Bob Jones University in 1961 and was ordained as a minister in 1966. He devoted his life to sharing his faith and serving others with compassion and conviction.

An Eagle Scout in his youth, Earl was deeply committed to guiding and uplifting children and young people. He devoted himself to helping them grow in faith and character, leaving a lasting impact on countless lives.

Over the course of his ministry, he served churches in South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Texas, Colorado, Wyoming, and Florida. He also served as principal of three Christian schools, most recently at Providence Christian Academy in Crawfordville, where he continued his ministry and built lasting connections within the community. Earl was an amazing man—a devoted husband, a wonderful father, and a beloved, hard-working pastor who served thousands over his lifetime. His service to others touched countless lives through his ministry of mentorship and his unwavering example of faith and service to others and to God. He made the world a better place through his kindness, dedication, and deep love for people. He was also an avid gardener, known for the vibrant blooms that surrounded his home year-round. Whether tending to roses, azaleas, hydrangeas, or impatiens, Earl found joy and peace in nurturing life from the soil. His gardens were a reflection of his spirit—

colorful, generous, and full of care.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 65 years, Phyllis Dechant; three children, David Dechant, Stephen Dechant (Tetyana), and Melodye Dechant Farrar (Jon); one sister, Maryann Sheppard (Scott); and eight grandchildren, all of whom he cherished deeply.

A funeral service will be held on Saturday, October 4, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at Central Baptist Church, 10 Powell Lane, in Crawfordville, Florida, with family receiving friends one hour prior to the service. Earl will be laid to rest at New Testament Baptist Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the mission's program at Central Baptist Church. (<https://centralbaptistcf.com>)

<https://give.tithe.ly/?formId=123c3d4b-7504-4a7e-b996-c151036c5615>

Skip and Trey Young are assisting the family, along with Paula and Amanda. Family Funeral Home, Crawfordville, 850-926-5919.

“Well done, good and faithful servant.” — Matthew 25:23

Cemetery Details

New Testament Bible Church Cemetery

Rehwinkel Rd. Coastal Highway
Crawfordville, FL 32327

Previous Events

Gathering of Friends & Visitation

OCT 4. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (est)

Central Baptist Church
10 Powell Lane
Crawfordville, FL 32327

Funeral Service

OCT 4. 11:00 AM (est)

New Testament Bible Church Cemetery
Rehwinkel Rd. Coastal Highway
Crawfordville, FL 32327

Tribute Wall



“ *Young Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Earl Robert Dechant*



Family Funeral Home and Cremation Services - October 01, 2025 at 04:47 PM

HB

“ *Love you Phyllis and so many memories at BJU especially you and Earl's wedding. So sorry for your loss. Praying for you and God Bless!*

Harriette Brotzman Bartron - October 29, 2025 at 10:44 AM



“ *162 files added to the album LifeTributes*



Family Funeral Home and Cremation Services - October 01, 2025 at 04:43 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Family Funeral Home and Cremation Services - October 01, 2025 at 09:09 AM