

*The Life & Legacy of*

**DONALD ELLIS  
WILDMON**

*Founder*



american family association



# EARLY YEARS

19  
38

**January 18, 1938**

Donald Ellis Wildmon was born in Dumas, Mississippi.

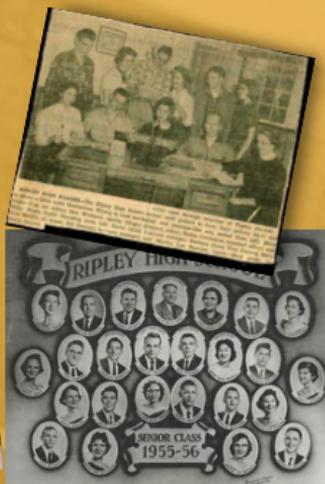


**At a Billy Graham crusade in Memphis, Tennessee, Don Wildmon gave his life to Jesus Christ.**

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Don graduated from Ripley High School in Ripley, Mississippi.



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He graduated from Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi. That same year, Don met Lynda Bennett.



Social Events



**June 18, 1961**

Don and Lynda married.

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**1961-1963**

Don served in the U.S. Army.



# CALLING

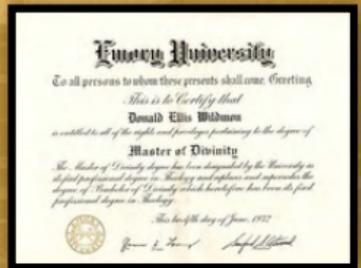


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Don was ordained as a minister in the Methodist church. He would go on to pastor several Methodist and United Methodist congregations over the course of more than a decade.

Don received his Master of Divinity from Emory University's Candler School of Theology.

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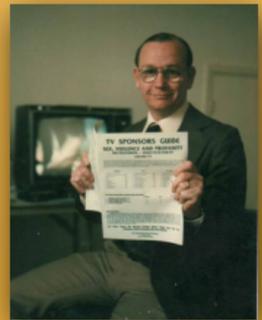


# ACTIVISM

December 1976

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76

While serving as pastor of First United Methodist Church in Southaven, Mississippi, Don attempted to watch TV with his family but found violence, profanity, and sexual innuendo on every major network. Consequently, he turned off the TV and decided he wanted to do something about the problem.



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Don organized the National Federation for Decency (NFD) and left the pulpit ministry. He moved NFD to Tupelo, Mississippi, where he and Lynda settled with their four children, Tim, Angela, Donna, and Mark.



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81

**October 18, 1981**  
The Phil Donahue Show featured Don on its national television program.

## RECOGNITION

19  
90

**May 1990**

At Asbury College's centennial commencement ceremony, Don Wildmon was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree by Dr. Dennis F. Kinlaw, president of Asbury College.

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97



**July 1997**

The cover of the 20th-anniversary issue of AFA Journal featured Don and Lynda with their grandchildren.

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23

**December 28, 2023**

Having fought the good fight, having kept the faith, Brother Don Wildmon - the Culture Warrior - finished his race.



# LEGACY

20  
24

**April 18, 2024**  
Mississippi's House of Representatives adopted a resolution (HR123) honoring the life and legacy of Rev. Dr. Donald Ellis Wildmon.



# CULTURE WARRIOR



**Fall 2024**

**Culture Warrior: Don Wildmon and the Battle for Decency**, a full-length documentary covering the life and ministry of Don Wildmon, was released in theaters, online, and on DVD. The film, a three-year undertaking of American Family Studios, explores the cultural and spiritual battles Brother Don faced in founding the national ministry now known as American Family Association.

# MISSION

**The mission of American Family Association is to inform, equip, and activate individuals and families to transform American culture and to give aid to the church, here and abroad, in its calling to fulfill the Great Commission.**

# VISION

**The vision of American Family Association is to be a leading organization in biblical worldview training for cultural transformation.**

# CORE VALUES

## **Evangelism and Discipleship**

AFA aims to evangelize the lost and disciple the believer.

## **Morality**

AFA believes true morality flows from biblical principles and directs people to the manner in which God intends them to live.

## **Stewardship**

AFA believes that its ministry, as well as everything in the heavens and on earth, belongs to God, and AFA's role in it all is that of a trusted manager.

## **Marriage and Family**

AFA aims to strengthen biblical marriages and equip parents to raise godly children.

## **Sanctity of Human Life**

AFA upholds the truth that all human beings, including the unborn, are created in the image of God and are worthy of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

## **Religious Liberty**

AFA believes that all men and women, whether in private or public, should be free to exercise their faith without hindrance from the government.

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