

Mr. Jesse Lawrence "Buddy" Byars

September 30, 1935 - May 9, 2024

The heavenly chorus got louder May 9, 2024 as Buddy Byars' booming voice joined in.

Jesse Lawrence "Buddy" Byars was born September 30, 1935 in Easley, South Carolina to Reverend Jesse Clyde and Ruth Corn Byars. He dedicated his life to obedience of God and the love of His people. He served in the United States Air Force, carried mail for the United States Postal Service, and ministered to many with his music at College Street Baptist Church in addition to churches in the Walhalla, Westminster, and Keowee area for decades.

Some know Jesse better by the name Reverend, others Daddy, Papa Buddy, or, to many, "your big buddy Buddy". He now knows the esteem of being called the ultimate title by His heavenly father: a good and faithful servant.

Buddy married Mildred Hendrix on July 25, 1957, and doted on her every moment of their 66 years together.

When he eagerly displayed his "pride and joy" from his wallet to friends, it was a photo of Pride furniture polish and Joy dish soap. The true pride and joy of his heart, however, was the family he and Mildred created. His success is displayed through his succession. The lineage from their marriage affirms the Lord a generational God.

Buddy's delight was to be father to Larry (Beth) and Teresa Upton (Randy), Papa Buddy to Shanelle Marcengill (Lynn), Lauren Hamby (Derek), Kristen Upton, Will Byars (Kayla), Matthew Hooper, and Jonathan B. Hooper (Marcy). He had numerous great grandchildren, including a newborn great grandson named Jesse in his honor. Each time his family joined hands and he led prayer before a meal he was brought to tears with gratitude. God's faithfulness through generations was unmistakable when the circle that once fit around a small table stretched from the kitchen and into the living room to include everyone. If life is a relay race, his family is proud to receive Buddy's baton and continue the race.

Matthew 20:28 says "The son of man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many." Jesus freely and joyfully served, and Buddy was honored to serve the Lord's kingdom likewise. Buddy lived in the confidence that his daily actions had eternal implications. God uniquely blessed him to be generous with time and resources and to lead others well. He was intentionally active in the community through the Lions Club, the Walhalla High School Band Club, a youth breakfast ministry, a prison ministry, weekly devotions and breakfast with the Super Service staff, outreach at College Street Baptist Church, the Golden Fellowship, and the Crooked Creek Sunday services. His life proved his love for the Lord and his love for the people He created.

Buddy's legacy on earth is best represented by his well-worn, duct-taped Bible. Though his Bible was fractured, he is made whole.

Funeral services will be held at 2:30 PM on Monday, May 13, 2024, at College Street Baptist Church.

The family will receive friends from 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM, prior to the service, at

College Street Baptist Church.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to: College Street Baptist Church, PO Box 340, Walhalla, SC 29691; Crescent Hospice, 305 W. Beltline Blvd., Anderson, SC 29625; or Wounded Warrior Project at www.woundedwarriorproject.org.

The family is at the respective homes.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 13. 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

College Street Baptist Church
407 South College Street
Walhalla, SC 29691
<http://www.collegestreetbaptist.org>

Funeral Service

MAY 13. 2:30 PM (ET)

College Street Baptist Church
407 South College Street
Walhalla, SC 29691
<http://www.collegestreetbaptist.org>

Tribute Wall



“ Davenport Funeral Home, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Jesse Lawrence "Buddy" Byars



Davenport Funeral Home - May 13, 2024 at 10:21 AM

JF

Mildred and family, I know Buddy touched so many lives, and I am no exception! As a little girl, I remember his strong, smooth voice, smile, and his big strong arms as he led the singing and sang so beautifully in the "trio" at Southside Baptist Church with Ms. Florine Nix and Ms. Gaynell Rogers. Then I remember how we kids would "hide" in a pile of raked leaves and jump out at him as he carried the mail down our street, thinking he was surprised! He always played along with us! Sometimes we would visit with him as he sat down to cool off with a snow cone at Ms, Bryant's store on the mill hill. I remember getting a guitar for Christmas when I was around 9. My Mama took me to Buddy for lessons, but as good as he was at teaching, I didn't give it much time before I gave it up for piano, lol! Then in recent years, he has been an encouragement to me in my church music with his words, smiles, and hearty "amens!"! He will be greatly missed, and you are all in my prayers 🙏

Janna Taylor Farmer - May 25, 2024 at 10:44 AM

BD

“ Bobbie Duncan lit a candle in memory of Jesse Byars



Bobbie Duncan - June 02, 2024 at 12:48 PM

AB

“ *Alice Nichols Blair*



Alice Blair - May 15, 2024 at 04:52 PM

SH

“ *Steve, Sheree, Kylee & Kennedy Hamby lit a candle in memory of Jesse Byars*



Steve, Sheree, Kylee & Kennedy Hamby - May 14, 2024 at 09:07 PM

AA

“ *Buddy was a dear friend. We treasure his influence on our lives and our children's lives. Breakfast at the Dodd's was always a favorite every week. Because of Mildred and Buddy, Roy and Kathleen were able to enjoy many trips with the CSBC group.*



Praying for your family during time Praising God for the wonderful memories of Buddy to help each person daily.

Alton Kathy Alexander - May 14, 2024 at 12:37 PM

SA

“ *Sherry Abbott lit a candle in memory of Jesse Byars*



Sherry Abbott - May 14, 2024 at 09:42 AM

LT

“ *Leland ans Richadene Talley lit a candle in memory of Jesse Byars*



Leland ans Richadene Talley - May 13, 2024 at 03:45 PM

LH

“ *Larry and Wanda Laye Harden sent a virtual gift in memory of Jesse Byars*



Larry and Wanda Laye Harden - May 12, 2024 at 07:04 PM

BT

“ *Brian and Rhonda Tippett lit a candle in memory of Jesse Byars*



Brian and Rhonda Tippett - May 12, 2024 at 02:52 PM

SM

“Mildred and Family, Buddy will be missed. There are so many memories where Buddy touched our lives. His love of our Lord and his influence is intertwined in our family’s lives. We are so grateful that Buddy was our friend. At our house we say, “No one will sing Beulah Land like Buddy did.” Love and condolences to your family.
The McManamay Family.

Sharon McManamay - May 12, 2024 at 08:36 AM

BP

“Barbara Pearson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Jesse Lawrence "Buddy" Byars



Barbara Pearson - May 11, 2024 at 05:42 PM

RT

“Reg Tatum lit a candle in memory of Mr. Jesse Lawrence "Buddy" Byars



Reg Tatum - May 11, 2024 at 10:50 AM

CB

“Clarence and I were deeply saddened by the news of Buddy’s death. He was a fine Christian friend. Please know our love and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time. May God bless and comfort you today and in the days to come.
With love and prayers
Carolyn Blankenship

Carolyn L Blankenship - May 11, 2024 at 09:35 AM

JF

“ I have know Mr. Buddy Byars since I was a young girl. We would always call him Papa Bears because he was so friendly and just like a big teddy bear. Everyone loved Buddy! He will be missed by all who knew him. Prayers for the family . Be strong.
Judy Capps Fricks



judy fricks - May 11, 2024 at 12:26 AM

RN

“ Ralph & Joyce Nix sent a virtual gift in memory of Jesse Byars



Ralph & Joyce Nix - May 10, 2024 at 09:38 PM

RC

“ Ray Cobb lit a candle in memory of Mr. Jesse Lawrence "Buddy" Byars



Ray Cobb - May 10, 2024 at 06:08 PM

SW

“ Steve & Tammy Wilson lit a candle in memory of Mr. Jesse Lawrence "Buddy" Byars



Steve & Tammy Wilson - May 10, 2024 at 04:55 PM

LW

“ It has been an honor to know Buddy Byars and his family. I pray that God holds Mildred, Larry, Teresa and all of his precious grandchildren close during the days ahead. You are all in my prayers.

Linda White - May 10, 2024 at 04:54 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mr. Jesse Lawrence "Buddy" Byars.



May 10, 2024 at 04:38 PM

JV

“ Joshua Vaughn planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Jesse Lawrence "Buddy" Byars.

Joshua Vaughn - May 10, 2024 at 04:38 PM

PB

“ My deepest condolences to Mildred, Larry and Teresa and family. The best way to describe Buddy. EVERY PRAISE, WORD, SONG, LAUGHTER, SMILE, PRAYER, HUG, HANDSHAKE, TEAR, AMEN, AND YES, EVEN SILENCE. The list could go on and on. He lived his life serving God, Family, Church, Friends and even those he hadn't yet met. He will be missed but never forgotten for a life well lived serving Christ. We can all honor Buddy by living by his example. Welcome Home my friend!

Pamela Burrell - May 10, 2024 at 01:32 PM

JL

“ Prayers to the family "Buddy" as we all knew him was a fine man. My Father-in-law (D.D. Lusk) loved to hear him sing Sweet Beulah Land and would always request him to sing it. God graced him with a beautiful voice.

Jerrie Bell Lusk - May 10, 2024 at 01:20 PM

LB

“ Linda Helen Barker lit a candle in memory of Mr. Jesse Lawrence "Buddy" Byars



Linda Helen Barker - May 10, 2024 at 12:55 PM



“ Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Mr. Jesse Lawrence "Buddy" Byars.



May 10, 2024 at 12:15 PM

WB

“ We love you Papa Buddy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Jesse Lawrence "Buddy" Byars.

We love you Papa Buddy - May 10, 2024 at 12:15 PM

JC

“ *When Buddy was your buddy you knew you were in good company. He always took the time to be a friend. Condolences to Mildred, Larry, Teresa and the entire Byar’s Family.*



Jackie Cooper

Jackie Cooper - May 10, 2024 at 11:26 AM

EH

Loving Christian sympathy is extended to the entire Byers family from Eula Hollznd and her girls. You will be missed!

Eula Holland - May 11, 2024 at 10:53 AM

JC

“ *Jerry Frieda Cobb lit a candle in memory of Jesse Byars*



Jerry Frieda Cobb - May 10, 2024 at 11:24 AM

JM

“ *Johnny Mize lit a candle in memory of Jesse Byars*



Johnny Mize - May 10, 2024 at 10:28 AM

LQ

“ *May God give you Mildred and family His peace and comfort. What a blessing Buddy was to so many people. Heaven has been made a sweeter place.*



Linda L. Quarles - May 10, 2024 at 09:49 AM

KA

“ *What a blessing to know and be known by Papa Buddy. So many memories I will treasure with him. I will never forget his voice, laughter, prayers and big hugs. My love and prayers to the whole family. May we all eagerly long for Heaven and steward our time in service and devotion to all that truly matters in his (and His) honor.*

Kayla Anderson - May 10, 2024 at 09:39 AM

KU

Thank you Kayla Jean. You'll always and forever be honorary family to all of us ❤️

Kristen Upton - May 10, 2024 at 09:34 PM

JM

“ *Jim & Becky Manley sent a virtual gift in memory of Jesse Byars*



Jim & Becky Manley - May 10, 2024 at 09:12 AM

BL

“ Oh how we loved Buddy ! He used to volunteer at Lila Doyle & it was amazing every time he came ! Beautiful voice & he wasn't ashamed to share it . He has blessed us many times with his singing ! Everyone loved Buddy . Well heaven got them another Angel to sing . God bless you Buddy for being the lives that you have touched & blessed . Praying for family during this time .May he “RIP” .



Betty Long - May 10, 2024 at 09:12 AM

DL

“ Danny, Karen & Micah Lee lit a candle in memory of Jesse Byars



Danny, Karen & Micah Lee - May 10, 2024 at 08:32 AM

LP

“ Lisa Peden lit a candle in memory of Jesse Byars



Lisa Peden - May 10, 2024 at 08:28 AM

RB

“ *Renee Butts lit a candle in memory of Jesse Byars*



Renee Butts - May 10, 2024 at 08:21 AM

RC

“ *Rebecca Cromer sent a virtual gift in memory of Jesse Byars*



Rebecca Cromer - May 10, 2024 at 08:19 AM

JT

“ *Julie Thompson sent a virtual gift in memory of Jesse Byars*



Julie Thompson - May 10, 2024 at 08:19 AM

SM

“Buddy was faithful in every aspect of his life! He led our youth in devotions every Tuesday before school at the Dodd’s home(who cooked breakfast EVERY Tuesday for our kids). He gave the Children’s sermon on Sunday mornings - which received some interesting comments from the littles! Buddy WAS the amen corner at CSBC and we would follow with our own amens, just not as forceful! 😊 I will never hear Beulah Land without hearing Buddy’s voice singing it!

He loved his family, his church, other people - but most importantly, He loved his Savior! He taught us how to treat others by his example. Now doesn’t that sound familiar?

*Mildred, Teresa, Larry, spouses, grandchildren and great-grands, we are so sorry for your loss and know we are praying for all of you! We love you!
Tim & Suzanne*

Suzanne Merrell - May 10, 2024 at 08:18 AM

YF

“Your English Team Fam purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Mr. Jesse Lawrence "Buddy" Byars.



Your English Team Fam - May 10, 2024 at 08:11 AM

JS

“ We will miss Buddy. He was and is a great servant of God. Prayers for Mildred and family.



Judy and Gary Shook - May 10, 2024 at 08:01 AM

KK

“ Buddy was our Postal carrier when we moved to Walhalla and then we attended church together. What a wonderful man of God who shared his love for Jesus wherever he went. He will be missed and we are praying for Mildred and the family.

kathy kuhman - May 10, 2024 at 07:31 AM

DS

“ DAPHNE SCARPA lit a candle in memory of Jesse Byars



DAPHNE SCARPA - May 10, 2024 at 06:55 AM

LE

“ Love and prayers to Mildred and his family and friends.. Buddy will be missed by many who look forward to seeing him again

Lynne Elrod - May 10, 2024 at 06:18 AM

LE

“ I read every word of his obituary and every post on his memorial page and I am still without words. My mind still goes back to the cruises we all took... He was the life of the party every where he went. He was a big teddy bear and leaves a big hole in the hearts of all who knew him.



Lynne Elrod - May 10, 2024 at 06:12 AM

JB

“ Jimmy Barker lit a candle in memory of Jesse Byars



Jimmy Barker - May 10, 2024 at 01:43 AM

AC

“ Anne Crenshaw lit a candle in memory of Jesse Byars



Anne Crenshaw - May 10, 2024 at 01:29 AM

BB

“ Sorry for your loss.

Billy Blackwell - May 10, 2024 at 12:28 AM

RT

“ Randy Tilson lit a candle in memory of Jesse Byars



Randy Tilson - May 10, 2024 at 12:20 AM

DQ

“ He was a Great man!! Prayers for family and friends 🙏🙏



Durell and Carol Quarles - May 09, 2024 at 11:01 PM

BB

“ Barbara Burrell lit a candle in memory of Jesse Byars



Barbara Burrell - May 09, 2024 at 10:40 PM

KB

“ Kristy Billingsley lit a candle in memory of Jesse Byars



Kristy Billingsley - May 09, 2024 at 10:11 PM

TN

“ *MR BUDDY was a true friend and made you smile when he said hello .I will miss him .My Mom and Dad welcome you with open arms .and I know the singing just got better. Love and miss you*



Tracy Norwood - May 09, 2024 at 09:39 PM

MH

“ *Michael & Diane Hughes sent a virtual gift in memory of Jesse Byars*



Michael & Diane Hughes - May 09, 2024 at 09:31 PM

BH

“ *Bleese-Rita Harper sent a virtual gift in memory of Jesse Byars*



Bleese-Rita Harper - May 09, 2024 at 09:31 PM

TR

“ *Such a giant of a Christian man both physically and spiritually, Always had a smile and a kind word for everyone he met. We had some wonderful times together hosting Golden Corner Gospel Sunday mornings on WGOG. Only Heaven knows the hundreds of lives he touched for the Kingdom. RIP peace my "Big Buddy-Buddy.*

Tom Rusk - May 09, 2024 at 08:39 PM

JF

“ Rest In Peace to one of the Finest Men of Walhalla.



JIM FARMER - May 09, 2024 at 08:37 PM

LL

“ Rest in peace my friend. You are now in Beulah Land. You will be missed. My prayers are with the entire family during this sad time.

Leonard Loudermilk - May 09, 2024 at 08:32 PM

LL

“ Leonard Loudermilk sent a virtual gift in memory of Jesse Byars



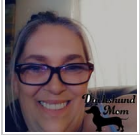
Leonard Loudermilk - May 09, 2024 at 08:26 PM

DA

“ Don & Darlene Albertson sent a virtual gift in memory of Jesse Byars



Don & Darlene Albertson - May 09, 2024 at 07:53 PM



“ Tammy Albertson lit a candle in memory of Jesse Byars



Tammy Albertson - May 09, 2024 at 07:49 PM

BL

“ Bobbie Jean Ledford lit a candle in memory of Jesse Byars



Bobbie Jean Ledford - May 09, 2024 at 07:25 PM

JL

“ Joyce S. Lusk lit a candle in memory of Jesse Byars



Joyce S. Lusk - May 09, 2024 at 07:23 PM

BL

“ Burgess (Bird) Laye lit a candle in memory of Jesse Byars



Burgess (Bird) Laye - May 09, 2024 at 07:17 PM

JT

“ *Jamie Moore Tilson lit a candle in memory of Jesse Byars*



Jamie Moore Tilson - May 09, 2024 at 06:59 PM

DM

“ *Buddy was such a an amazing man. He will be greatly missed. Prayers for all his family and friends 🙏*



Donnie Lillian Murphy - May 09, 2024 at 06:53 PM

JH

“ *Judy Higgins sent a virtual gift in memory of Jesse Byars*



Judy Higgins - May 09, 2024 at 06:40 PM

KH

“ *Kay& Pat Hall lit a candle in memory of Jesse Byars*



Kay& Pat Hall - May 09, 2024 at 06:20 PM

KH

“ *Mildred and all of Buddy’s family. Buddy will be missed by all who knew him. We enjoyed his singing although “ Sweet Beulah Land” was our favorite. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. God Bless you all. Kay and Pat Hall*



Kay& Pat Hall - May 09, 2024 at 06:17 PM

JL

“ *Jess&Marcella Langston lit a candle in memory of Jesse Byars*



Jess&Marcella Langston - May 09, 2024 at 06:15 PM

CS

“ *We all knew him as Buddy the mailman. In the early 80’s and up he would always get us with that thumb trick and sometimes a piece of candy would come with it . The Residents of North John Street Tracy Smith*

charles tracy smith - May 09, 2024 at 06:15 PM

BJ

“ *Becky Johnson lit a candle in memory of Jesse Byars*



Becky Johnson - May 09, 2024 at 06:07 PM

MP

“ *Michael Powell lit a candle in memory of Jesse Byars*



Michael Powell - May 09, 2024 at 06:06 PM

NG

“ *Nancy Goehle lit a candle in memory of Jesse Byars*



Nancy Goehle - May 09, 2024 at 05:51 PM

IR

“ *Dink&Iris Duncan lit a candle for Mr. Jesse Lawrence “Buddy”Byars*



irisduncan - May 09, 2024 at 05:25 PM

DS

“ *Dave & Donna Stephens lit a candle in memory of Jesse Byars*



Dave & Donna Stephens - May 09, 2024 at 05:18 PM

OT

“ *My sincerest heartfelt prayers and condolences. One of my favorite childhood memories is walking with Buddy on his Chicopee Millhill route helping him put the mail in the mailboxes. We always had a glass of ice water ready for him when he got to our house. He was a great guy and friend.* ❤️



Olan Thompson - May 09, 2024 at 05:08 PM

JB

“ *joyce brewer sent a virtual gift in memory of Jesse Byars*



joyce brewer - May 09, 2024 at 05:07 PM

SR

“ *Steve Reid lit a candle in memory of Jesse Byars*



Steve Reid - May 09, 2024 at 05:07 PM

LB

“ *Larry and Pamela Ball lit a candle in memory of Jesse Byars*



Larry and Pamela Ball - May 09, 2024 at 04:54 PM

JM

“ *Jesse&Janice McGaha lit a candle in memory of Jesse Byars*



Jesse&Janice McGaha - May 09, 2024 at 04:39 PM

AB

“ *Buddy was very friendly. I last saw him at Arbys in Walhalla. Prayers for his family.*

Audrey Barrett - May 09, 2024 at 04:04 PM

SH

“ *Prayers for the family. Buddy was a fine man and will be missed by the entire community!! Steve & Debbie*



Steve Harvey - May 09, 2024 at 03:55 PM

KL

“ *Sympathy and Prayer to the Family.*



Keith & Louise Lusk - May 09, 2024 at 03:51 PM

JW

“ So sorry for the family's loss. Everyone loved Buddy Byars (I never even knew his real name until now). He was a wonderful, caring soul...but would put you on the straight and narrow when you needed it (we teens back in the 70's needed it a lot). Thank you Buddy Byars for years of memories! And, yes, Heaven's choir just got a little louder.



Jeanette Wilson - May 09, 2024 at 03:45 PM

DW

I've known Buddy most of my life. He was a very good teacher, mentor and friend. God bless Mildred and Larry and Teresa and all of his family. He will be missed.
Debbie Williams

Deborah Williams - May 09, 2024 at 05:15 PM

IW

I had the honor of knowing Buddy for many years and he was one of the rare persons that was the "same, friendly, Buddy" every time that I saw him. He epitomized the life of a Christian gentleman. May God give Mildred and family comfort and strength now and within the days to come.

Imagean Wigington

Imagean Wigington - May 10, 2024 at 09:03 AM

MC

We are so sorry for your family's loss. Mildred, Larry, and Teresa, you are in our thoughts and prayers. What a wonderful man he was!
Mark and Tammy Compton

Mark and Tammy Compton - May 13, 2024 at 06:17 PM