A Celebration of Life

for



Faith Dale Bates

"Captain"

***"The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with His hand."* Psalm 37:23-24**

Alpha
August 20, 1956

Omega
May 14, 2024

Saturday, May 25, 2024 | 11:00 a.m.

Pilgrim Rest M.B. Church
169 Pilgrim Rest Road
Pinola, Mississippi 39169

Pastor Kenneth Skiffer, Officiating

The Order of Service

Sister Christie Blandford, Program Guide

Processional ..... *Clergy & Family*

Musical Selection ..... *Pilgrim Rest Choir*

Old Testament ..... *Reverend Carl Burton*

New Testament ..... *Pastoral Appointee*

Prayer ..... *Minister Jeremy Robinson*

Musical Selection ..... *Pilgrim Rest Choir*

Reflections

As a Brother ..... *Brother Edward Thigpen, Jr.*

As a Friend ..... *Brother Curtis Skiffer*

As an Uncle ..... *Brother Mario McCallister*

Special Presentation ..... *Brother Cedric Smith*
Mississippi Department of Corrections

Musical Tribute ..... *Minister Jeremy Robinson*

Acknowledgments ..... *Sister Christie Blandford*

Obituary ..... *Read Silently*

Musical Selection ..... *Pilgrim Rest Choir*

Eulogy ..... *Pastor Kenneth Skiffer*

Recessional ..... *Funeral Directors of J&M in Charge*



The Obituary

***"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."* Ecclesiastes 3:1**

A Time to Be Born: *Faith Dale Bates was born on August 20, 1956, to Fred Hicks and Mary Ann Bates. He was raised by his stepfather, Mr. Charley McCallister.*

A Time to Worship: *Faith (Captain Bates) accepted Christ as his Savior at an early age. He united with Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church and faithfully served there until God called him home.*

A Time to Work: *Captain Bates was a man of action who believed in honoring his commitments to his family, friends and community. His pursuit of excellence made him an excellent leader who excelled as an employee of The Mississippi Department of Corrections. Captain Bates retired from the Mississippi Department of Corrections after 28 years of service. He continued in the area of law enforcement after retirement and ultimately became a successful entrepreneur partnering with Ms. Vera to establish a lawn care service.*

A Time To Love: *In 1977, Captain Bates was united in Holy Matrimony to Evera Marie Thigpen. God blessed this union with five beautiful, amazing children: Derrick, Lakeshia, Kenneth, Maurice, and Mary. Dale and Vera spent their lives building a loving, secure home for their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. In addition to serving God at home, the two faithfully served at Pilgrim Rest and looked for opportunities to give back to the community in tangible ways.*

A Time to Laugh: *Captain Bates enjoyed life. He appeared serious but was always ready to give words of encouragement to those who needed them. His sense of humor was always laced with a bit of truth, which always served to teach a lesson, while making you smile.*

A Time to Die: *Captain Bates departed this life on May 14, 2024, at Simpson General Hospital.*

A Time to Mourn: *Captain Bates leaves to cherish his memories—his loving, devoted wife of 46 years, Evera Marie Bates, four children, Derrick Bates of Tacoma, Washington, Kenneth (Tracy) Bates, Maurice (Myesha) Bates, and Mary (Demorse) Buckley, all of D'Lo, Mississippi; two brothers, Charlie McCallister of Pontotoc, Mississippi and Carl (Letrenda) McCallister of Ecru, Mississippi; one sister, Margaret (Gregory) Hill of Jackson, Mississippi; mother-in-law, Annie B. Thigpen; four brothers-in-law, Edward (Maria) Thigpen, Jr., John (Dorothy) Thigpen, Harvey (Dottie) Thigpen, and Tony Thigpen; four sisters-in-law, Barbara Barber, Ella Thigpen, Shelia (Willie) Porter, and Barbara Seals, all of Drew, Mississippi; 13 grandchildren, three great grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews and friends.*

Dale is preceded in death by his parents, Fred Hicks and Mary Bates; his stepfather, Charley McCallister; his daughter, Lakeshia Bates; and his brother, Roy Lee Seals.



To My Darling Wife



As I Sit in Heaven

As I sit in heaven and watch you every day,
I try and let you know with signs, I never went away.
I hear you when you're laughing,
and I watch you as you weep.
I even place my arms around you,
to calm you as you weep.

I see you wish the days away, begging to have me home.
So I try and send you signs, so you know you're not alone.
Don't feel guilty that you have life, life that was denied to me.
Heaven is truly beautiful, just you wait and see!

So live your life, laugh again, enjoy yourselves, be free!
Then I'll know with each breath you take,
you'll be taking one for me.
I love you Doll and thank you for the 46 years and 10 months.

Love - Dale



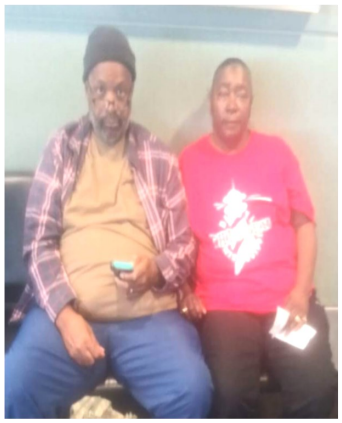
My Dearest Faith

I thank God for allowing you to come into my heart and sharing this wonderful life. I was blessed to have you to hold my hands; no matter where or what I had to withstand I was blessed to have you as a mate who loved me unconditionally for forty-six years and ten months. I will no longer hear the words "I Love You Doll" daily. Your departure has been hard to accept and the tears, for now, will not stop. My sweet Dale, you were a strong proud man and my best friend. I will forever love you and you will always be in my heart.

Love

Vera (Doll)

To My Children







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 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.
And each time that you think of me I know you'll miss me too.

When tomorrow starts without me,
Don't think we're apart for every time you think of me,
I'm right here in your heart.
I love all four of you guys. Take care of Vera for me.

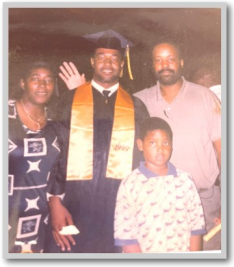
Love – Dad

Tributes from Ken's Crew

Da, *I never imagined that this day would come so soon that I would be saying goodbye. I am so grateful for everything that you've taught me over the years. I will cherish all the memories that we have. I just wish that I had a lil more time here with you. Whenever I disappointed you no matter what it was that I did, you would say "Bud, I need you to do better." I just wish that I had more time here with you. I know that you would want me to keep my head up and I will. I love you and I miss you. You will be deeply missed but not forgotten.*
Until we meet again my guy, rest in peace. ***Love Always, Ken***

Dear Pops, *I never imagined I would be writing this letter to you and to be honest I didn't want to imagine it. It hurts not being able to see you anymore. I miss the way you would make me laugh and smile. You were the only grandfather that I knew and it hurts now that you're gone. But I thank you for being my grandfather, for giving me many memories to look back on.*
I love you Pops, forever and always. ***Love Morgan***

Pops, *My grandfather was one of the biggest influencers in my life. I enjoyed every moment that I spent with him and I learned a lot from him. He always took care of me whenever I was with him. I am thankful for everything he has done and taught me. I will always continue to make him proud. Rest in Peace Pops. I love and miss you.* ***Love—Lil Man***







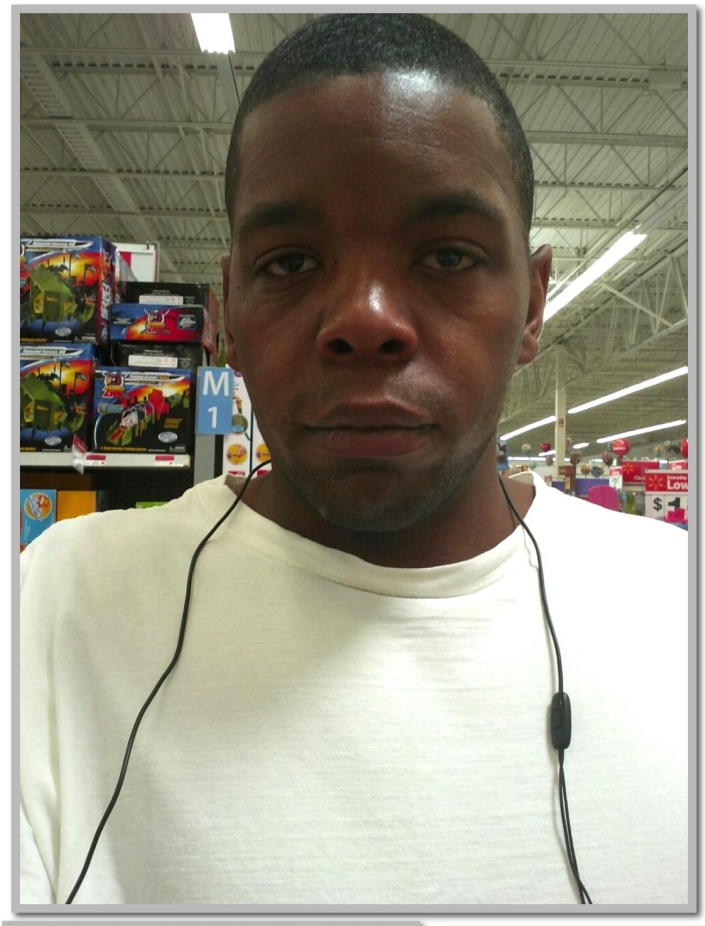


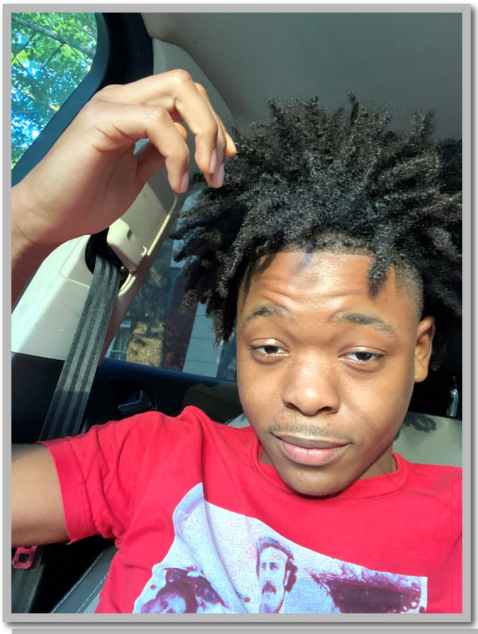




Tribute from Maurice's Crew

Da, *Thank you for the structure and the motivation along the way. I watched you work hard to provide for us, and you never complained or missed any thing that we had going on. Da, I watched you retire over and over again until you finally stop retiring. I'm so glad God gave me you as a dad, a leader, and supporter. I miss you so much and I'm hurt that your presence is not here but I cherish every moment that I had with you. Da, you were strong but you were tired. As I watched you, one thing I'll say is you never complained and you never wanted us to show you sadness. Rest now Da, you are in no more pain.* ***I love you Da! —Maurice "ReeRee"***

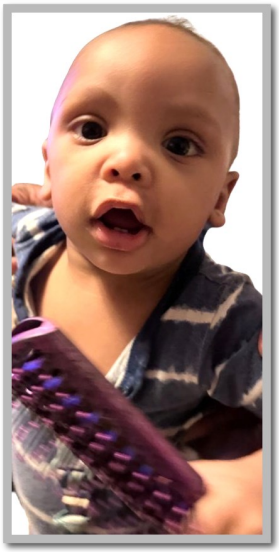












Tributes from Ann's Crew

To My Father-in-law, *Dale the bond that I saw you had with Mary was untouchable and I never questioned it because I new from the start you were her world. To seeing how the bond was with the boys, I saw the bond you had with your grandkids and how they all loved you. I thank you for the many times we had. Dale get your rest now.* ***Love Dooby***

Paw-Paw, *We wanted you to get better. You were our best friend no more fist bumps. Paw-Paw no more us picking on each other. No more tricking you because you didn't know us apart. Paw-Paw, I'm glad you told us let me show you how to shake a man's hand because we shook a man's hand and gave a man a fist bump. Paw-Paw, I just didn't know it would be our last. Now Paw-Paw we have you as an angel watching over us.* ***Love—Aden and Amari (Your Lil Buddies)***

Paw-Paw, *You never said Nuk I'm leaving. You never said Nuk goodbye. You were gone before I knew it and only God knows why. I loved you dearly. You were my father figure, my best friend, my buddy (as you would say). Paw-Paw in death I still love you. In my heart, I will hold a place that only you can fill. It broke my heart to loose you, but you didn't go alone a part of me when with you the day God took you home to rest.* ***Love—Alonzo "Nuk"***

Oh Da, *As the days go by, I realize I can't call your phone to ask you questions or just check on you. Da, all I needed was more time, one more minute. I know that you loved me and for that I will cherish every day, along with the memories. From you calling saying, "Doll what you cook?" to saying "Suga it's ok." I knew being called "doll" was a thing for you but calling me "Suga" meant the world to me. I'll never get to hear "Ann leave your momma alone." I'll never get to hear "Doll you don't have to rush off." Now I wish I would have stayed one more minute. Oh Da, I know you were tired, I never thought I would deal with anything so difficult than having to face each day without you being here. God gave me the best Dad a girl could ask for. I love you so much. Da, get your rest now. We got momma moving forward.* ***Love—Ann "Suga"***











Tribute from Jazz's Crew



Deddy, *Its been one of the hardest things to lose you. You meant so much to me. You are in my heart Da and that's where you'll always be. I know that heaven called you home, but I wish you could have stayed, because the only thing left is memories of you that will never fade. Da, I truly did not want to lose you and I promise you didn't go alone. Because part of me went with you, when heaven called you home. Just remember one thing we are not apart. You're here with me in my memories and in my broken heart…*

Until we meet again.—Love Jazz





Tribute from Dale's Siblings

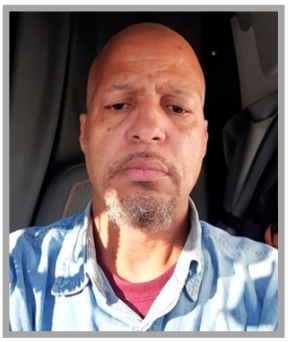




Our Brother, *Words cannot describe the loss we feel saying farewell to you. But heaven chose to give you wings and now its time you fly. I wish that we could have more time, that God had let you stay. Forever would not be long enough but I would take one day. I wish I had just one more chance to laugh with you again just for a little while. Gone too soon, but not forgotten, forever you will remain, in our hearts. Until I see you again, kiss momma, daddy and big brother Roy for us.*

Love always—

Charlie, Margaret and Carl





Tributes from Dale's In-laws

Son-in-law, *I did not get to choose you that honor was my daughter's. But if I could have picked her match, you would still be the one. You're the love of her life, her cherished husband and a blessing from the start. You're more than just a son-in-law, you're my son-in-heart. I know you were tired, now take your rest.* ***Love Granny (Annie B.)***



Our Dear Brother-in-law, *An unexpected brother and a friend, a bond created through family ties, and a source of laughter, support, and camaraderie that enriches your life's journey. You mean way too much to us to call you brother-in-law, you are our bonus brother. You are the family we gained along the way. Thank you for taking care of Sista, rest now brother.* ***Love Always—Harvey, Barbara, Edward, John, Ella and Tony (the in-laws aka bonus family)***



Family Memories







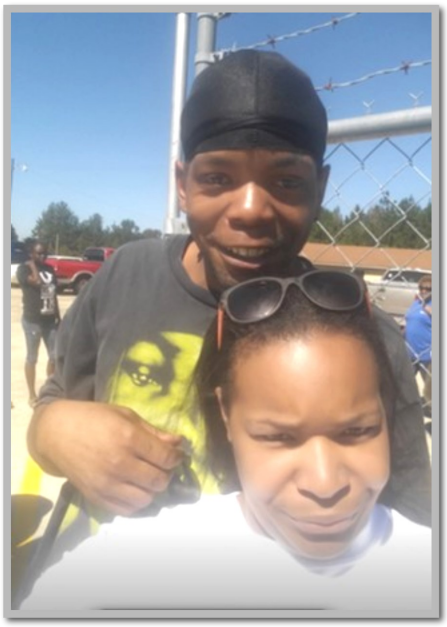


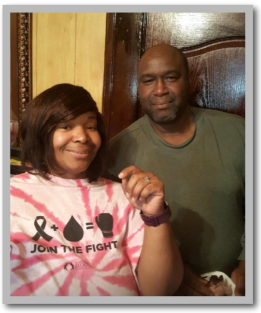














Acknowledgements

The Bates family would like to thank each of you for your calls, visits, words of encouragement and many acts of kindness shown to our family during our time of bereavement. Special thanks to Dr. Harpal Singh, the Simpson General Hospital staff, and the staff at Service Drugs.

Honorary Pallbearers

Derrick Bates
Kenneth Bates
Maurice Bates
Chris Wilson
Mario McCallister
Charlie McCallister
Carl McCallister
Demorse Buckley

Active Pallbearers

Brandon Joseph
Ray Finch
Robert Price
Kerry Thigpen
Tony Thigpen
Alonzo Newsome

Flower Bearers

Family & Friends



Interment

Pilgrim Rest M.B. Church
Pinola, Mississippi



Repast

Pilgrim Rest M.B. Church
169 Pilgrim Rest Rd.
Pinola, Mississippi 39149

Services Entrusted to

J & M Funeral Home, LLC
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Mendenhall, Mississippi 39114
(601)847-2911 • www.jandmfuneralhome.com
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