

Don't grieve for me now, I am free,
 I'm following the path God laid for me.. don't
 cry for me because I'm ok I'm going to a
 beautiful place one that's not to far away... I
 heard that beautiful call I turned my back and
 left it all ... I could not stay another day, my
 tasks that's not done must now stay that way.. I
 found peace at the end of the day.. now, I must
 go, no I can't stay.. I wish y'all the sunshine of
 tomorrow for now I must go home no you can
 not follow.. I know my time seems so brief but
 I promise you I'll always visit as you sleep ...
 Please don't spend so much time with grief I
 promise y'all my heart is feel with so much
 peace.. Now, I must go to finally rest because
 one thing for sure God knows best.. He loves
 me just as much as He loves you but He loves
 me some much He let me know.. Now God
 wanted me, so He let me be,
 He let me go and set me free!

Love you so much Grandad Skeeter
 From your Grandkids



THE HOMEGOING CELEBRATION FOR

Sunrise
 October 6, 1950

Sunset
 December 29, 2021

My babies

Expressions of Appreciation

We, the family of, Willie Ray Bates, Jr., would like
 to extend a heartfelt thank you to for each
 expression of gratitude shown to us during this
 difficult time. We are grateful for all our you
 and pray God's blessings upon each of you.

F.B. Pratt & Son Funeral Home
 601 South Street, Newberry, S.C. 29108
 803.276.1206
"Where Courtesy and Excellence Dwell"
 Program Design: Kenyetta B. Gallman

Willie Ray

BATES, Jr.

Tuesday, January 4, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

Helena Community Outreach Ministry
 1928 Wilson Road
 Newberry, South Carolina

Reverend Karen Gray, Pastor

THE OBITUARY

MR. WILLIE RAY BATES, JR.

Mr. Willie Ray Bates, Jr. was born October 6, 1950 in Prosperity, South Carolina to the late Willie Ray Bates and the late Estella Ruff Bates. He passed away on Wednesday, December 29, 2021 at Prisma Health Richland Hospital.

Mr. Bates was employed with Tom Brigman Contractors. He attended Newberry County Public Schools.

Mr. Bates was predeceased by siblings Emma Bates, Tina Bates, Bessie Boyd, Lee Norris; uncle, Sidney Bates and mother-in-law, Dorothy Little.

He is survived by his wife, Linda Bates; daughters Letonya Bates and Tasha Bates; siblings, Alzalee Tucker, Arabelle Bates, Tracey Bates, Jewel Bates, Carolyn Bates, Gwen Parker (Bruce), Deborah Cockel (Eddie), and Sonyaray Bates; aunts, Ida Dickson and Rosie Linger; uncle, Steve Wise; brothers-in-law, William Booker and Jerry Long; grandchildren, Latazma Bates, Keywanya Bate, Keylonte Bates, and Tamostny Bates; great-grandchildren, Jamarriuna Bates-Counts, Braylnn Bates and Jaivenchy Gardner; other relatives and friends.



THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Tuesday, January 4, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

Reverend Jacqueline R. Sims, Officiating

Processional	Clergy and Family
Final Viewing	Family and Friends
Hymn	Reverend Jacqueline R. Sims
Prayer	Reverend Karen Gray
Scripture Readings	
Old Testament	<i>Psalms 23</i>
New Testament	<i>Ecclesiastes 3:1-8</i>
Remarks	(Please limit to 2 minutes)
Selection	Reverend Jacqueline R. Sims
Words of Comfort	Reverend Jacqueline R. Sims
Committal and Benediction	Graveside
Interment	Werts Cemetery Newberry, South Carolina