



Mr. Donald E. Barnes

August 15, 1949 - April 29, 2026

Donald Eugene Barnes peacefully transitioned from this life to eternal rest on Wednesday, April 29, 2026. He was born on August 15, 1949, in Greenville, North Carolina, to the late Willie Edward Barnes and Annie Ruth Adams Barnes.

Donald was a proud graduate of C.M. Eppes High School, Class of 1966, in Greenville, North Carolina. During his time at C.M. Eppes, he was actively involved in school life. He enjoyed singing in the Glee Club under the direction of Mrs. S. L. Davenport, where he was known as her favorite tenor. He was also a member of Hi-Y, Physics Club, and Library Club, and served as a Home Room Officer.

Donald continued his education at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, graduating in 1973 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science. He was proud to be an Aggie and often showed his school pride by wearing Aggie paraphernalia and enthusiastically shouting, "Aggie Pride!"

Donald joined Sycamore Hill Missionary Baptist Church as a youth and dedicated his life to Christ at an early age. As a young adult, he sang in the choir, served as an usher, and was active in the Boy Scouts. In his adult years, he became a Boy Scout leader, serving as a mentor to many young men and leading them on numerous camping trips.

As a faithful and longstanding member of Sycamore Hill Missionary Baptist Church for over fifty years, Donald devoted his life to service. He served on

the Usher Board, participated in the Homeless Shelter Ministry, attended Sunday School, and faithfully served on the Deacon Board for more than twenty-six years.

Donald met the love of his life, the former Vonzella Smith, in the late 1970s, and they were united in marriage on April 19, 1980. Together they built a loving family and were blessed with two beautiful daughters, Tenille and Ashli. Donald was committed to his professional career, working in Materials Planning and Buyer roles at EATON Corporation and TRW Automotive for over thirty years. After retiring from TRW, he later reentered the workforce for several years at DSM, serving in Logistics and Supply Chain Management. During his active adult years, Donald was an avid tennis player, recreational basketball player, and golfer. He was heavily involved with the Adams Family Reunion, serving multiple years as Vice President and President. In his later years, he enjoyed relaxing at home with his wife and spending time with his three grandchildren.

Donald will be remembered for his strong faith, dedication to service, and the love he had for his family, church, and community. His legacy of leadership, mentorship, and compassion will continue to live on through all who knew and loved him.

He was preceded in death by his loving parents, Willie Edward and Annie Ruth Barnes, and his devoted brother, James Earl "Jimmy" Barnes.

He leaves to cherish his precious memories: his loving and devoted wife of forty-six years, Vonzella Smith Barnes, of the home; two daughters, Tenille Barnes McFadden (Corey) of Charlotte, North Carolina, and Ashli Barnes Jaroscak (Joseph) of Washington, D.C.; and three grandchildren, Brayden and Zayne of Charlotte, North Carolina, and Sophie of Washington, D.C. He is also survived by two sisters, Annette Barnes Parker (Clifton) of Jamestown, North Carolina, and Keisha Barnes of North Chesterfield, Virginia; two aunts: Velma Bratton of Thomasville, North Carolina and Linda J. Adams of Greensboro, North Carolina; Goddaughter, Phelicia Price of Greenville, North Carolina; and a host of beloved inlaws, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Donald Eugene Barnes will be deeply missed, but his memory and legacy will forever remain in the hearts of those he touched.

Cemetery Details

Homestead Memorial Gardens

4251 E. 10th Street
Greenville, NC 27858

Previous Events

Viewing/Visitation

MAY 10. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Sycamore Hill Missionary Baptist Church
1001 Hooker Road
Greenville, NC 27834

Celebration of Life Service

MAY 10. 2:00 PM (ET)

Sycamore Hill Missionary Baptist Church
1001 Hooker Road
Greenville, NC 27834

Tribute Wall

JM

“ *Julius & Sharon Mallette lit a candle in memory of Mr. Donald E. Barnes*



Julius & Sharon Mallette - May 10 at 01:37 PM

JS

“ *Jacqueline Shiver Stroud lit a candle in memory of Mr. Donald E. Barnes*



Jacqueline Shiver Stroud - May 10 at 08:43 AM

DF

“ *To The Barnes Family: We are very saddened to hear of your loss and extend our deepest sympathies. The Dickens Family*



Dickens Famil - May 09 at 11:44 PM

PT

“ *In memory of Donald Barnes. May he rest in peace. Peggy and Roslyn Taylor*



Peggy Taylor - May 08 at 08:21 PM

AM

“ *Annette Moore lit a candle in memory of Mr. Donald E. Barnes*



Annette Moore - May 08 at 02:29 PM

KP

“ *Kathy Parker lit a candle in memory of Mr. Donald E. Barnes*



Kathy Parker - May 08 at 10:35 AM

 Janice Reid

“ *Janice Reid lit a candle in memory of Mr. Donald E. Barnes*



Janice Reid - May 08 at 06:47 AM

DP

“ *Donna M Pierce lit a candle in memory of Mr. Donald E. Barnes*



Donna M Pierce - May 07 at 04:44 PM

JW

“Joyce Williams lit a candle in memory of Mr. Donald E. Barnes



Joyce Williams - May 07 at 09:36 AM

NN

“Praying and sending my deepest condolences to the Barnes family. May God surround you with his love, grace and mercy during this journey of grief.

Nancy Drake Jimerson, Greensboro , NC - May 07 at 08:43 AM

TF

“To the Barnes family, on behalf of my mother and me, we are so, so sorry to hear about Deacon Barnes. You are in our thoughts and prayers!



The McClaud Family - May 06 at 09:25 AM

JM

“To the Barnes family, on behalf of my mother and me, we are so, so sorry to hear about Deacon Barnes. You are in our thoughts and prayers!



Jacquelyn and Lillie McClaud - May 06 at 09:22 AM

TC

“ To Vonzella and Family, I was sadden to hear of Donald's sudden passing. My sincere condolences to each of you.

Donald was a wonderful classmate of our proud C.M.Eppes High School, class of 1966. Donald was a class leader, academically bright, always friendly and polite.

Although the memories and love will never fade, may God's unfailing love and His perfect peace keep each of you covered and sustain you day in and day out.

*Sincerely,
Terry Kimber Claiborne*

Terry Claiborne - May 05 at 10:37 PM

SP

“ Sarah G. Pritchard sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Donald E. Barnes



Sarah G. Pritchard - May 05 at 05:40 PM

RJ

“ May God's great grace, peace and comfort be with you now and in the days ahead,



Rev. Rhonda Jordan - May 04 at 05:46 PM

BD

“ *Byron D. Tyson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Donald E. Barnes*



Byron D. Tyson - May 04 at 12:36 PM

JS

“ *To the Barnes Family (Adams)*

To my family you all are definitely in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Praying for peace and comfort at this time.

*Juana Short
Greenville NC*



juana short - May 04 at 08:54 AM

RO

“ *Sorry for your loss praying for the family troop 131 will miss Mr Barnes he made a difference*

Russell Oats - May 03 at 10:31 AM

BN

“ *Betty Nurse sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Donald E. Barnes*



Betty Nurse - May 01 at 07:04 PM

SE

“ *Sondra Early sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Donald E. Barnes*



Sondra Early - May 01 at 02:47 PM

SJ

“ *Sending love, thoughts, and prayers to you and your family during this time of sorrow.*

Timothy and Sheila Jones



Sheila Payton Jones - May 01 at 02:19 PM

EW

“ *To the Barnes Family,
I am so sorry for the loss of Mr. Donald Barnes. He was such a caring person and his presence brought light and joy into many lives. During this difficult time, please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

*Our deepest condolences,
James, Evangeline Wilson, and family*



Evangeline Wilson - May 01 at 02:16 PM

MN

“ *Mider Nelson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Donald E. Barnes*



Mider Nelson - May 01 at 10:56 AM

RK

“ *To Deaconess Barnes, Tennile, Ashley, and family: My heart is with you at this difficult time. Deacon Barnes was a quiet man. He was also very friendly and caring. When we would greet each other at church, he would always fill me in on the special events concerning the family like who was getting married, or having a baby, etc. Deacon Barnes was a faithful member of Sycamore Hill and he will be greatly missed. Family, you are in my prayers. Look to Jesus, the Author and the Finisher of your faith.*



Rev. Joyce King - May 01 at 07:37 AM

BW

“ *Ben Wooten lit a candle in memory of Mr. Donald E. Barnes*



Ben Wooten - May 01 at 02:02 AM

JS

“ *Jeff Savage lit a candle in memory of Mr. Donald E. Barnes*



Jeff Savage - April 30 at 10:45 AM

CS

“ *Sorry to hear of your passing ole friend. We have had some laughs and fun times. May you Rest in peace. You will be missed. Till we meet again. To the Barnes family remember the good times and hold them close to your hearts. God bless you in your time of breviment.* 💕

Cecily Sene - April 30 at 01:58 AM

CS

“ *Cecily Sene lit a candle in memory of Mr. Donald E. Barnes*



Cecily Sene - April 30 at 01:54 AM

CA

“ *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.*



Congleton Funeral Home and - April 29 at 04:57 PM