

*Pallbearers*

Nephews  
Friends

*Flower Bearers*

Nieces

*Honorary Pallbearers*

Victor Gill  
Timmy Goss  
Jeff Hilton  
Thomas McCullough  
Shelbyville Police Department  
Honor Guard

*Acknowledgement*

The family of Lt. Michael Baker would like to express our deepest and most heartfelt gratitude for the overwhelming love, kindness, and support shown to us during his illness and through this season of grief. Your visits, calls, prayers, messages, and every act of compassion have been a source of comfort and strength when we have needed it most.

We are especially thankful to the incredible teams at Gentiva Hospice Care, Trust Point, and NHC for their tender care and dedication. A very special thank you to Will Whitrock, Jeanne P and Jerry Lawrence, (GHC) Coeburn, Laura, and Kimberly; (TP) Josh, Ramo, Jocelyn, Yolanda, and Ashland; and (NHC) Caso, Yolanda, and Craig — as well as the many others whose names we may have unintentionally missed. Your compassion and commitment to Michael's care will never be forgotten.

Our heartfelt appreciation also goes to Nelson and Sons Funeral Home for their thoughtful and respectful service, which helped us honor Michael's life with dignity and love.

From the bottom of our hearts, we thank each and every one of you who stood beside us, prayed for us, and lifted us up during this difficult time. May God bless you abundantly for your kindness, your compassion, and your unwavering support.

**NELSON & SONS**

Murfreesboro · Shelbyville  
(615) 494-5001 · (931) 685-4200

Funeral Directors: Albert, Demetrius & Brandon Nelson

[www.nelsonandsons.net](http://www.nelsonandsons.net)

*In Loving Memory*



*Lieutenant*

**MICHAEL HENRY BAKER**

**July 6, 1960 – September 9, 2025**

Saturday, September 20, 2025, 2:00 PM  
Shelbyville Mills Baptist Church  
900 Union Street, Shelbyville TN

Repass Immediately Following at the Church

## Remembrance of the Life of Lt. Mike Baker

Lt. Mike Baker began his distinguished law enforcement career on August 14, 1987, and retired on January 30, 2018. Throughout more than three decades of service, he embodied courage, dedication, and leadership.

Mike was much of a man—his presence filled any room he entered. Known for his bravery and willingness to face danger head-on without hesitation, he earned the respect of his colleagues and community alike. He was deeply street-wise, with a rare ability to communicate with people from all walks of life.

Beyond his professionalism, Mike carried a sense of humor that could ease tense situations and bring comfort to those around him. His dependability and sharp awareness were unmatched—he seemed to always know what was happening, even while on vacation.

A mentor at heart, Mike found joy in training young officers, shaping their careers, and leaving lasting impressions on their lives. His natural leadership skills quickly elevated him from patrolman to Sergeant, and ultimately Lieutenant.

Lt. Mike Baker's legacy of service, leadership, and friendship will live on. He will be missed but never forgotten.

Captain James Wilkerson  
Shelbyville Police Department

## Tony's Words

At this time, I humbly ask for prayers as we mourn the loss of Lieutenant Mike Baker. His passing is not only a tragedy to his family, friends, and colleagues, but also to the countless lives he touched through his service, leadership, and unwavering dedication.

To the Shelbyville Police Officers who came through to say their goodbyes and show their respect, and to everyone who has reached out with phone calls, messages, and support; thank you. Your kindness has brought comfort during this difficult time, and it shows just how many lives Lieutenant Baker impacted.

Lieutenant Baker was more than just a leader; he was a pillar of strength, a man who carried the weight of responsibility with honor and integrity. To those of us who had the privilege of knowing him, he was The Rock, The Shield, and the Soldier you always wanted at your side in the fight. He led by example, never asking of others what he was not willing to give himself. His courage was unmatched, and his presence commanded both respect and trust.

On a personal level, he was the best mentor I ever had. He believed in me, and he moved mountains for me. His guidance extended far beyond the job. He taught me about perseverance, faith, and standing tall no matter the challenge. He wasn't just a mentor; he was family.

This loss cuts deep. It will hurt in ways seen and unseen for a long time to come. But as we remember Lieutenant Baker, we also celebrate the man he was; a fighter, a protector, a leader, a friend. His impact will live on in every officer he trained, every life he safeguarded, and every person who was fortunate enough to know him.

Now, we take comfort in knowing he is at peace. No more pain. No more worry. Just eternal rest for a man who gave so much of himself to others. May he rest in peace, and may we carry forward his strength, his example, and his unwavering commitment to duty.

Lieutenant Mike Baker will never be forgotten.  
Tony Solomon





## Order of Service

Officiant: Pastor Larry J. Crismon

Musical Interlude by Levi McClendon, Organist

MILITARY HONORS BY THE UNITED STATES ARMY

Reading of Scripture, Old and New Testament  
Elder Travis Mallory, Path of Life COGIC

Old Testament KJV: Ecclesiastes 12:7

Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

New Testament KJV: John 11:25-26

Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

PRAYER

Elder Travis Mallory, Path of Life COGIC

SOLO

Gary Haile – “He Looked Beyond My Faults”

CONTEMPLATION

Read by Karen L. Kenney VanFleet

MEMORIES (FAMILY AND FRIENDS)

2 minutes each

Jerry Lawrence, David Dye, Sam Jacobs, Tony Solomon,  
Victor Gill (Uncle Vic), Jeff Hilton (Uncle Jeff), Kim Mack

SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO UNCLE MIKE

Louise Shelton

SOLO

Linda Houston – “Open Up My Heart”

EULOGY

Pastor Larry J. Crismon

COMMITTAL

RECESSIONAL SOLO

Gary Haile – “Let the Church Say Amen”

## Obituary

Michael Henry Baker was born on July 6, 1960, to the late Kathryn L. Baker and Henry S. Baker in Cleveland, Ohio. He was the baby of five children and spent his early years in California but returned to Langley Avenue in Cleveland, Ohio for the remainder of his childhood. In his youth, he traveled with his father in a meat delivery truck and one of his fondest memories was cooking a piece of meat on the truck's engine throughout the day to enjoy at the end of the day. He enjoyed a life of “entrepreneurship” with his brother Brian around the neighborhoods. He shared many stories of how they found creative ways to make money. And from what he shared, they were quite successful!

He graduated from John F Kennedy High School in Cleveland in 1978 and enlisted in the United States Army where he was honorably discharged. He later moved to Shelbyville, Tennessee and built a life of service and care, not only for his family, but also for those in his community. It was there that he met his daughter, Dorissa “Kedia” at 18 months old, upon meeting her mother Sherry Simpson (Allen); three years later, they would welcome his daughter, Tenesha MaKel “Kel”, his namesake.

Michael worked at various companies in his life, namely at Cloverbottom, Chatham Dogfood Plant, Empire, and National Pen, where he met and bonded with several close friends that became like brothers. In his home life, he loved playing football in the field behind the old Central High / Harris Middle School; was known for his famous homemade chili and BBQ sauce, and for hosting huge family cookouts. He loved music (played it loudly), racing, football (the Cleveland Browns, Ohio State, and later the Tennessee Titans), playing backgammon, and cards.

He became a Police Officer with the Shelbyville Police Department in August of 1987 and had a long, successful career serving his community, holding several certifications and giving 30 years of service as a Lieutenant. He retired in January of 2018.

Mike peacefully transitioned while in hospice care on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, following an extended illness. Michael is preceded in death by his parents, along with his two brothers, Eston Keith Johnson and Brian Juanti Baker and two nephews, Clark Anthony “TJ” Robinson Jr and Steven Lamar Baker.

Michael leaves behind his two beloved daughters, Tenesha Simpson (Paul LovVorn) and Dorissa (Calvin) Davis, and two grandchildren, Jackson LovVorn and Calvin Davis IV, all of Murfreesboro, TN. Two sisters, Karen L. Kenney VanFleet of Shelbyville, TN and Paulette (Dietrich) Winters of Murfreesboro, TN; as well as a devoted cousin who was more like a sister, Jill “Jilly Evelyn” Kenney (Thomas) McCullough of Shelbyville, TN and a loving sister-in-law Erika Baker of Germany. Nieces Kelli Weahunt, Lucillia “LuLu” (Shawn) Harrell, both of Shelbyville, TN; Christiana Graham of Fairbanks, AK; Linda “My Linda” (Jodie) Houston of Liberty, TN, Michelle Vinson of Hopkinsville, KY, and Mandy (Keith) Hall of New York City, NY. And a host of loving great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins and close friends.