

Legacy of Life Celebration

Mr.
Tommy Irwine, Sr.

Alpha: September 7, 1959

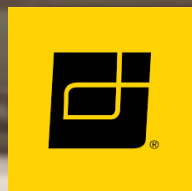
Omega: July 12, 2025

SUNDAY, JULY 20, 2025

12:00 PM

ST. EMMANUEL M.B. CHURCH

1015 OLD RIVER RD. ~ Yazoo City, MS 39194



Path of Purpose – The Story

The Beginning

Tommy Irvine, Sr., was born on Monday, September 7, 1959, to the union of his late parents, Mrs. Earnestine Epps Irving and Mr. G.T. Irving, Sr., in rural Yazoo County, Mississippi. One of eleven children, *Tommy* was reared in a loving home, along with his ten siblings, under the tenets of Christian devotion instilled by his mother. *Tommy* attended the Pentecostal Church with his family in his formative years and would come to confess a hope in and accept Christ as his Personal Lord and Savior later in life while attending St. Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church, under the pastoral leadership of Rev. Essie Jones, Sr., where he was a faithful member, eventually becoming an ordained deacon in 2001, and remained dedicated in his tithes and offering until his passing.

The Dash

An intrepid student of life, *Tommy* attended Cedar Falls School in Carter, Mississippi, until his family relocated to Missouri, where he would eventually graduate as a member of Southland High School Class of 1977 in Cardwell, Missouri, where his athletic prowess proved him to be a formidable member of both the basketball and track teams. This often led to some grand story telling amongst his friends, and especially his children, once they were old enough to understand and began participating in sports themselves . . . stories like he was so fast that he could catch a rabbit running across the field after giving the rabbit a head start, and he could jump so high that his elbow exceeded the height of the rim, garnering him the nickname the “Black Rocket.” Subsequent to his high school graduation, he attended USA Trucking School, which gave birth to his love of trucking and the wide-open road, including employment with a myriad of commercial transporters, including: M&I, M. S. Carriers, Luciano, Milan Express, Miller Transport, Dean Foods, Star, Southland Containers, Landstar and Ergon.

For *Tommy*, the road less traveled led him back to Yazoo City in 1987, where he reunited with his elementary childhood sweetheart, the former Nekather “Kat” Johnson, whom he “Adored,” and with whom he would spend the next thirty-eight years, thirty-three of which were spent under God’s covenant of marriage, after the two exchanged vows of sacred and holy matrimony on Easter Sunday, April 19, 1992, to spend “Just One Lifetime” of loving each other, and still, that wasn’t long enough.

Tommy Irvine, Sr., answered the call to public service and assumed the intrepid responsibility of duty in arms in 1995, when he joined the Yazoo City Police Department, where his zealous commitment to serving with respect, efficiency, integrity and consummate attention to detail aided his ascension of the ranks, leading to his appointment to detective within two years of being on the force. Equally vocal as he was strong willed,

Tommy's tenacity drove his fervency to complete every investigation to absolute resolve to ensure a fair administration of justice and closure for victims. Taking a brief sabbatical from life behind the badge, *Tommy* returned to trucking before he was presented with the opportunity to serve as Chief Investigator for the Yazoo County Sheriff's Department in 2012, which expanded his community footprint and help him establish an esteemed rapport with countless citizens from all walks of life throughout the entirety of Yazoo County. A proven leader who held the community dear to his heart, and who always made meaningful and significant impact through mentorship and morale building whenever the opportunity presented itself, *Tommy* was appointed to serve as Yazoo County Youth Court Intake Officer in 2016, a role he fulfilled until his 2018 election to the post of Yazoo County Tax Collector, from which he retired on December 31, 2024.

The Exodus

Tommy Irvine, Sr., peacefully transitioned this earthly life as the dewdrops settled upon the blades of grace at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, July 12, 2025, one hour after his last family prayer with his wife and children by his side, to gently enter the joyous realm of eternal rest with the Heavenly Father in the Land of Promise. He leaves to cherish an indelible imprinted legacy of 65 years upon this earth realm to be held captive in the hearts and fond memories of his survivors: devoted wife of thirty-three years, Nekather J. Irvine; ten children, consisting of three daughters, Contessa Irvine, Kelsey Irvine and Terri Richardson; and seven sons, Timothy Johnson, T.C. (Erica) Irvine, Sr., Leon Christopher (Justina) Irvine, Trevor (LaTonya) Johnson, Gabriel (Sherrell) Johnson, Sr., Tommy "Jonah" Irvine, Jr., and Dwan Johnson, Esq.; siblings, May Bell Gower, Randy Irvine, Ricky Irvine and Mary Ann Irvine; thirty-four grandchildren; five sisters-in-law, Willie Jean Johnson, Carolyn Miles, Janice Lewis, Devvie Smith and Larnice Sheppard; five brothers-in-law, Eugene Johnson, Jr., Sammie Lee (Arlene) Sheppard, David Joe Johnson, Floyd Sheppard and Willie Sheppard; and a host nieces, nephews, other relatives, colleagues and friends.

God, in His divine providence, moved His mighty hand to receive *Tommy Irvine, Sr.*, His faithful servant, home in a joyous reunion with his parents, Larnestine Epps Daniels and G.T. Irving, Sr.; son, Tommy "Pete" Bardney (Rosie); brothers, Willie Epps, L.T. Irving, Jimmy Irving, Leroy Irving, Charles Irving and G.T. Irving, each of whom preceded him in life's transition to Heaven's great waiting room, until the Lamb's Book of Life is opened, and the Christian roll is called.



~ Order of Services ~

Evangelist Ozie W. Greenwood-Chesser, Worship Guide

Pastor Alvin Mazie, Officiating Eulogist

Let not your heart be troubled: you believe in God, believe also in me. In my father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you may be also. John 14: 1-4

Family Processional & Viewing

"I Shall Wear a Crown"

Final Observation & Sealing of the Casket ~ The Irvine Family

Song..... "Total Praise"..... Unity Thru Christ Community Choir

Old Testament Reading..... Deacon Edward Shepherd

New Testament Reading..... Deacon Walter I. Gainwell, Sr.

Prayer..... Rev. Gregory Taylor

Song..... "Healing"..... Unity Thru Christ Community Choir

Designated Expressions

As a Friend ~ Mr. Carl Fleming, Sr.

~ As a Coworker ~

Mr. Troy Luster - Ergon, Inc.

Mr. Dustin Lee Wadford ~ Yazoo County Sherrif's Dept. & Youth Court

As a Father & Family Man ~ The Children

Resolutions & Acknowledgments.....Evangelist Ozie W. Greenwood-Chesser

*Song..... "Move Upstairs"..... Unity Thru Christ Community Choir,
Featuring, Dr. Quentin M. Ransburg*

Eulogistic Message..... Rev. Alvin Mazie

Funeral Directors in Charge

Recessional ~ Family and Friends

Postlude

~ Tributes ~

"Forever Is a Long Time"

*Honey, only us . . .
Adore, just one lifetime, Forever!
Loving you forever.
Your wife, Kat*

"The Treasure of a Dad"

A heart of gold stopped beating. Hard working hands now rest. This has been one of life's challenges, but they do say, "God only takes the best." We sat with you by your bedside. Our hearts became crushed and sore. We saw our duty through to the end, until we could do no more. A life of kindness and laughter, your love for all the family so true. You did your best for all of us, and we will always remember you. You leave behind a legacy so great; it's beyond measure. Our hearts are full of beautiful memories, so precious that we will treasure. You have been one of life's greatest blessing; a good friend to all that you knew. We take great comfort in knowing that we are proud to have been a part of you. Until the time comes when we meet again, who knows how long we have to wait. On behalf of your family and friends, we say, "God bless you Dad, We love you mate!"

Love Your Children

"PawPaw Kept a Garden"

Our PawPaw kept a garden, A garden of the heart; He planted all the good things, that gave our lives their start. He turned us to the sunshine and encouraged us to dream: Fostering and nurturing the seeds of self-esteem. And then the winds and rain came, He protected us enough; But not too much because he knew we would stand up strong and tough. His constant good example always taught us right from wrong; Markers for our pathway that will last a lifetime long. We are our PawPaw's Garden, We are his legacy.

The Grands

In Loving Memory of Our Wonderful Brother

Of all the special gifts in life, however great or small; to have you as our Brother was the greatest gift of all. May the winds of love blow softly and whisper in your ear; "We love and miss you Brother and wish that you were here." Deep in our hearts, your life is kept to love and cherish, not forget. No more tomorrows we can share, but yesterdays are always there. A silent thought, a secret tear, keeps your memory ever near in our hearts forever.

***With Love,
Bell, Ann, Randy & Ricky***

"Don't Cry"

Don't cry for me. Don't shed a tear. The time I shared with you will always be, and when I'm gone, life still carries on. Don't cry for me. We'll always be. Don't cry for me. No one is the blame; my death was meant to be. Don't carry guilt nor shame. The reason why I came soon you'll see. Don't cry for me.

With eternal love and faith that endures, Tommy





Active & Honorary Pallbearers

*Timothy Johnson
T.C. Irvine, Sr.*

*Leon Christopher Irvine
Trevor Johnson*

*Gabriel Johnson, Sr.
Tommy Irvine, Jr.
Dwan Johnson, Esq.
Damon Washington*

Honorary Pallbearers

Randy Irvine

Ricky Irvine

Interment

Cypress Garden Cemetery

330 Hwy 49 West/ Hwy 3 Bypass • Yazoo City, MS • 39194

Acknowledgments

With hearts lifted in faith and gratitude, the family of the late Tommy Irvine, Sr., extends our deepest appreciation to each of you who walked with us through this valley of sorrow. Your prayers, presence, calls, tributes, meals, and words of comfort became vessels of God's grace, strengthening us in spirit and anchoring us in His peace during this time of great loss.

We are especially grateful to the compassionate team of caregivers at Baptist Medical Center and Traditional Health & Hospice Services, whose tireless service reflected the healing hands of our Lord in action.

As we continue to trust God through this season of mourning, it is our earnest prayer that He blesses you exceedingly and abundantly, beyond all that you can ask or imagine, and that His favor forever rest upon you.

May you dwell forever under the mercy of God's Care ~ The Irvine Family

Repast

St. Emmanuel M. B. Church Fellowship Hall

1015 Streamline Dr. ~ Yazoo City, MS

Professional Care & Services Entrusted To:



1401 E Broadway St. | Yazoo City, MS 39194 | 662-746-0046