Active Pallbearers

Jeremic Brown
Tyson Hadley
Jamison Shells
Jeremy Shells
Kejuan Shumpert
Leonard Shumpert

Honorary Pallbearers

The Golden Wings
Former Co-workers of Eljer Plumbing

Flower Bearers

Nieces and Cousins

Final Resting Place

Chapel Grove Cemetery
6312 Longview Road
Chesterville, Mississippi

Repast

Chapel Grove Holiness Church

Acknowledgement

The family of Michael Penson wishes to express our heartfelt gratitude for every act of love, kindness, and compassion shown to us during our time of bereavement.

Your prayers have strengthened us, your calls and messages have encouraged us, your visits have comforted us, and every card, flower, meal, gift, and thoughtful gesture has reminded us that we are surrounded by love. Whether you sat quietly with us, offered a helping hand, shared a memory, or simply kept our family lifted in prayer, please know that your kindness has not gone unnoticed.

We extend a special thank you to the physicians, nurses, clergy, church family, friends, and loved ones who cared for and supported our beloved Michael throughout his journey. We are deeply grateful for the compassion and dignity shown to him and to our family.

Although our hearts are heavy, we find comfort in knowing that Michael was deeply loved and that his life touched so many. As we celebrate his life and cherish the memories he leaves behind, we pray that God will richly bless each of you for the love you have shown us.

Love, The Penson Family

Professional Services Entrusted To

Community
Funeral Directors
& Cremations
258 Martin Luther King Ave
Nettleton, Mississippi 38858
662.255.3626 – 662.460.2101
www.communityfuneraldirectors.com



Michael O'Neal Penson
"Stringbean"

October 1, 1958 - September 4, 2026

OBITUARY

Michael O'Neal Penson, **known to many as "Stringbean," was born on October 1, 1958, to Ilander and Bessie Penson. He was a 1977 graduate of Tupelo High School, where he was a member of the band. His involvement in music during his high school years was an early reflection of a lifelong passion that would remain an important part of his life for decades to come.**

Michael accepted Christ at an early age and began his Christian journey at Mud Creek Missionary Baptist Church in Saltillo, Mississippi. As his walk with Christ continued, he later moved his membership to One Nation Church, where he faithfully served and was ordained as a Deacon. In his later years, he attended Holy Temple alongside his wife, where he continued to serve the Lord through his gift of music, playing the guitar. His faith remained an important part of his life, and his service to God was reflected through his dedication to the church and the gifts God entrusted to him.

He was a hardworking and dedicated man who believed in providing for his family. He began his work career at Mid-South before he became employed with Eljer Plumbing in Verona, Mississippi, where he faithfully worked for many years. He remained a dedicated employee until his health no longer allowed him to continue working.

Music was a special part of his life. He was a gifted lead guitarist and shared his love for music for more than 50 years. He was an original member of the Golden Wings Quartet and traveled with them over the years across the country. He used his musical gift to bring joy and inspiration to others far and near, and especially his son and grandson, who are a part of the beautiful legacy he leaves behind. He was also the lead guitarist for Spiritual True Lights.

Outside of music, in his younger years he loved to ride motorcycles with his father and brother. He loved fishing, working on cars, watching car shows on television, and going to Dodges daily for a cup of coffee. He also enjoyed gardening, cooking, and frying fish. He would often sit on the porch with his cats, enjoying the day and the company of those around him.

He loved spending time with his family and friends. Being called Uncle Mike brought him great joy. The moments shared by those who loved him became some of life's greatest treasures.

On Friday morning, September 4, 2026, Michael peacefully departed this life at North Mississippi Medical Center, surrounded by the love and presence of his wife and daughters. He leaves behind a lifetime of cherished memories and a legacy of faith, family, music, and love.

Michael was preceded in death by his mother, Bessie Penson; one brother, Melvin Penson; one sister, Dianne Penson Terrell; grandson, Malik Penson; maternal and paternal grandparents; a brother-in-law, James Garner; and a niece, Demetric Leshaun Holder.

Left to cherish his memories are his loving and devoted wife, Cruffulean "Criffie" Penson of Belden, Mississippi; father, Ilander Penson of Tupelo, Mississippi; three children, Nivia (Reggie) Talley of Tupelo, Mississippi, Sheena Penson of Nettleton, Mississippi, and Michael Deangelo "Dede" Penson of Memphis, Tennessee; special son and daughter, Jeremic (Eunisha) Brown of Tupelo, Mississippi, and Shay Brown of Saltillo, Mississippi; five stepchildren, Will (Debbie) Hadley, Sonya Hadley, Lukenya Hadley, Catisse Hadley, and Tyson Hadley, all of Belden, Mississippi; three grandchildren, Tra Ligon of Tupelo, Mississippi, and Trinity and Shaniyah Penson of Nettleton, Mississippi; fourteen step-grandchildren; and eighteen step great-grandchildren.

He also leaves to cherish his memories two sisters, Lucille Garner and Patricia (James) Shells; his mother-in-law, Catherine "Momma Cat" Hadley; two sisters-in-law, Gloria Penson and Cathy (Leonard) Shumpert; and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives, and dear friends.

Michael will be remembered for the music he played, the work of his hands, the faith he carried, and most importantly, the love he had for his family. Though his earthly journey has ended, the melodies he played, the memories he created, and the love he shared will continue to live in the hearts of all who knew and loved him. And now, the man who spent so many years playing his guitar and sharing the music of the Golden Wings has laid his instrument down. We find comfort in believing that "Stringbean" has gone on to walk the streets of Glory, where there is no more pain, no more sickness, and no more sorrow.



"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

II Timothy 4:7-8

Come with Me

God saw that you were getting tired, a cure was not to be.
So, He put His arms around you and whispered, "Come with Me."
With tearful eyes, I watched you suffer, and saw you fade away.
Although I loved you dearly, I could not make you stay.
A golden heart stopped beating, hard working hands to rest.
God broke my heart to prove to me He only takes "the best."

Love, Nivia

To My Bonus Dad

Never forget how much your steady heart and quiet guidance have meant to me through every season of life. Always remember that you became my dad not through titles, but through the way you showed up with patience and love. You've led by example, teaching me that real strength is gentle, and real love never has to prove itself. You'll always be my bonus dad, my respect, my gratitude, and forever my family.

With Love, Always Tete

ORDER OF SERVICE

Prelude ..... **The Spiritual True Lights**

Processional

Master of Ceremony ..... **Bishop Rendell Hill**

Song ..... **C.C. Williams and the Spiritual QC's**

Scripture Readings

Old Testament ..... **Pastor Connie Coker**

New Testament ..... **Pastor Jermal Boddie**

Prayer ..... **Reverend Dr. Charlie F. Barnes, Sr.**

Song ..... **Darrel Petties and Take Two**

Words of Comfort ..... **Bishop Clarence Parks**

Reflections ..... ***Please Limit to Two to Three Minutes***

Reynard Standifer

Tra Ligon

Paul Rogers

Vincent Hadley

Acknowledgment ..... **Janay Bankhead**

Special Tribute ..... **The Golden Wings**

Eulogy ..... **Pastor Delois Parks**

Song ..... **The Golden Wings**

Recessional ..... **Community Funeral Directors in Charge**



In Loving Memory of my Husband,

Husband, you were my world you meant everything to me. The love I have for you now will last eternally. I miss your warmth, I miss your strength I miss your lovely smile I wish I could see your face again even for a little while. Thank you for your devoted love that helps me through each day and for all the precious memories that will never fade away I hope that you have felt at peace since we said goodbye. In my heart I know that we will be together again in time

Love you wife, Criffie

The Broken Chain

We knew little that morning that
God was going to call your name,
In life, we loved you dearly,
In death, we do the same.
It broke our hearts to lose you,
You did not go alone.
For part of us went with you,
The day God called you home.
You left us peaceful memories,
Your love is still our guide,
And though we cannot see you,
You are always at our side.
Our family chain is broken,
And nothing seems to be the same,
But as God calls us one by one,
The chain will link again.

Love, Your Family

For My Father

I still look for you sometimes
In the places you used to be,
In the sound of an old familiar song,
In memories that come rushing back to me.

So until we meet again, Dad,
I'll keep your memory alive.
I'll keep pushing through this life,
With your name somewhere inside.

You may be gone from my sight,
But you'll never be gone from me.
Because a father doesn't truly leave
When his son still carries his love.

I love you, Dad. I miss you.
And I hope I'm making you proud

Love, Dede

In Loving Memory of My Dad,

I thought of you today, but that is nothing new.
I thought about you yesterday and days before that too.
Your memory is a keepsake from which I'll never part.
God has you in His arms, I have you in my heart.

Love, Sheena

Until We Meet Again

We think about you always, we talk about you still,
You have never been forgotten, and you never will.

We hold you close within our hearts, and there you will remain,
To walk and guide us through our lives, until we meet again

Love, Grandchildren and great grandchildren