



William "Bill" Whitfield

June 28, 1942 - March 27, 2020

Saluda, SC

William "Bill" Whitfield

William (Bill) A. Whitfield, husband of Carol Lee Watson Whitfield passed away peacefully on March 27, 2020 on the 17th anniversary of his liver transplant. He was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in September 2019. Mr. Whitfield was born in Anderson County, South Carolina on June 28, 1942 to Clarence William and Maude Langston Whitfield.

Mr. Whitfield graduated from Pendleton High School in 1960 and was voted "Most Dependable" by his senior class – a character trait that defined him throughout his 77 years. He graduated from Clemson University in January 1965 with a BS in Agricultural Education, a Master's Degree in Administration and Supervision in 1975, and an Educational Specialist Degree in 1980. He taught Vocational Agriculture, Agriculture Mechanics and Horticulture for 16 years and then served as Principal for 16 years, retiring in 1995. He established the Saluda Tractor & Equipment Company in 1996 and later did contract work for Southern States Cooperative until 2019.

After fighting a rare liver disease, sclerosing cholangitis, for over ten years, he had a liver transplant on March 27, 2003 which saved his life.

At Pendleton High School, he was treasurer of his senior class, president of the Future Farmers of America, a bus driver and received many awards during his FFA years, most notably the State Forestry Award which allowed him to travel to Kansas City by train to the National FFA Convention.

At Clemson College (University), he was a member of the Army ROTC, Alpha Tau Alpha and Alpha Zeta fraternities and served on the Agrarian Magazine Staff.

During his years as a teacher, he was advisor for the Future Farmers of America; had two National Ag Mechanics teams who placed 2nd and 6th in the nation; one national Horticulture team, one national livestock judging team, and one national soil judging team. He received numerous awards throughout his teaching career: "Teacher of Teachers", honorary American Farmer degree and the United States Steel Young Teacher of the Year award. He served as President of the South Carolina Ag Teachers Association.

As advisor and treasurer of the Saluda Young Farmers Association for 35 years, he helped establish the Saluda Young Farmer Scholarship Program using proceeds from the annual tractor pull. Throughout the years, the Association received the Georgia Tractor Pullers Association "Pull of the Year" award and the National Tractor Puller Association "Pull of the Year". He was the advisor to two State Young Farmer of the Year recipients.

As principal of Saluda High School, he implemented "Writing across the Curriculum", received the State Secondary Principal of the Year award and was President of the Class AA Athletics Association. He had a special bond with all his faculty members, but most especially "The Way We Were" staff.

Mr. Whitfield received the Civitan "Citizen of the Year" award, the Saluda

County Farm/City “Citizen of the Year” award, and was inducted into the Saluda High School Hall of Fame in 2016.

Mr. Whitfield served in many community and civic organizations. He served on the Piedmont Technical College Board of Commissioners over twenty years and served as Chairman for five years. He is a member of the Piedmont Technical College Foundation Board and also served on the President Search Committee. He was instrumental in the construction of the Saluda, McCormick, Abbeville and Newberry PTC campuses and also received the Outstanding Leadership Award from Piedmont Technical College.

His life has been defined by service, but his most cherished post was on the Chosen Children Ministries board where he served as chairman for several years. He and his wife, Carol, led multiple mission trips to Nicaragua over sixteen years. Last year in February marked their 29th trip to Nicaragua.

Mr. Whitfield was a charter member of Saluda Baptist Church. He served on the initial Board of Deacons in 1969 and many other terms throughout the years until his health declined last year. He served as Chairman of the Deacons for many years, along with chairing the Finance Committee and the Pastor search committee. He served as Chairman for the Building Committee for the new sanctuary, the fellowship building and the most recent renovation. He loved his Lord, his family and his church family at Saluda Baptist Church.

Mr. Whitfield was a member of the Saluda Soil and Water Commission for ten years and served as chairman for five. He was a former trustee at North Greenville University, and was formerly on Saluda Town Council, the Town Planning Commission and the Capital Bank Advisory Board.

Of everything that has been listed above, his greatest love, other than his

Savior, was his family. He and Carol were married for 54 years and he loved his two sons, Warren and Roman unconditionally and he adored his four grandchildren, Will, Weston, Anna Caroline and Noah.

His family will miss his quiet manner, his ability to “fix” anything, his firm handshake and his steadfast love for each of them.

In addition to his wife Carol, he is survived by his two sons, Warren (Leigh) of Calhoun, GA along with their children Will and Anna Caroline, and Roman of Johnston, SC along with his children Weston and Noah. He is also survived by a brother Jack (Johnnie) Whitfield of Pendleton, SC and a sister, Anne (Ken) McMahan of Pendleton, SC. He was predeceased by an infant son, Gregory Whitfield.

Graveside services will be held for the immediate family. After the unprecedented situation in our world settles, there will be a Celebration of Life held at Saluda Baptist Church.

Memorials may be made to the Nicaragua Yellow Bag Project, c/o Saluda Baptist Church, 112 West Wheeler Circle, Saluda, SC 29138.

The Whitfields would like to thank the countless friends and family who offered prayers during his illness and to the physicians and staff at MUSC for their exceptional care. The greatest thanks of all go to the family of a 27-year-old male who selflessly donated his liver allowing Bill to have seventeen bonus years of life.

Tribute Wall

SM

“ *Mr. Whitfield was a great principal and a very kind man. I am extremely sorry for your loss.*

Schanen Miller - June 15, 2020 at 12:55 PM

JL

“ *Bill's family and my family went to the same church (Corinth #2) and schools together as we grew up. I spent much time in the Whitfield home with Ann, especially on Sunday afternoons. I loved Mrs. Maude and Bill and Jack were like brothers to me and Ann was another sister and special friend to me. Bill was older than me and I always looked up to him. I can honestly say that Bill always treated me respectfully and set a solid Christian example for me. I extend my condolences to Carol, his children, and all the family. I am praying God will comfort you at this time.*
Janice (Gillespie) Limbaugh

janice Gillespie Limbaugh - April 19, 2020 at 11:35 AM

TV

“ *Sorry for your loss. You have my deepest sympathy*

Tina Vance - April 03, 2020 at 11:00 PM

WG

“ *William And Naomi Goodman lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Whitfield*



William and Naomi Goodman - April 03, 2020 at 05:12 PM

JH

“ *Our sympathy for your loss.
Donnie and Jennifer Hipp*



Jennifer Hipp - April 02, 2020 at 10:02 AM

GF

“ *Mrs. Carol and Family,*

I am so sorry to hear about the passing of Mr. Bill. He was a great man and touched many lives from all walks of life. You all are in our thoughts and prayers.

*Love and God Bless,
Gina, Trey, Reagan, LeeAnna and Ryan Fingerlin*

Gina Fingerlin - April 02, 2020 at 09:31 AM

MA

“ *What a pleasure to have known the head of this special family! Mr. Bill filled countless roles in both our church and community. It was a special privilege to serve with him on the pulpit search committee at SBC. I will always appreciate his character and candor.*

My sincere Sympathy I extend to you Carol, Warren, Roman, and families



Marti C. Adams - April 01, 2020 at 10:08 PM

JP

“ Bill and I attended Pendleton High School and were members of the local FFA Chapter together. Bill and I were also at Clemson majoring in agriculture Starting in fall, '60. He was a quiet leader and his accomplishments and awards as teacher and school administrator attest to his many good interpersonal skills. Peace to the Whitfield family.

Jim Palmer - April 01, 2020 at 09:12 PM



“ Eternal Love was purchased for the family of William "Bill" Whitfield.



April 01, 2020 at 07:19 AM

CT

“ Mr Bill Whitfield was as fine a man as I have had the opportunity to get to know. I appreciate all of the kind words and advice. To his family i leave my censer condolences. until will meet again my friend RIP

Chad Teague

chad teague - March 31, 2020 at 03:23 PM

JF

“ Sadden, sorry, as I have lost me mentor, my FFA teacher, inspirator, motivator, who instilled self confidence. As I told many and him on this earth, I say again today only because of the aforementioned, I went on to college at UGA..For a decade after college i went several times/yr to get oxygen, acyteline from him at FFA shop to talk and pick his brain on many subjects. He lead us adults in young farmers to start this tractor pull, since scores of schlorship to Saluda's young men only because of his vision, his brainchild. Because of Bill Whitfield teaching, I welded many rods, wired houses, barns, spray painted many farm implements. I have met few since, who could engineer, draw up blueprint and then go do the physical work and complete. I can think of only 2 others who came to Saluda county with such excellence and the top of their fields, Mooney Player, Bill Craven. What a walk with Jesus Christ, in his church, at work ,socially, everywhere I saw Jesus in Bill Whitfield..When I leave this old world, should I be so lucky to see Mr Biil Whitfield , then I shall know I am in God's presence. Truly God blessed me, you to have been in the presence of Mr. Bill Whitfield in our Saluda County
Jimmy Forrest

jimmy forrest - March 30, 2020 at 09:33 PM

CT

“ Mr. Whitfield was my principal at Saluda High School I graduated in 95. He was a wonderful principal and so sweet and kind to everyone of the students. R.I.P.



Christy Timmons - March 30, 2020 at 08:55 PM

JA

“ How inspiring it is to read the obituary and see the contribution Mr. Whitfield made during his walk. He truly left this world better as a result of his journey. I know the family is very proud of him. May God bless you guys and your memories comfort you in the days ahead. Prayer to all....Jim Amos

Jim Amos - March 30, 2020 at 11:06 AM

RS

“ Amazing the positive influence he made in my life. When asked about people who influenced me, Mr. Whitfield always comes to mind. Thanks, Mrs. Whitfield, for sharing him with us.

ricky shealy - March 29, 2020 at 08:43 PM

RC

“ To the Family and friends of Mr. Whitfield , We are saddend by the passing of our friend, I am greatful to have known him, and all of his family for many years. I was a substitute teacher and treasure the times we had during those years, and later after his retirement , served on the Soil and Water Conservation Board under his leadership. We had some great times together, and saw record attendance at the annual awards Banquet at Saluda Baptist Church. He was a great friend and mentor for many years, and made the ultimate gift of seeing our children educated, and also encouraged all of the young people who he loved and was admired by. Our prayers are with all of the family and friends who will morn the passing, but relish the memory of a man who all could call thier friend. My prayers are with his family during this time, may God comfort you. Love Rev. Dennis Campbell

Rev. Dennis Campbell - March 29, 2020 at 05:44 PM

KR

“ I am saddened to know that Bill is not here with us. Yet I rejoice that he is experiencing the joys of being with God. His life has always been a testament to his love for God.

He has been a wonderful husband to you, Carol. Also a wonderful father and grandfather. Both of you were blessed to find each other.,

The community has lost a fine man, who gave unselfishly of his time and talent.

Kay Rankin - March 29, 2020 at 04:39 PM

AC

“ Angie Cockrell lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Whitfield



Angie Cockrell - March 29, 2020 at 12:40 PM

LC

“ Carol and family...Mr. Bill was very special to everyone. Always had a smile and a helping hand for anyone he met. I was fortunate enough to have him as a teacher and a principal. The angels are truly rejoicing over his entrance into heaven! Much love to all of you...Lynn Cameron

lynn cameron - March 29, 2020 at 12:36 PM

RM

“ Our sincere sympathy to you all in the death of your loved one. Bill was always so kind and thoughtful to all he met. He was a real gentleman. He left some big shoes to fill as he touched so many lives in a positive way. Love & prayers. Randy & Mable Robertson

Randy & Mable - March 29, 2020 at 12:14 PM

SH

“ Sethalene Huff lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Whitfield



Sethalene Huff - March 29, 2020 at 12:10 PM

AH

“ Dear Carol, Warren & family and Roman & family, You all are in our thoughts and prayers and we are very sorry for your loss. Bill was an outstanding person and friend. We loved him, too! Please accept our heartfelt love and sympathy. Sincerely, Grig and AliceDawn

AliceDawn Herlong - March 29, 2020 at 11:55 AM

PG

“ We were so sorry to hear of Bill's passing. Reading the obituary reveals he lived a very productive life and was loved. We were privileged to meet him thru partners at Surfmaster 808. Our prayers are with Carol and all the family. Bill and Pat Grogan

Patricia Grogan - March 29, 2020 at 10:36 AM

MS

“ *Madelyn Sauer lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Whitfield*



Madelyn Sauer - March 29, 2020 at 10:05 AM

CE

“ *Crystal Edwards lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Whitfield*



Crystal Edwards - March 29, 2020 at 10:01 AM

 Carrie Higbee

“ *Carrie Higbee lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Whitfield*



Carrie Higbee - March 29, 2020 at 09:40 AM

RS

“ *Richard Starling lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Whitfield*



Richard Starling - March 29, 2020 at 09:10 AM

CA

“ We bought hats in KC!
Edit or delete this



Charles Ables - March 29, 2020 at 08:29 AM

LY

“ Ms Carol and family, you are all in my thoughts and prayers! Mr. Bill was a sweet and kind man, he will be missed by everyone! Love and Prayers, Lisa Yarbrough

Lisa Yarbrough - March 28, 2020 at 10:37 PM

SR

“ We are very sad to hear of Mr. Whitfield's passing. Your entire family are in our thoughts and prayers. God bless you always.

Steve & Teresa Rodgers - March 28, 2020 at 10:01 PM

SR

“ Steve & Teresa Rodgers lit a candle in memory of William "Bill" Whitfield



Steve & Teresa Rodgers - March 28, 2020 at 10:00 PM

E1

“ Billy was a great guy, sorry to hear of his passing

Edward. Wallace ,. Class of 1961 - March 28, 2020 at 09:25 PM

CA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Charles Ables - March 28, 2020 at 09:09 PM



Michael Stan-

What a great man. Always there to lend a hand, give sound biblically centered advice and when I was his student the business end of the paddle in his office. I remember him telling me when I was in my 30s and going through tough times he said to me " Mike it's this simple work hard, pray more and talk less." Thanks Mr. Bill.

Michael Stan-sell - March 29, 2020 at 09:27 AM

MA

“ *Mr Whitfield was one of the finest men I ever had the honor of knowing. He helped set me on the course that has become my life. He believed in me when I thought a lot of people didn't. He showed me how to firm but fair and also instilled in me a need and want to help others. This world is a little lesser of a place without him but rest assured the seeds he planted in so many of us are bearing fruit to this day. My heart and prayers go out to y'all.*
Michael Arrington

michael arrington - March 28, 2020 at 08:57 PM

MS

“ *Roman and Family,*
Marie and I are so sorry to hear of your loss. I have such fond memories of your Dad, a true Southern gentleman.
Morrell and Marie Springs



morrell springs - March 28, 2020 at 08:33 PM

CA

“ So sorry to learn of his passing. We had a lot of good times while in the Pendleton FFA including a trip to Kansas City for the National FFA convention in the Fall of 1959.



Charles Ables - March 28, 2020 at 06:51 PM

JE

“ Your Family are in Our Thoughts and Prayers
Jerry,Brenda and Your FRIENDS at The HARDWARE Store..

Jerry - March 28, 2020 at 01:34 PM

HI

“ Condolences to the family, may they find peace
in the darkest days ahead.



Harold and Lynn/B & B Enterprises, Inc. - March 28, 2020 at 01:06 PM

MB

Dear Carol and family
Cannot wait to hug you but right now you have our
Condolences, love and .prayers.
Benard and Marsue Brazell

condolences ,love and prayers

Marsue Brazell - March 29, 2020 at 04:49 PM

RG

“ *What a fantastic life he gave to the citizens of Saluda County. A very fair and caring principal for so many children, including ours. Thanks, Bill.*

Ralph and Marilyn Grant

Ralph/Marilyn Grant - March 28, 2020 at 12:38 PM