

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The family of Robert Leverne Atkinson wishes to express our sincere appreciation for the many acts of kindness, comforting words, prayers, and support shown to us during this time of loss.

When tomorrow starts without me  
And I'm not here to see  
If the sun should rise and find your eyes  
All filled with tears for me.

I wish so much you wouldn't cry  
The way you did today  
While thinking of the many things  
We didn't get to say.

I know how much you love me  
As much as I love you  
Each time that you think of me  
I know you will miss me too.

But when tomorrow starts without me  
Please try to understand  
That an angel came and called my name  
And took me by the hand.

And said my place was ready  
In Heaven far above  
And that I'd have to leave behind  
All those I dearly love.

So, when tomorrow starts without me  
Don't think we're far apart  
For every time you think of me  
Remember I'm right here in your heart.



**Sanders Funeral Home**  
806 E Market St • Smithfield, NC 27577  
Phone: (919) 934-8416

## In Loving Memory



# Robert Atkinson

January 16, 1948 — July 5, 2025

Monday, July 14, 2025

11:00 am

Sanders Funeral Home Chapel  
Presiding: Dr. Eva L. Mitchell

# OBITUARY

Robert Leverne Atkinson, a beloved father, grandfather, and friend, was born in Johnston County, North Carolina, on January 16, 1948. He peacefully departed this earthly life on July 5, 2025.

Robert joined First Missionary Baptist Church at an early age. He was a devoted Father, Son, Brother, Grandpa, Uncle, Cousin, and Friend to many. He graduated from William Mason Cooper High School in 1966 and spent many dedicated years working at the North Carolina Central Research Station in Clayton, NC, where he remained until retirement.

Robert had a gift for bringing joy to others. He loved making his family and friends laugh with his colorful language and tall tales from his younger years.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Clyde Atkinson, his brother William Atkinson, and his sister Trudy Byrd.

He is survived by his seven children—three sons and four daughters: Robert, Jeffery, and Cadimus; Yolanda Covington (Troy), Kimberly Kirby (Bill), Tracy Dubose (Nobbie), and Tonya Villagomez (Hugo); two sisters, Brenda Bryant (Judson) and Deborah Finch (Craig); 27 grandchildren, 35 great-grandchildren, and a host of extended family and friends.

Robert's motto was to live life to the fullest. He found joy in life's simple pleasures—spending time with loved ones and listening to music.



## ORDER OF SERVICE

Invocation  
Dr. Eva L. Mitchell

Solo  
Minister of Music Charlene Atkinson

Prayer of Comfort  
Minister Craig Finch

Reading of Scriptures  
Minister Craig Finch  
Old Testament- Psalms 23  
New Testament- John 14:1-3

Remarks  
Family and Friends

Silent Reading of Obituary

Solo  
Minister of Music Charlene Atkinson

Words of Comfort  
Dr. Eva L. Mitchell

Benediction  
Dr. Eva L. Mitchell

