

Dolly Parton Laid to Rest Beside Her Husband as Family Shares Emotional Tribute

Dolly Parton spent decades dazzling crowds beneath stage lights, wrapped in rhinestones and armed with a personality almost as recognizable as her voice. Yet when the curtain finally came down, her farewell looked nothing like the larger-than-life career that came before it.

There was no enormous public ceremony. No parade of celebrities.

Instead, Parton was quietly laid to rest beside the love of her life, Carl Dean.

The country music legend, who died Aug. 25 at age 80, was buried Friday following a private family funeral in Nashville. The BBC and The Guardian reported that Parton was interred at Woodlawn Memorial Park and Mausoleum alongside her husband, Carl Dean, who died in 2025. The Guardian reported that the ceremony was limited to immediate family.

For an entertainer whose music reached virtually every corner of the world, her final goodbye was remarkably intimate.

And in the days following her death, the public has been getting a glimpse of Dolly beyond the wigs, music and superstardom.

Parton's great-niece, Lainey Parton, shared an emotional tribute after the burial, according to the BBC.

"It still doesn't feel real that she's gone," Lainey wrote, reflecting on how much she would miss Parton's voice, laugh, hugs and presence.

Calling her great-aunt “granny,” Lainey explained that Parton’s inability to have children never stopped her from pouring maternal love into younger family members. She made them feel as though they were her own.

And her encouragement wasn’t merely talk.

Lainey recalled that Parton supported her while she attended beauty school and consistently pushed her to pursue her dreams.



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“She believed in me before I even knew how to believe in myself,” Lainey wrote, according to the BBC.

It’s a side of Dolly the world didn’t always get to see, and one that arguably speaks louder than another trophy ever could.

Even Parton’s burial site carries a reminder of where everything began. The BBC reported that the tomb she shares with Dean features a brass plaque bearing their names along with engravings of their childhood homes. The Guardian reported that Parton’s name had already been engraved there before her death, along with an image of the Sevier County cabin where she grew up.

The woman who rose from humble beginnings in Tennessee to global superstardom ultimately returned to rest beside the man who shared much of that extraordinary journey.

But the tributes aren’t stopping at the cemetery gates.

Parton’s niece Jada Star performed “The Orchard,” a song she recorded with her aunt, during a Grand Ole Opry tribute Saturday. The BBC reported that Jelly Roll later made a

surprise appearance during the finale as performers joined together for Parton's classic "9 to 5."

And anyone expecting an enormous conventional memorial may be surprised.

"As far as a traditional memorial goes, that is not something Dolly wanted," longtime manager Danny Nozell told The Guardian. Instead, Parton's estate is moving ahead with DollyFest, a celebration planned for Nashville and London next year.

Her official obituary points beyond record sales and celebrity, describing Parton's legacy as one of "love, kindness, and resilience." The family is also asking people to honor her not with flowers, but by donating to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, the literacy initiative she founded to put books in children's hands.

Perhaps that's the most fitting final note of all.

Dolly Parton may have been laid to rest, but the music, generosity and lives she touched are still speaking.

Prepared by Charisma Media Staff.