

Casket Bearers

Classmates, Coworkers,
Friends, Family

Floral Attendants

Classmates, Coworkers,
Friends, Family



"Well done, good and faithful servant... enter into the joy of your Lord." — Matthew 25:23

Grief is like glitter

In the beginning, it's everywhere—on your hands, in your hair, scattered across every corner of your life.

You try to clean it up, to restore some sense of order.

And for a while, it seems like you've succeeded.

But then, one day, you move a sofa or open a forgotten drawer, and there it is again.

A tiny sparkle that catches the light and reminds you of what you lost.

It doesn't go away completely. It settles, becomes quieter, less overwhelming.

You learn to live with it, to carry it gently.

And years later, when you find a bit of that glitter tucked behind a shelf, you might smile.

Maybe even laugh.

Because it reminds you of love, of connection, of someone who mattered deeply.

Eventually, something will catch your eye—a photo, a favorite song, a familiar scent—and instead of pain, you'll feel warmth.

That's the quiet truth about grief.

It stays with you, but it changes.

It becomes a part of your story, a soft echo of the love that never really left.

(Author Unknown)

Thank You, Lord, for the time You gave us with Your son. He belonged to You first, and we surrender him back into Your care.

-Love, the family, coworkers, neighbors, and friends of Tommy Dawkins

Note of Thanks:

With deep gratitude, we express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the many family and friends for expressions of kindness and sympathy shown during our bereavement. May God bless each one of you. We shall always remember you.

Special Thanks to Kildare Neighborhood: Todd Parker, Ramona Mensah, Joyce Colmen, Ms. Kaye Mintz, Bobby Roseboro, Hospice-Testa, Silas Gist, Marvin McFadden and the Family of Fairview AME Zion Church.

Arrangements Were Entrusted to:

Gregory Funeral Service, Inc.
601 North York Street
Gastonia, North Carolina 28052
704-867-4364

www.gregoryfuneralservice.com

Repass

Repass will be held privately

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

Mr. Tommy Lee Dawkins

Sunrise; February 20, 1947 - Sunset; February 6, 2026



Saturday; February 14, 2026 @ 2:00 p.m

Fairview AME Zion Church
2733 Spring Tree Court
Earl, North Carolina

Reverend Jessie Peay, Senior Pastor | Presiding

The Life & Legacy

Mr. Tommy Lee Dawkins



Tommy Lee Dawkins transitioned from this life on February 6, 2026. He was the son to the late Robert and Martha Caldwell Dawkins.

Tommy was born February 20th, 1947 in Cleveland County, North Carolina. He graduated from Camp High school in 1965. He later furthered his studies by attending Barber-Scotia college and Cleveland Technical institute, earning a degree in Business Administration.

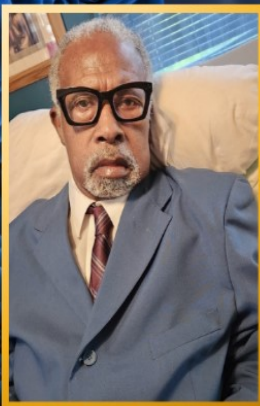
A Vietnam Veteran, Tommy spent four years honorably serving and safeguarding our nation in the U.S. Navy.

Tommy landed employment at Hoechst Celanese where he was a Yarn Creel Operator. It was there he met his wife of 51+ years, Mary Gist Dawkins. With the threat of layoffs in the Fiber industry, Tommy left and started working for Copeland Industries, where he worked faithfully and retired after 25+ years.

Tommy was a committed and dedicated member of Fairview AME Zion Church. He served as a Sunday School Superintendent, Sunday School teacher, Chairman of the Trustees, Class Leader and Vice President of Lay Council. Tommy was also an Usher and member of the Spiritual Choir.

Preceding in Tommy's transition was his brother, Robert Gary Dawkins, and sisters Brenda Dawkins Roseboro and Linda Dawkins McDuffie.

Tommy leaves in love and legacy, his wife Mary Gist Dawkins. Two daughters, Keesha Smith and Sherrie Dawkins. Seven grandchildren: SaKeyna Houston, TaQuayla Houston, Amarous Houston, Diamond Rudolph. Chardenay Smith, Johnavin Smith, and Edward Smith Jr. And four great grands, as well as a host of nieces and nephews. Devoted sisters: Verna Sue McCluney (Larry), Shirley Diana Hunt (Jerry), Roberta Grace Brown (Curtis), Martha Marie Smith, and George Anthony Dawkins (Kim) and other relatives and friends.



ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE

INVOCATION OF GOD'S PRESENCE AND PEACE

Rev. Jessie Peay

MUSICAL SELECTION

Fairview AME Zion Church, Choir
"Jacob's Ladder"

SCRIPTURE

Old Testament | Rev. Michael Gullatte, Sr.
New Testament | Rev. Ryan McCluney

PRAYER OF COMFORT

Rev. D. Byers

WORDS OF REMEMBRANCE AND INSPIRATION

Hospice Representative – Anna
Home Instead Representative – Tanya
Copeland Coworker – Rev. D. Byers
Brother-in-law – Silas Gist

Representative of Fairview AME Zion – Brenda Allison
Representative for Camp High School – Larry Corry

MUSICAL SELECTION

Fairview AME Zion Church Choir

EULOGY

Rev. Roosevelt Kelly, Sr.

CLOSING REMARKS AND BLESSING

Rev. Jessie Peay

RECESSIONAL

Choir and Congregation
"Sweeping Through the City"

INTERMENT

Fairview AME Zion Memorial Lawns

