



## Mr. Sterling Bunns

October 3, 1943 - February 14, 2026

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me". John 14:6

Sterling "Rabbit" Bunns was born on October 3, 1943 to Robert Bunns, Sr. and Suphronia Willis Bunns in Bethel, NC (Pitt County). He was one of seven children.

Sterling loved sports. He was a standout basketball player and ran track at Bethel Union High School, (Bethel, NC) where he graduated in 1962. HE WAS A DIE HARD DALLAS COWBOY FAN...!!

As a young man Sterling worked on the farm putting in tobacco and picking cucumbers. He once said, "If you could do that work in 90+ degree heat you could work anywhere". Sterling loved fishing and playing cards.

Sterling eventually moved to Danbury, Connecticut after graduation where he courted and was united in holy matrimony for 60 years to the love of his life, Annie Virginia Ross on February 27, 1965 in Danbury, Connecticut. To this union two children were born.

Sterling became a member of the New Hope Baptist Church in Danbury, Connecticut under the Leadership of the late Rev. Aaron Samuels. Although he never formally joined church in North Carolina, he occasionally attended other local churches and rededicated his life to Christ on January 30, 2026. TO GOD BE THE GLORY..!

Sterling was also a master at repairing anything that had an engine and 4 wheels. As part of the "Bunns Racing Team" with his brother Western Bunns.

The first African American racing duo out of North Carolina. They ran their cars "Soul Twister" and the "Soul Twister, Jr." up and down the east coast to Florida to Detroit and back..!

Sterling was always in pursuit of education and looking for opportunities to learn new things. From 1970 to 1973 he went on to obtain many certifications and licenses which included Property & Liability Life, Health & Accident Insurance licenses with Metropolitan and Monarch life. He went on to achieve awards for being a multi-million dollar producer two years in a row at Metropolitan Life.

He became Grand Exalted Ruler of the Carter L. Marshall Elks Lodge #1556 on October 31, 1975.

In 1979, Sterling's entrepreneurial spirit led him to open up TLC Café in Danbury, Connecticut. This became the gathering place for many and the home of the TLC men's and women's softball team. They were a traveling team and even traveled to Robersonville, North Carolina to go on to win the tournament during Elks Turnout in 1980.

Sterling was employed with Amphenol RF, Inc., in Danbury, Connecticut before pursuing his next heart's desire. Sterling decided to enroll in the Danbury Police Training Academy. He completed his training and was appointed on May 9, 1968. Sterling was a Danbury Police Officer for 32 years. Sterling also worked during that time for the New York State Division for Youth where he completed training in Human Relations and Behavioral Science. He loved working with at risk youth and often brought them home with him to allow them the opportunity to have a home-cooked meal and to be around family. Sterling and Annie were also foster parents for the Connecticut Department of Social Services prior to moving back to North Carolina.

Sterling has always been about serving the Community and helping those in need. In 1999, he spearheaded efforts with the Carter L. Marshall Elks Lodge #1556 to send U-Haul trucks to North Carolina during Hurricane Floyd that contained clothing, household goods and nonperishable items.

In 2001, this ol' country boy and his wife Annie decided to move back to

Bethel, North Carolina where they both lived until they were called home to be with the LORD.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by four brothers, Herman Bunns, Robert Bunns, Jr., Western Bunns and Zelbra Bunns; one sister, Viola Christian.

Sterling leaves behind to cherish his memory two children daughter, Rena Bunns of Bethel, NC, a son Reginald Bunns (April) of Greenville, NC; grandchildren, Paulena Salley, Andrea Flowers, Iesha Scott, William Battle, J'Onna Heath, Aniyah Bunns; great grandchildren, Skylar, Prince, Aria, Arious, II (Deuce), Aleah, Zhyan, Malani, Ava and Cairo Everette; two sisters, Carolyn Purvis of Greenville, NC and Mary "Yvonne" Purvis of Bethel, NC; one brother, Zachary Bunns of Greenville, NC and a host of nieces, and nephews.

# Cemetery Details

## Homestead Memorial Gardens

4251 E. 10th Street  
Greenville, NC 27858

# Previous Events

## Viewing/Visitation

FEB **21**. 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Congleton Funeral Home and Cremations  
3205 E. 10th Street  
Greenville, NC 27858  
(252) 355-9995  
congletonfuneral1@gmail.com  
<http://congletonmortuary.com>

## Celebration of Life Service

FEB **22**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Philippi Church Of Christ  
3760 Philippi Drive  
Greenville, NC 27858

# Tribute Wall

SP

“ Sarah G. Pritchard lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sterling Bunns



Sarah G. Pritchard - February 23 at 08:49 PM

FN

“ Condolences to the family. 🕊️🕊️🕊️



Frank and Susie Moore Bethel, NC - February 22 at 05:39 PM

SS

“ Our thoughts and Prayers are with the Family.

Billy & Shari Smith and Family  
Danbury, CT



Shari Smith - February 22 at 02:19 PM

EL

“ Ernis & Carla Lee lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sterling Bunns



Ernis & Carla Lee - February 21 at 09:46 PM

BH

“ *Barbara Highsmith lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sterling Bunns*



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**Barbara Highsmith** - February 21 at 08:50 PM

AH

“ *Annie R. Hickman lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sterling Bunns*



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**Annie R. Hickman** - February 21 at 03:44 PM

W1

“ *May God continue to lend mercy and grace to Cousin Sterling and our entire family during this time of sorrow. Thank God for his energy of compassion and service. It was well appreciated and he will be missed by all.*

*Willie L Andrews and Family  
BUHS Class of 1961*

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**Willie L Andrews (BUHS 1961)** - February 21 at 11:34 AM

WC

“ *Walter And Mildred Council lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sterling Bunns*



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**Walter and Mildred Council** - February 21 at 12:42 AM

CC

“ I'm going to miss you Soul Twister Jr,But I'll never forget you or the times we spent together. R.I.P. Officer you fought a good fight.



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**Carlton Clemons** - February 20 at 05:32 PM

CC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**Carlton Clemons** - February 20 at 05:25 PM

EG

“ Extending our condolences to the Bunns family. R.I.P. my friend. 🙏💙🕊️😊  
Donnie Briley & Ella Garcia



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**Ella Garcia** - February 20 at 01:22 PM

PB

“ Perry Best lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sterling Bunns



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**Perry Best** - February 20 at 11:32 AM

EC

“ I honor your public service duties as a policeman back years ago. Thank you very much. Rest in peace, Cuz. 💜



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**Ernest Clemons** - February 20 at 11:08 AM



“ Sending my condolences to the family



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**Annette Goddard** - February 19 at 09:15 PM

DS

“ Sending our deepest condolences to our family Love you all Carmack and Stancil family



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**Diane Carmack Stancil** - February 19 at 08:45 PM

TM

“ Dear Rena &family,  
I was sorry to hear of your Dad’s passing. I was a Danbury police officer for 45years.  
Sterling was a special police officer and he and I worked the streets together many times in the 70”s. He was such a good guy and fun to work with. But he definitely did not like the cold weather up here. I hope the happy memories you and your family shared with him can be of some comfort to all of you at this sad time. Deepest sympathy  
,Tom Michae

Tom Michael - February 19 at 07:49 PM

NA

The Bunn Family  
I have always had the greatest respect for your family and father. I am sorry for your loss. I’m sending you love and wishing you peace and comfort at this difficult time.  
God bless you,  
Nada Little Albritton

Nada Albritton - February 20 at 11:20 AM

NW

“ Noah And Artis Willoughby lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sterling Bunns



Noah and Artis Willoughby - February 19 at 04:43 PM

DE

“ The Howard/Ewell families extend our sincere condolences to the family. May the Lord comfort and strengthen you during this time of sorrow.  
With deepest sympathy.🙏

Dianne Howard Ewell - February 19 at 03:47 PM

RC

“ *Rhonetta Brown Clark lit a candle in memory of Sterling Bunns*



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**RhonettaBrown Clark** - February 19 at 01:37 PM

RF

“ *Sending our deepest sympathy to the Bunns family. I was so heartbroken to hear about the passing of my childhood school friend. Sterling was a special part of my childhood. He was my classmate from 1954 to 1961 and I will always cherish our childhood memories. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.*

*Elder Rayfield and Sis. Shirley Farmer*

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**Rayfield Farmer** - February 19 at 10:32 AM

MP

“ *Michelle Purvis lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sterling Bunns*



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**Michelle Purvis** - February 19 at 03:22 AM

RR

“ *Ruth Randolph lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sterling Bunns*



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**Ruth Randolph** - February 18 at 09:47 PM

MF

“ *My sincere condolences to the Bunns family. I have many fond memories of “Rabbit” and each time my wife and I were in the Greenville area, we always took the time to see “Rabbit “ upon our arrival and the day we departed. May Almighty God gently guide your soul home. Rest easy Brother Bunns. You will be missed by many but the unspeakable joy and peace you now feel, I know you will not trade for one more day on this earth! Good night my dear brother! Good night!*

*Mike & Cynthia Harris-Furman*

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**mike furman** - February 18 at 09:05 PM

ML

“ *Mildred And William Little lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sterling Bunns*



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**Mildred and William Little** - February 18 at 06:07 PM

GB

“ *Gloristine Brown lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sterling Bunns*



**Gloristine Brown** - February 18 at 04:19 PM

JH

“ *Sending my condolences to the Bunns family. May the Lord give you strength during this difficult time. Zack know that you and your family will be in my prayers 🙏. Jessie Harris, Tarboro, NC.*



**Jessie Harris** - February 18 at 03:18 PM

BN

“ *To the Bunns family:  
Sending my condolences to the Bunns family. May the Lord continue to strengthen the family. Carolyn and Mary Sue know that I'm praying for you and please continue to gain strength from the Lord. 🙏❤️. Bettie Purvis, Bethel NC.*



**Bettie Purvis Bethel NC** - February 18 at 03:10 PM

MC

“ *We're surely going to miss you and your funny stories! Niece - Monica (and Mike)*

**Monica Crawford** - February 18 at 02:17 PM

AC

“ Agnes Clemons lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sterling Bunns



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**Agnes Clemons** - February 18 at 01:41 PM

DC

“ To the Bunns Family,  
I submit to the family members words of my condolences to say, that although Sterling, has passed from this side but know that there is another side in which he will be presence in, that everlasting life. In this life here on earth, we all must face the departure but, if we have kept the faith and all hopes in Jesus Christ, we shall be alright to meet one another again in our afterlife. Know that sadness may endure for a night or, a while but, we all are promised joy A in the morning. A member of Bethel Union High School that knew Sterling. David Clemons-Class of 1963.

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**David Clemons** - February 18 at 01:16 PM

MK

“ Condolences to my family as you say see you later to uncle Sterling. So many special memories I will cherish forever.  
Marilyn Knight, Bunn, Anderson Families



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**Marilyn Knight** - February 18 at 11:23 AM

SJ

“ *Our sincere condolences to the family.  
Praying God will give you peace and comfort  
during this time of sorrow.*

*Timothy and Sheila (Payton) Jones*

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**Sheila Jones** - February 18 at 10:49 AM



CA

“ *Cora Andrews lit a candle in memory of Mr.  
Sterling Bunns*

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**Cora Andrews** - February 18 at 08:05 AM



LH

“ *Prayers of comfort and peace for the Family.*

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**Loretta E Hudson** - February 17 at 10:48 PM



EC

“ *Prayers of comfort and sincere condolences  
to the family and friends of Mr. Sterling  
Bunns. May his soul rest in eternal peace with  
Jesus in Heaven. 🙏*

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**Ernest Clemons** - February 17 at 09:08 PM



JS

“ Joseph & Peggy SLade sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Sterling Bunns



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**Joseph & Peggy SLade** - February 17 at 08:50 PM

WB

“ My condolences to the family.



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**William Oscar Bland** - February 17 at 07:50 PM

EL

“ My condolences to the family and friends of Sterling may GOD give you peace at this sad time in life. A nice man.

*Ethel Lee  
Danbury,Ct*

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**ethel lee** - February 17 at 03:22 PM

IE

“ We will miss Sterling and his sense of humor.  
Cousin Izora Willis-Ebron, Mack Ebron, Jr. &  
Family



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**Izora Ebron** - February 17 at 03:00 PM

DC

“ Dorothy Clemons lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sterling Bunns



Dorothy Clemons - February 17 at 02:04 PM

AJ

“ Annette Marshall James lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sterling Bunns



Annette Marshall James - February 17 at 01:56 PM

EC

“ Our sincere condolences and prayers to the family on the loss of your love one. Eddie and Faye Chance



Eddie Chance - February 17 at 01:52 PM

EW

“ To the Family:  
We are so sorry for you loss. Praying peace, comfort and God's strength today and the days ahead. Know that his beautiful memories will always remain in your hearts.



James and Evangeline Wilson Family

Evangeline Wilson - February 17 at 01:48 PM

PD

“ *My condolences to the family, thank you for showing me so much kindness and such a great time, when I went to your BBQ some years back. I pray for strength for your family during this time.*

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**Patricia Daniels** - February 17 at 01:45 PM

JW

“ *Judy Warren lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sterling Bunns*



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**Judy Warren** - February 17 at 01:25 PM

DG

“ *Condolences and prayers to the family. Thanks for taking the time to share your knowledge and wisdom with me and being there. You will be missed greatly but always cherished for the man you represent in our lives.*

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**Dallas Gardner** - February 17 at 09:44 AM

BW

“ *Ben Wooten lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sterling Bunns*



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**Ben Wooten** - February 16 at 10:53 PM

KP

“ *Kay Peele lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sterling Bunns*



**Kay Peele** - February 16 at 08:58 PM



“ *Joyce Purvis lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sterling Bunns*



**Joyce Purvis** - February 16 at 08:29 PM

ML

“ *Mr Mrs Bennie Little lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sterling Bunns*



**Mr Mrs Bennie Little** - February 16 at 04:55 PM

DP

“ *My condolences to the Bunns Family.*

**Delphine Parker** - February 16 at 04:26 PM

FM

“ *All Prayers up for the Bunn Family*

**Fanny Morning** - February 16 at 04:13 PM

EL

*My condolences to the family and friends of Sterling. May God give you peace at this time in life.*

*Ethel Lee  
Danbury CT*

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**ethel lee** - February 17 at 08:10 AM

DO

“ *DonnieBunn lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sterling Bunns*



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**DonnieBunn** - February 16 at 03:56 PM

DO

“ *DonnieBunn lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sterling Bunns*



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**DonnieBunn** - February 16 at 03:54 PM

TF

“ *Teresa Fleming lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sterling Bunns*



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**Teresa Fleming** - February 16 at 02:41 PM

BP

“ *Brenda Purvis lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sterling Bunns*



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**Brenda Purvis** - February 16 at 02:21 PM

LB

“ *LaBrena Burns lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sterling Bunns*



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**LaBrena Burns** - February 16 at 01:53 PM

MC

“ *Marilynn Council lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sterling Bunns*



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**Marilynn Council** - February 16 at 01:38 PM

DC

“ *My prayers are with the Bunns, family members in this time of their lost. May God's Holy Blessings see you through. Amen.*

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**David Clemons** - February 16 at 12:29 PM

AC

“ *Angela Carmon lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sterling Bunns*



Angela Carmon - February 16 at 12:12 PM

WM

“ *Wanda McNair lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sterling Bunns*



Wanda McNair - February 16 at 11:58 AM

DO

*Sorry for the lost of sterling. May God continue to bless the family at this time*

DonnieBunn - February 16 at 01:28 PM

YD

“ *Condolences to the Bunns Family, Marlon and Yvonne Duren*

Yvonne Duren - February 16 at 11:34 AM

BS

“ *Beverly Spencer lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sterling Bunns*



Beverly Spencer - February 16 at 11:22 AM

EG

“ *Ella Grimes sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. Sterling Bunns*



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**Ella Grimes** - February 16 at 01:15 AM

CB

“ *Clarene And Stuart Jr Brock lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sterling Bunns*



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**Clarene and Stuart Jr Brock** - February 15 at 09:58 PM

BH

“ *Barbara Hollis-Carr lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sterling Bunns*



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**Barbara Hollis-Carr** - February 15 at 08:46 PM

WA

“ *Willie And Mary Andrews lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sterling Bunns*



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**Willie and Mary Andrews** - February 15 at 08:24 PM

EL

*To the family and friends of Sterling my condolences are with you. May God give you peace at this time.*

*Ethel Lee  
DANBURY,CT*

ethel lee - February 16 at 12:19 PM

EH

“ *May Jesus Christ Continue To Comfort And Strengthen The Family* 🙏



Evangelist Gwen Hudson - February 15 at 11:27 AM

MT

“ *Mack & Ann Teel lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sterling Bunns*



mack & Ann Teel - February 15 at 10:38 AM

DO

*Lit a candle in the memory of sterling Bunn*

DonnieBunn - February 16 at 01:34 PM

HD

“ *Hazel Brown Davis lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sterling Bunns*



Hazel Brown Davis - February 15 at 04:44 AM

DB

“ You will deeply missed Uncle Sterlin..Love you..My condolences to my father an The Bunns family☐👤🙏❤️



Damaris Bunns - February 14 at 07:23 PM

CS

“ Cecily Sene lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sterling Bunns



Cecily Sene - February 14 at 05:51 PM

MH

“ Mona Harris lit a candle in memory of Mr. Sterling Bunns



Mona Harris - February 14 at 02:13 PM

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.



Congleton Funeral Home and Staff - February 14 at 10:11 AM

WD

*Going to miss you!!*

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**Westley daniels** - February 14 at 02:38 PM

MF

*To the Bunns Family. Be not dismayed whate'er betide,  
God will take care of you;  
Beneath his wings of love abide,  
God will take care of you.  
During this time, as I continue to grieve the recent passing of my  
mother, I will continue to keep you covered in prayer.*

*Mike & Cynthia Furman*

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**michael furman** - February 14 at 05:58 PM

DB

*Sending prayers and my deepest condolences to the Bunn's family.*

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**Debra Brown** - February 15 at 08:37 PM