

Mr. William Anderson Dilworth

August 10, 1929 - June 9, 2026

William "Anderson" Dilworth, 96, of Royston, GA, passed away peacefully at his home on June 9, 2026. Anderson was born on August 10, 1929, to the late Charlie and Lila (Yeargin) Dilworth of the Red Hill community in Franklin County. He was the oldest of three children and was preceded in death by his two sisters, Peggy Deitle and Mary Dilworth.

Anderson was married to the love of his life, Joel Whitfield, for 73 years. He received a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from Piedmont College. After serving proudly in the United States Army, he returned to Royston to open the first Dill's Supermarket. Through the years he expanded his business to better serve the community by constructing the Dill's Shopping Centers in Royston and Lavonia, GA. For decades, he continued as owner of the current Dill's Food City IGA stores.

Anderson loved the Lord and was a very active member of Royston First United Methodist Church and Crusaders Sunday School class. For over twenty years, he served on the Board of Trustees for the Methodist Children's Home of the North Georgia Conference. His local service included Mayor of Royston and Royston City Council, Lion's Club, and Royston/Franklin Springs Chamber of Commerce. He proudly served for many years on the Board of Directors for Tri-County Bank of Royston and Pinnacle Bank. Also, he served as President of the Mountain Bank of Georgia in Hiawassee.

At the state level, Anderson served in the Georgia Legislature during Governor Ernest Vandiver's term and on Governor Zell Miller's Commission on Effectiveness and Economy in Government. He also served as director, treasurer, and president of the Georgia Grocers Association and was very active in the Georgia Food Industry Association.

He and his wife, Joel, loved sitting on their carport each Halloween passing out king-size 3Musketees bars to hundreds of children. Being a proud American, Anderson took great pride in sitting at the entrance to Dill's Food City and giving American flags to customers on Veterans Day. Affectionately known as "Daddy D," he was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He loved history, telling stories, offering advice, and was a great source of knowledge. Anderson took great pride in the friendships he made over the years as a business owner and community leader. His memory will forever remain strong for all who knew and loved him.

Anderson is survived by his wife, Joel (Whitfield) Dilworth; his children, Melody (George) Biederman of Suwanee, GA, Stan (Karen) Dilworth of Royston, GA, and Tracy (Lisa) Dilworth of Royston, GA; his grandchildren, Anna Dilworth, Claire (Thomas) Bryan, Holly (Christopher) Gamblin, Alan Dilworth, Eric (Brooke) Biederman, Jackson Dilworth, and Ashlyn Dilworth; his great-grandchildren, Maret Bryan, Sarah Bryan, and Kathryn Gamblin; and several nieces and nephews. Anderson was preceded in death by his dear sister-in-law, Jean West.

The family extends its heartfelt gratitude to the following caregivers who provided compassionate care and support during Anderson's last years: Marty Anthony, Teresa Morrison, Keetan Ravenell and Crystal Sanders.

Funeral services for Mr. Dilworth will be held at Royston First United Methodist

Church on Saturday, June 13, 2026, at 2:00 PM, with Rev. Mac Enfinger, Rev. Bobby Berryman, and Rev. Chris Rapko officiating. Interment will follow at Rose Hill Cemetery.

The family will receive friends on Friday, June 12, from 6:00 – 8:00 PM at Pruitt Funeral Home in Royston, GA. At all other times, the family will be at their respective homes.

Memorials may be made to Royston First United Methodist Church - 137 Franklin Springs St. Royston, GA 30662.

Pruitt Funeral Home in Royston, GA is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Rose Hill Cemetery

Burch Street
Royston, GA 30662

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 12. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pruitt Funeral Home
47 Franklin Springs Street
P.O. Box 465
Royston, GA 30662
(706) 245-7234
pruittfh@bellsouth.net
<https://www.pruittfhroyston.com/>

Service

JUN 13. 2:00 PM (ET)

Royston First United Methodist Church
Franklin Springs Street
Royston, GA 30662

Tribute Wall



“ *Pruitt Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. William Anderson Dilworth*



Pruitt Funeral Home - June 12 at 03:59 PM

SB

“ *Dale and Sue Banister*

sue banister - June 20 at 10:03 PM

SB

Praying for you all.

sue banister - June 20 at 10:06 PM

FW

“ *i have helped Anderson Dilworth with his investments for over 25 years,
He was always kind and understanding.
I will miss talking with him.
I always considered him a Great American!!
Fred Weingart
Morgan Stanley*

Fred Weingart - June 18 at 02:11 PM

JH

“ I had been away on vacation and only learned of Anderson’s passing today. I grew up in Royston and the Dilworth family were my neighbors for years. Countless Wiffle ball games were won and lost in the Dilworth’s front yard and plenty of football related bruised and skinned knees were had in the open field beside their home. The Dilworth family were always fantastic neighbors and friends to my family. My family suffered quite a number of deaths during my time living there and the Dilworth family were always there with meals and consoling us during our times of need. Anderson will definitely be missed but, never forgotten, by the countless people who encountered his kindness and genuine caring for other people.

John Herring - June 14 at 06:45 PM

RH

“ Thinking of all of you at this time. Mr. Dilworth and family have been such a constant in the lives of so many and so supportive of our community. I know my dad would also want to extend his heartfelt sympathy to all of you as well and would have loved to show his respect in person if he was able.

Ronald Herndon - June 13 at 11:04 AM

GR

“ Mr. Dilworth hired me when I was 14 in 1974 to work at Dill’s as a bag boy. I worked here through high school and on and off during college. I’ll bet half of Royston worked here through the years! Haha! He was always fair to me, and a great friend and employer. I had many friends there including other employees and customers. All the Dilworth’s have a special place in my heart, and the world would be a much better place with people like them! Mr. Dilworth will be greatly missed!

George Rice - June 12 at 10:18 PM

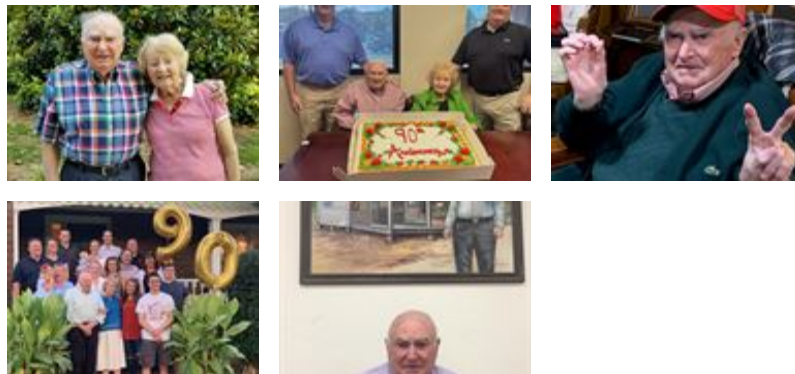
J(

“ Anderson hired me to be a "bag-boy" when I was 12 years old in the 6th grade. I had to get a work permit for Friday afternoon and Saturday. I worked at Dill's for 7 years through my first year in college and gradually worked in most all the departments. I had the privilege for the last 4 years to manage produce with Mr. Charlie! I learned several life lessons from Anderson and Mr. Charlie. Strong verbal skills--say what you mean and mean what you say!: You always knew If you messed up you were given instructions and taught how to correct and move on. People Oriented--you always respected all customers and assisted them building relationships in the community. Analytical skills--expected to solve problems and make decisions. Work ethic--enjoy working and taking responsibilities that created a solid future. Values of Honesty and care--both were honest in their words and actions and took care of family, employees, community, and serving the Lord each and every day. Thank you Anderson and Mr. Charlie for all of the memories. Love and prayers for the Dilworth family. Dr. Jim Starr known as "Bag-Boy" Jimmy Starr.

Jim Starr (Jimmy) - June 12 at 04:21 PM



“ 145 files added to the album LifeTributes



Pruitt Funeral Home - June 12 at 03:13 PM

RR

“ I met Anderson in 1984 through the grocery industry. We became Friends through our work and I cherished our Friendship. He was truly a remarkable Man and he will be missed by everyone. My condolences to the Family and will continue to pray for you. With deepest sympathy. Ronnie Rudd

Ronnie Rudd - June 12 at 10:55 AM

TF

“ RIP Mr. Dilworth. You were a true friend to our family. I will never forget the stories of your friendship with my great uncle Jim Moss. I know you and him are hanging out with the Good LORD up there!

I will never forget also seeing you in the store and you always had a great smile and a positive attitude! I loved receiving an American flag from you on Veteran's Day.

You will never be forgotten, sir.

Much love,

*Tyler Fricks
Fricks & Moss Family*

Tyler Fricks - June 12 at 10:01 AM

RR

“ My thoughts, prayers and sympathy go out to the Dilworth family. Mr. Dilworth was such a kind man. May He Rest In Eternal Peace and May God Comfort the Family.



Roberta Rice - June 12 at 03:18 AM

JG

“ Sorry for u all loss Mr. Dilworth going to be miss on Holloween giving kids candy my coldences to the family

Jeannette Thomas of Royaton Georgia - June 11 at 05:53 PM

JB

“ So sorry to hear about Mr Anderson. Prayers for the family

Jeff Burney - June 11 at 04:30 PM

WS

“ I remember Mr. D as a very kind man. He always made sure he talk to me He'll be most

William Sanders - June 11 at 01:30 PM

JC

“ Dave and I had lunch with Mr. And Mrs. Dillworth. He remembered things about me from when I worked at Dills in Royston from 1974-1978. I did not remember some of these things until he started talking I would not have made it through college if it hadn't been for him. I appreciate everything he did for me. Lots of great memories! Prayers for the Dillworth family.

Janice Certain - June 10 at 09:20 PM

MW

Mary Williams
Extending sympathy to all the family. Friendship goes back many, many years. May God comfort, strengthen and give you peace 🙏

Mary Williams - June 11 at 04:58 PM

JB

“ I first got to know Anderson in church in the early to mid nineties. I have always admired his positive nature. On Sunday mornings he would always ask if I had a good week. When leaving the church he would say, "have a good week". He was not just making conversation, he was completely serious in his wishes for me. Anderson genuinely wanted the best for everyone. His contributions to this community are so enormous we can never honor him sufficiently. His close friend Vernon Boswell went before him a short time back. They shared a very similar eyesight impairment. About Tuesday after Anderson finished checking in with Saint Peter, I can see Him and Vernon meeting on one of those shinny streets and Vernon asking, what do you think of these eyes Anderson? God Speed my friend.

Jerry Black - June 10 at 07:59 PM

AS

“ To a great man who was proud of his town and customer's thanks for being there. To the family carry on his dreams And prayers of comfort.

A.Wayne Smith - June 10 at 06:09 PM

JB

“ What a huge part of the community! Every year, our first stop on Halloween was to the Dillworth's. ❤️ rest in peace to a great man. Sending love and prayers to the family.



Jennifer Bell - June 10 at 04:45 PM

MW

“ Michael W. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Mr. William Anderson Dilworth.



Michael W. - June 10 at 03:05 PM

LR

“ Anderson gave me my first job when I was 16 years old in 1970. He was a good man.

Lillian Roberts - June 10 at 01:29 PM

JH

“ I've known Mr. Dillworth my entire life. My mother would always get her groceries from there. The family is in our prayers.



Judy Hart - June 10 at 10:48 AM

RH

“ Royston just won't be the same without Mr. Dillworth. Roger and I are really sorry for the families loss. Y'all are on our prayers.



Roger& Judy Hart - June 10 at 10:44 AM

JM

“ *Mr. Dilworth gave me my first job summer of 1969. I will never forget his kindness. Sending prayers for his family.*

Jean and Ron Miller

Jean Miller - June 10 at 06:51 AM

SA

“ *Sara&joehobbs sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. William Anderson Dilworth*



sara&joehobbs - June 10 at 05:00 AM

QW

“ *Praying for the Dillworth family. Mr. Dillworth will be greatly missed.*



Quinnton woods - June 10 at 02:20 AM

KM

“ *I know you will miss your daddy, but you have been blessed to have him with you for so many years. He got to see his grandchildren grow up. Plus see his children be successful. May God wrap his arms around your mother and all of you to give you comfort during this difficult time.*



Karen Kirk McEver & JC McEver - June 10 at 12:12 AM

LS

“ You all have my most deepest sympathy.



Lydia Mattox Tucker Shumaker - June 10 at 12:02 AM

BB

“ Mr. Anderson will be missed by more than his family. He was a legion at Dill's grocery store.



Beverly Bentley - June 09 at 11:41 PM

PK

“ Phyllis King lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Anderson Dilworth



Phyllis King - June 09 at 10:40 PM

WW

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with each of you. Mom and Dad cherished their friendship over the years. He was a very special person and will be missed. We love yall.



Wanda King Walker

Tammy, Steve, and Brooke Beggs Joleigh Jones

Wanda Walker - June 09 at 10:09 PM

JS

“ We met Mr. and Mrs. Dilworth shortly after we moved to Georgia. You won't find finer people anywhere. We went to church with them at that time. He will certainly be missed.

Jack and Peggy Slaton - June 09 at 09:07 PM

JR

“ Sorry for your loss

June Robertson - June 09 at 08:59 PM

TM

“ My dad, Mark McCormack, had much respect for Mr Dillworth. He not only worked for Dills and Lavonia Foods, he lived for his job. I offer my sincere thoughts and condolences to the family.

Toria McCormack - June 09 at 07:31 PM

EC

“ Sorry for your loss. Praying for the family.

Evelyn Cress - June 09 at 06:47 PM

TF

“ He was good man so nice to everyone who came in his store and he's sweet wife was same way sending prayers up for his wife and children 🙏 he will be deeply missed but never forgotten fly high you gained your wings 🙏🙏
🙏



Theresa @ Tony Fowler - June 09 at 06:46 PM

EC

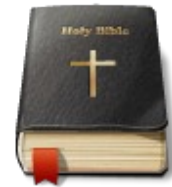
“ Evelyn Cress sent a virtual gift in memory of Mr. William Anderson Dilworth



Evelyn Cress - June 09 at 06:45 PM

JB

“ Sorry to hear about Mr Dilworths passing! He was a great man and helped a lot of people around the county! Praying for Gods blessings and comfort for the families at this time and in the days ahead!



Johnny and Maggie Banister - June 09 at 06:19 PM

JM

“ Jimmy And Lynn Mason lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Anderson Dilworth



Jimmy and Lynn mason - June 09 at 06:17 PM

JN

“ Jason And Dana Norris lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Anderson Dilworth



Jason and Dana Norris - June 09 at 06:17 PM

VM

“ *Virginia Mason lit a candle in memory of Mr. William Anderson Dilworth*



Virginia mason - June 09 at 06:16 PM

SM

“ *Prayers of peace and comfort for the family!*



Stephen & Lisa Moss - June 09 at 06:14 PM