



## Pastor Dennis Lane Taft

September 12, 1956 - December 9, 2024

The family has requested that anyone that want to send any memories, messages or condolences to send them via email to:

[HonoringDennisTaft@gmail.com](mailto:HonoringDennisTaft@gmail.com)

Dennis Lane Taft, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, nephew, and cousin, passed away peacefully on December 9, 2024, leaving a profound legacy of love, service, and faith. He was 68 years old.

Dennis was born on September 12, 1956, in Pitt County to Leon Gilbert Sr. and Elizabeth Jane “Janie” Taft. He graduated from J. H. Rose High School in 1976, where he laid the foundation for a life committed to hard work, kindness, and service to others.

Over the years, Dennis demonstrated unwavering dedication and care in a wide range of roles. He started with furniture delivery and upholstery at Thomas Willis Furniture and Interior Decorators, where he quickly earned a reputation for his reliability and attention to detail. He then transitioned to the medical field, serving as a Surgical Tech at Greenville Surgical Center, where his commitment to patient care was evident. Dennis went on to work as the head custodian at White Eye Associates for 15 years, consistently ensuring a clean and welcoming environment for patients and staff. His journey continued as an Operating Room Technician at Vidant Medical Center, where his skills and compassion continued to make a meaningful impact on lives. In addition to his healthcare roles, Dennis also ran his own landscaping and cleaning

business, further showcasing his entrepreneurial spirit and strong work ethic. However, Dennis's most impactful calling came when he answered the call to ministry. In 1989, he was blessed to become the Pastor of the Church of God of Prophecy, a role in which he deeply connected with his congregation. He went on to serve as the founding pastor of the Church of God of Purpose, where he touched countless lives with his unwavering faith, dedication, and love. Dennis was more than a pastor—he was a servant leader who spent his life spreading the gospel and lifting up those around him.

A man of deep faith and compassion, Dennis had a particular love for the youth of his community, often serving as a father figure to many. His gentle spirit and kind heart made everyone feel heard, loved, and valued. Whether praying with those in need, offering a listening ear, or sharing words of encouragement, Dennis's life was a testament to the power of love and faith. Outside of his ministry, Dennis had a passion for the outdoors, especially fishing, traveling, and enjoying nature's beauty. He found peace and joy in the simple pleasures of life and treasured the time spent with his loved ones.

Dennis was preceded in death by his mother, Elizabeth Jane "Janie" Taft; his father, Leon Gilbert, Sr.; and his beloved siblings, sisters, Mary Roberson, Alice Tyson, Daisy Holland; brothers, James Earl Tyson, Isaac Tyson, Leon Gilbert Jr., Don Taft, Carlton Taft, Albert Atkinson, and Willie Gilbert.

Dennis's memory will be eternally cherished by his devoted wife, Mary Taft; his beloved children, Demetrias Taft of Knightdale, NC, and Crystal Ellis (Brian) of Raleigh, NC; his beautiful granddaughter, Londyn Ellis; five sisters, Linda Gilbert, Beverly Felton, Janice Givens (Matthew), Linda Taft, all of Greenville, NC, and Bonnie Lane of Cheyenne, WY; two brothers, John Taft and Swindell Taft, both of Greenville, NC; a great aunt, Shirley Ebron of Greenville, NC; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and lifelong friends who were blessed to know him.

Dennis was an exceptional man who lived a life of faith, service, and love. His legacy will continue to inspire all who were fortunate enough to be touched by his kindness and devotion. He now rests in the peace of the Lord, surrounded

by love and grace.

As written in Philippians 1:21-23, Dennis lived his life with unwavering faith: “For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.”

# Cemetery Details

## Homestead Memorial Gardens

4251 E. 10th Street  
Greenville, NC 27858

# Previous Events

## Viewing/Visitation

DEC 21. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Philippi Church Of Christ  
3760 Philippi Drive  
Greenville, NC 27858

## Celebration of Life Service

DEC 21. 2:00 PM (ET)

Philippi Church Of Christ  
3760 Philippi Drive  
Greenville, NC 27858

# Tribute Wall



“ *View and Download the Funeral Program*

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**Congleton Memorial Mortuary** - December 23, 2024 at 09:42 AM

KB

“ *Been knowing Dennis most of my life. Always a kind and loving spirit. He will be missed. Rest on soldier! 🙏❤️*



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**Kathy Savage Brown** - December 21, 2024 at 11:32 AM

SE

“ *Pastor Dennis Taft has touched some many of our lives and we will always remember him in our hearts ❤️. I had the pleasure of sharing a business with him, attending services at his church and his congregation was so compassionate and welcoming to everyone who enters their doors and knowing him from an early childhood. Church family, my prayers are with all of you, he was a great man of God and will never be forgotten. Deepest condolences to the entire families! 🙏🙏*



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**Sondra Early** - December 21, 2024 at 12:49 AM

AH

“ With sincere sympathy to the family of the late Pastor Dennis Taft. We celebrate a life well-lived.  
*Alton, Ella, and Amber Nannette Harris*



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**Alton Harris** - December 20, 2024 at 08:58 PM

DA

“ Donald And Alfrances lit a candle in memory of Pastor Dennis Lane Taft



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**Donald and Alfrances** - December 20, 2024 at 09:50 AM

RS

“ Ruby Dawson Smith lit a candle in memory of Pastor Dennis Lane Taft



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**Ruby Dawson Smith** - December 19, 2024 at 06:34 PM

RS

“ Ruby Dawson Smith lit a candle in memory of Pastor Dennis Lane Taft



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**Ruby Dawson Smith** - December 19, 2024 at 05:13 PM

PC

“ *Pastor Gregory & Barbara Campbell lit a candle in memory of Pastor Dennis Lane Taft*



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**Pastor Gregory & Barbara Campbell** - December 19, 2024 at 03:22 PM

LT

“ *Pastor Taft you will be missed I remember you preacher my husband funeral and know you going home and be with your cousin . Take your rest. And ever time I go to RJ restaurant I think of you and you telling me I need to eat and life goes on. I will miss the talk we had together and you preaching to me.*

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**Lucinda Taft** - December 19, 2024 at 09:23 AM

CB

“ *Sorry to hear the passing of your love. Pastor Carnell and Denise Burney , New Mercies Tabernacle MB Church*



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**Carnell Burney** - December 18, 2024 at 09:55 PM

JC

“ To my Taft/Tyson Family I met many of you through the link of Cousin Dennis & the late Rosa Lee Barrett King who was just funeralized on last Wednesday. I am Cousin Winsler and Nellie Patrick Barrett daughter Jackie. I spent many days going to Cousin Janie home. Dennis would always say "Girl you got to meet your kin folk" He loved his kin folk and people everywhere. I am going to miss him tremendously. He always showed love and care & never let me forget that my roots were link to the Tyson & Taft family. You all are in my prayers for the comfort, strength, peace and compassion & that we too will be the servant of God as Dennis was. He loved our Jesus.  
Your Cousin Jackie Cannon & his classmate Samuel



Jacqueline W Cannon - December 18, 2024 at 05:47 PM

RJ

“ Rev Rhonda Jordan lit a candle in memory of Pastor Dennis Lane Taft



Rev Rhonda Jordan - December 18, 2024 at 01:41 PM

EH

“ Elbert & Daylene Highsmith lit a candle in memory of Pastor Dennis Lane Taft



Elbert & Daylene Highsmith - December 18, 2024 at 11:51 AM

PS

“ *Phyllis Smith lit a candle in memory of Pastor Dennis Lane Taft*



Phyllis Smith - December 18, 2024 at 02:34 AM

MM

“ *Michele A Moore lit a candle in memory of Pastor Dennis Lane Taft*



Michele A Moore - December 17, 2024 at 05:35 PM

MH

“ *Prayers for the entire Taft/Tyson family, especially Mary, Meek and Crystal. There are no words. Thankful to God for Dennis being present in our lives. His giving heart, (never a taker) is what blessed those around him and in the community, it's called "A Servant's Heart!" Rest easy Dennis* 💔



Muriel Jones Hines - December 17, 2024 at 05:29 PM

DB

“ *To the family of the late Pastor Taft I send my condolences to each of you. Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal.*



Deacon Harold Barnes - December 17, 2024 at 02:49 PM

HE

“ I remember our younger days of playing King of the Hills. I'll never forget our many disagreements and struggles. But as adults we found Salvation and brotherly love in Christ Jesus. So I know now you're gone from labor to reward.

*My sincere prayers and condolences to the Taft family,  
Elder Hubert Evans*



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**Hubert Evans** - December 17, 2024 at 11:15 AM

EW

*Our deepest condolences to the Family and God be closer to you in times like theses. In love of God be bless.*

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**Elder Robert Williams & Dorothy Williams** - December 18, 2024 at 05:09 PM

RW

“ I hadn't seen Dennis since 1976. At the last reunion this past summer. In high school Dennis always seemed to me like an adult while I was a kid. He was a gentle soul and was always kind to me and others. A good man. I'm so glad I was able to see him and speak with him. Robert "Beaver" Waldrop

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**Robert Waldrop** - December 16, 2024 at 08:37 PM



“ One of the finest human beings I have had the honor and pleasure of calling my friend. You will be missed here on earth Pastor Taft, but Heaven has gained one incredible warrior and angel!



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**Trena Johnston** - December 16, 2024 at 07:50 PM

CD

“ *Crystal Daniels lit a candle in memory of  
Pastor Dennis Lane Taft*



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**Crystal Daniels** - December 16, 2024 at 09:19 AM

CM

“ *Thoughts and prayers to the family.  
Sorry for loss.*

*Deacon Charles May and brother Dana May  
Greenville NC*

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**Charles May** - December 15, 2024 at 06:34 PM

DB

“ *Thoughts and Prayers are with the family during this difficult time*

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**Darnis A. Berry** - December 15, 2024 at 12:30 PM

CD

“ *Catherine Davis lit a candle in memory of  
Pastor Dennis Lane Taft*



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**Catherine Davis** - December 14, 2024 at 09:41 PM

BW

“ *Ben Wooten lit a candle in memory of Pastor Dennis Lane Taft*



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**Ben wooten** - December 14, 2024 at 12:43 AM

SB

“ *Prayers to the family Pastor Taft always had a smile and a kind spirit.*



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**Sheena Barrett** - December 13, 2024 at 07:37 PM

AJ

“ *Albert J. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Pastor Dennis Lane Taft.*



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**Albert J.** - December 13, 2024 at 03:15 PM

JR

“ *Janice Spain Reid lit a candle in memory of Pastor Dennis Lane Taft*



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**Janice Spain Reid** - December 13, 2024 at 02:49 PM

AH

“ This brother had a really great personality, a dynamic individual, if you do not believe, he believed, The Lord in completeness has lifted him up to higher heights, Peace Be Still. The LORD is our Sheppard.



Anthony Herring - December 13, 2024 at 11:53 AM

JN

“ On behalf of Pastor Daniel House and the St. Peter's MBC family we send our sincere condolences and pray that God will give you comfort and strength through it all.

Jackie Nicholson - December 13, 2024 at 09:01 AM

MW

“ Myra Wooden lit a candle in memory of Pastor Dennis Lane Taft



Myra Wooden - December 13, 2024 at 08:23 AM

RC

“ Ricky & Paulina Council lit a candle in memory of Pastor Dennis Lane Taft



Ricky & Paulina Council - December 13, 2024 at 08:22 AM

JK

“ I met Pastor Taft at one of the grocery stores. He was always inviting people to his church, talking about the Lord, and giving out his cards and contact information. Pastor, you were truly about God's business. You will most certainly be missed by all who knew you and all who came in contact with you! Family, the Lord will take care of you and you are in my prayers.

Joyce A. King - December 13, 2024 at 07:45 AM

OJ

“ Otis Jeffries lit a candle in memory of Pastor Dennis Lane Taft



Otis Jeffries - December 13, 2024 at 07:30 AM

JG

“ Jackie Ferebee Gunter lit a candle in memory of Pastor Dennis Lane Taft



Jackie Ferebee Gunter - December 12, 2024 at 09:39 PM

ES

“ Edgar Savage lit a candle in memory of Pastor Dennis Lane Taft



edgar savage - December 12, 2024 at 02:11 PM

MG

“ *Minister Joyce Grimes lit a candle in memory of Pastor Dennis Lane Taft*



**Minister Joyce Grimes** - December 12, 2024 at 01:49 PM

DW

“ *David A. Waters lit a candle in memory of Pastor Dennis Lane Taft*



**David A. Waters** - December 12, 2024 at 10:16 AM

LA

“ *Lorraine Armstrong lit a candle in memory of Pastor Dennis Lane Taft*



**Lorraine Armstrong** - December 11, 2024 at 09:26 PM

BS

“ *Barbara Jones Smith lit a candle in memory of Pastor Dennis Lane Taft*



**Barbara Jones Smith** - December 11, 2024 at 09:21 PM

MM

“ *Minister Renee McKinnon lit a candle in memory of Pastor Dennis Lane Taft*



Minister Renee McKinnon - December 11, 2024 at 07:04 PM

BT

“ *Byron D. Tyson lit a candle in memory of Pastor Dennis Lane Taft*



Byron D. Tyson - December 11, 2024 at 05:16 PM

BA

“ *RIP my friend you will be truly missed Beatrice Atkinson*



Beatrice Atkinson - December 11, 2024 at 01:49 PM

JB

“ *Pastor Taft your work is done. Rest in peace. Heaven is your home now.*



James Britt - December 11, 2024 at 12:49 PM

CO

“ *Chaplain Marilyn Davis Okubudike lit a candle in memory of Pastor Dennis Lane Taft*



**Chaplain Marilyn Davis Okubudike** - December 11, 2024 at 12:32 PM

BN

“ *Betty Nurse lit a candle in memory of Pastor Dennis Lane Taft*



**Betty Nurse** - December 11, 2024 at 10:42 AM

HP

“ *Harold Lorenza Person lit a candle in memory of Pastor Dennis Lane Taft*



**Harold Lorenza Person** - December 11, 2024 at 09:16 AM

TP

*Sending my Condolences to the Taft family 🙏🙏🙏🙏*

**Theresa Pope** - December 11, 2024 at 12:39 PM

JK

“ *Joyce A. King lit a candle in memory of Pastor  
Dennis Lane Taft*



Joyce A. King - December 11, 2024 at 08:53 AM

EH

“ *Ebony H. lit a candle in memory of Pastor  
Dennis Lane Taft*



Ebony H. - December 11, 2024 at 12:40 AM

SE

“ *Shirley Evan lit a candle in memory of Pastor  
Dennis Lane Taft*



Shirley Evan - December 11, 2024 at 12:24 AM

CG

“ *Heaven's Gain 🙌🏻🙏🏻🥹💔💔  
My sincere condolences. He was such a God  
Fearing Soldier 🙌🏻🙏🏻💔💔*



Cathy S Gorham - December 10, 2024 at 10:33 PM

CC

“ Calvin Clark lit a candle in memory of Pastor Dennis Lane Taft



Calvin Clark - December 10, 2024 at 10:06 PM

CS

“ Take your rest Pastor Dennis you will not be forgotten. Family may God bless you during your time of bereavement. Church keep on trusting in God this was your Pastor's heart desire. God will make everything alright. ❤️



Cecily Sene - December 10, 2024 at 08:20 PM

AH

“ My sincere condolences and prayers to the family.



Angela Hart - December 10, 2024 at 08:03 PM

JK

“ Sending my prayers and condolences to the entire family Pastor Dennis Taft Was A True Man Of God He Will Be Truly Missed 🙏🙏🙏



Joyce Kornegay - December 10, 2024 at 07:51 PM

MH

“ Margaret Williams Hassell lit a candle in memory of Pastor Dennis Lane Taft



Margaret Williams Hassell - December 10, 2024 at 07:05 PM

SE

“ Shirley E lit a candle in memory of Pastor Dennis Lane Taft



Shirley E - December 10, 2024 at 02:04 PM

JS

“ Jeff Savage lit a candle in memory of Pastor Dennis Lane Taft



Jeff Savage - December 10, 2024 at 09:23 AM

BW

*Bishop Glenn Williams  
Lit Bro I wish you could have stayed longer but GOD said come home,  
as we say to each other ! If I Leave First Don't Warrow About Me I'm In  
A Better Place. My Little Brother. 🙌🙏🙌*

Bishop Glenn Williams - December 19, 2024 at 10:02 PM

EH

“ *My Condolences And Prayers Are With The Family*



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**Evangelist Gwen Hudson** - December 10, 2024 at 09:08 AM

CS

“ *Congleton Funeral Home and Staff wishes to express our sincere condolences on the passing of your love one. We light this candle in their memory.*



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**Congleton Funeral Home Staff** - December 09, 2024 at 03:51 PM

NK

*I will always remember pastor as my neighbor always leaning a hand to help anyone out and to pray for you in your time of need.*

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**Nicey king** - December 10, 2024 at 10:42 PM

TU

*Sending prayers and condolences from the Parker Family. Pastor Dennis has been a friend of the Parkers for decades and was always a source of support for us during our times of bereavement. Praying that God will grant you all with peace and comfort in knowing that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.*

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**Tammy P Uzzell** - December 11, 2024 at 10:59 AM

RT

*Pastor Taft was hands down one of the nicest, most compassionate, caring human being I have ever met. He was always looking for ways to bless somebody, anybody. About 3 to 4 weeks ago, I stopped to PW on Dickerson Avenue to pick up a few things. He came over to speak to me while I was being check out by the cashier. Before I could hand the cashier my card, He had already pulled out cash to pay for my groceries. He never missed an opportunity to bless someone, anybody. Pastor Taft will truly be missed by many. This community has loss one of its greatest soldiers. Continued prayers for the family and friends of this humble MOG.*

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**Rosa Tyson** - December 17, 2024 at 10:46 PM