



## Mr. William "Bill" Shirley

September 29, 1942 - February 18, 2017

Mr. William "Bill" Hubert Shirley passed away on February 18, 2017, at the Kate B. Reynolds Hospice in Winston Salem, North Carolina. He was 74 years old.

Bill was born in Snow Hill, North Carolina, on September 29, 1942. He was the son of the late Rev. Hubert Arnold Shirley and Frances Elizabeth O'Steen Shirley.

He is survived by two married children and three grand-children; David Shirley and wife, Corrina; their two daughters, Kate and Ellie Shirley; and Dena Shirley and her son, Tyler Brafford all of whom live in Grand Junction, Colorado. Bill is also survived by three siblings: Barbara Shirley and husband, Bane James of Franklin Springs, Georgia; Carolyn Shirley and husband, Gary Fields of Royston, Georgia; and Kenneth Arnold and wife, Beverly Berry Shirley of Warner Robins, Georgia. Nephews and nieces include; Brian and April James, Beth and Wesley Wansley, John Wesley Fields, Matt and Jessica Shirley, Kristen and Aaron Fowler, plus three grand-nieces; twins Adelaide and Penny Shirley, and Ella Reed; and three grand-nephews; Evan James, John Clayton Reed, and Luke Fowler.

Always interested in education, Bill graduated from Goldsboro High School in Goldsboro, North Carolina, on June 3, 1960. He received a Junior College

degree from Emmanuel College in Franklin Springs, Georgia on May 27, 1962 and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Guilford College in Guilford, North Carolina on June 1, 1964. Bill earned a Master of Teaching degree from Central State College in Edmond, Oklahoma on July 24, 1966 and a Master of Arts degree in Cross-Cultural Studies from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California on June 8, 1985. Bill also completed the Leadership Program for Assistant Principals on April 30, 2004; this was the Principals' Executive Program at the Center for School Leadership Development, University of North Carolina. Over the years Bill served as an extraordinary teacher, administrative assistant or principal of both public and private schools in five states: North Carolina, Georgia, Oklahoma, Texas and California.

Basketball was always a special joy, both as a player in high school and college, as well as serving many years as a college coach or assistant coach. Bill was the first assistant basketball coach at Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma when the institution began its basketball program. Other colleges or universities where he served include: Emmanuel College in Franklin Springs, Georgia; Southwestern University in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Corpus Christi University in Corpus Christi, Texas and Pan-American University in McAllen, Texas.

Music was also an integral part of Bill's life. He was an incredible tenor soloist, often singing for churches, choirs, weddings, and other special events. During high school years, he sang a lead role in Gilbert and Sullivan's "Mikikaido," as well as special parts in the "Amahl and the Night Visitors" Christmas production. During one summer Bill also participated in the musical production of "The Lost Colony" at Manteo, North Carolina. All of us, as family and friends, especially loved hearing him sing "O Holy Night," "His Eye Is On The Sparrow," and "How Great Thou Art."

Bill's love for God was the central focus of his life. He favorite Bible verse was

Proverbs 3:5 (KJV): "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding;" This love was always evident in the way he loved, served and cared for other people wherever he was...a circle of friends that reached literally around the world. The theme song for his live became "The Love of God," a beautiful song written by F.M. Lehman and arranged by Claudia Lehman Mayo.

A funeral service for Bill will be held on Wednesday, February 22, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. in the Pruitt Funeral Home Chapel. The eulogy will be given by Rev. Matt Shirley and family reflections by Barbara James. Special music will be provided by Beth Wansley, Stan Oliver, and Arlette Revells. Brian James will conduct the Interment service at the Franklin Springs City Cemetery in Franklin Springs, Georgia.

Pallbearers will be: Arlon Beadles, Evan James, Jerry Boone, Tom Wilson, Tom Hewson, and Harrell Queen.

The family will receive friends at Pruitt Funeral Home from 2:00 p.m. until funeral hour on Wednesday afternoon. The family is at the home of Bane and Barbara James: 50 James Way Franklin Springs, GA.

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

# Cemetery Details

## Franklin Springs City Cemetery

Franklin Springs, GA 30639

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **22**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 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

FEB **22**. 3:00 PM (ET)

Pruitt Funeral Home Chapel  
47 Franklin Springs Street  
Royston, GA 30662