Memories are Golden

Dad,

they say memories are golden well maybe this is true.

We never wanted memories, we only wanted you.

A million times we needed you, a million times we cried,

If love alone could have saved you

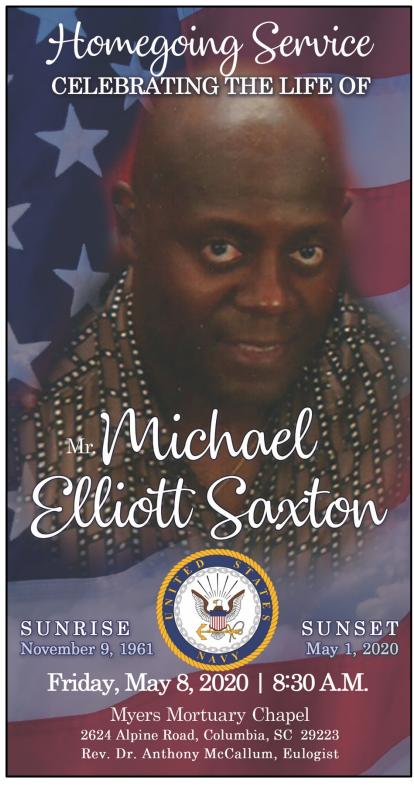
You never would have died.

In Life we loved you dearly, in death we love you still,
Inside our hearts you hold a place no one could ever fill.
If tears could build a stairway and heartache make a lane,
We'd walk the path to heaven and bring you back again.
Our Family chain is broken, and nothing seems the same
But as God calls us one by one, the chain will link again.

Your loving children







The Obituary

Michael Elliott Saxton, affectionately known as "Rusty", transitioned to be with his heavenly father on May 1, 2020 at Dorn V.A. Hospital in Columbia, SC. He was the son of Willie Dell Riley and the late William Elmore of Blackville, SC.

Michael attended the public schools of Barnwell County and was a 1980 graduate of Blackville-Hilda High School. Michael was a member of the Blackville-Hilda Football Team (# 60) and the mile-relay team. Upon graduating, he enlisted in the United States Navy serving a total of twenty-three years which included active and reserve duty. While in the Navy, he served on the following ships: the USS Proteus, the USS Arkansas and the USS Pratt. Michael was a faithful and dedicated employee at Fairmont Tamper (now known as Harsco Rail) for twenty-nine years as a welder until his health declined. Michael enjoyed fishing and working out. Although he was very quiet, if he met you, he instantly became a dear friend.

Michael joined Bethlehem Baptist Church College Place and was baptized in 1996 under the leadership of Dr. Charles Allen Faulk.

Those who will cherish his memories are his loving daughter, Michaeli Saxton whom he referred to as "Rock" and her mother. Karen Goodwin, a former spouse of 16 years and caregiver of Columbia, SC; two sons, Michael (Tamika) Williams, Sr., of Graniteville, SC and William Wilson of Columbia, SC; one grandson, Michael Williams Jr.; mother, Willie Dell Riley of Blackville, SC; three sisters, Linda (James) Roberts and Rose (Albert) Raysor of Blackville, SC and Tracy Seymour of Trenton, SC; five brothers, Billy Johnson, Anthony Felder and Joshua Saxton of Blackville, SC, Dennis Saxton, Sr. and Rodney (Sherae) Saxton of Columbia, SC; his best friend, Mr. Ronnie Woods of Blackville, SC; two of his workout spotters, Mr. Lennox McDonald and Mr. James McCallum; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends all of who join the family in sharing the grief caused by his departure, but are rejoicing in his homegoing.

























Order of Service

Rev. Adeira Black, Officiant

Prelude

Processional

Hymn of Praise "Oh I Want To See Him"

Scriptures

Reverend Jimmy Duggan

County Grove Baptist Church, Winnsboro

Old Testament: Psalm 6:1-5

New Testament: Matthew 11:25-30

Prayer of Comfort Reverend Jimmy Duggan

Reflections: (Limit to 2-3minutes) Mr. Byron Tobin, Supervisor

Mr. Monnie Simpson "4 Amigos", Shipmates

Attorney Tim Moore, Former Football Coach

Mr. Joshua Saxton, Brother

Resolution Beverly Williams, BHHS class of 1980

Selection "Order My Steps"

Words of Comfort

Rev. Dr. Anthony McCallum

Bethlehem Baptist Church College Place

Committal

Closing Prayer

Benediction

Recessional

"On My Way"

Interment

Fort Jackson National Cemetery 4170 Percival Road, Columbia, South Carolina 29229

