

I'm Free



Don't grieve for me for now I'm free
I'm following the path God laid for me
I took his hand when I heard him call,

I turned my back and left it all
I could not stay another day,
To laugh, to love, to work or play
Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I've found that peace at the close of day

If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah yes, these things I too will miss
Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
I wish for you the sunshine of tomorrow
My life's been full, I've savored much,
Good friends, good times, my loved one's touch
If my time seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief
Lift up your heart, rejoice with me,
God wanted me now. He set me free.

Pall Bearers
Nephews

Floral Bearers
Nieces

Note of Thanks

With deep gratitude, we wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for your comforting expressions of love during the passing of our loved one.
May God richly bless each of you

A very thank you to Ronnisa Patterson who used to come and help him get dressed for the adult day care when she got off work in the mornings.
He appreciated that so much to get on the Access Van.

Arrangements Were Entrusted to:

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

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

Mr. Howard Alexander Patton, Jr.

A Gift Given
April 19, 1953

A Gift Returned
March 3, 2026



WEDNESDAY; MARCH 11, 2026 @ 1:30 P.M.

St. John's Missionary Baptist Church
1282 Bradford Heights Road
Gastonia, North Carolina

Dr. Darial A. Jackson, Senior Pastor | Officiating

The life of Howard Alexander Patton, Jr.



Howard Alexander Patton, Jr., 72, was born on April 19, 1953 in Gastonia, North Carolina and departed this life on Tuesday; March 3, 2026 at The Greens of Gastonia, Nursing Home in Gastonia, North Carolina.



Howard Jr. was a 1973 graduate of Ashbrook High School in Gastonia, North Carolina where he was on the tennis team. He loved playing tennis. He worked at all the bakeries in Gastonia, North Carolina as a dough mixer.

He was preceded in death by his father: Howard Alexander Patton, Sr., and his mother: Willie Lee Blake Patton.

Howard Jr. leaves to cherish fond memories to his sisters: Cora Crawford of Gastonia, North Carolina and Diane Carter (Don Carter, Sr.) of Gastonia, North Carolina; aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews; other relatives and friends.



Order of Service



Prelude

Processional

Receiving Family and Friends

1:00 p.m. until 1:30 p.m.

Call to Worship

Dr. Darial A. Jackson

Selection

Adrian Anderson

Scripture Readings

Old Testament

Dr. William Bessent

New Testament

Dr. Charlene Robbins

Prayer of Comfort

Pastor Antwonn Lynch

Reading of Obituary

Deacon Teresa Barnett

Poem

Rico Patton

Selection

Adrian Anderson

Words of Comfort

Dr. Darial A. Jackson

Recessional

Interment

Gaston Memorial Park
Gastonia, North Carolina

FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS