



Life Reflections

Willie Joseph Patterson, known to everyone who loved him as "**Joe**," peacefully finished his journey on earth and went home to be with the Lord on May 7, 2026. Joe was a man of deep strength, a steady hand, and a heart that was always open to his family and his neighbors.

His Early Years and Hard Work

Born to the late Wardell Patterson and Almeta Cunningham Patterson, Joe's story began on April 26, 1948, in Lincoln County, North Carolina. A proud graduate of the Newbold High School Class of 1966, Joe strongly believed in the value of an education and the power of hard work. He earned an Associate Degree in Logistics from Central Piedmont Community College and spent many years as a supervisor at Burlington Mills, McBess, and Delta Mills. But Joe was truly at home when he was working with his hands. Though he retired as a hydraulic mechanic for Ditch Witch, his favorite days were spent as a mechanic for the Lincoln County Bus Garage. He loved the "puzzle" of an engine so much that he went back to school later in life to earn a second degree in Diesel Mechanics. If it was broken, Joe could fix it.

A Pillar of the Community

Joe didn't just work on machines; he spent countless hours studying his bible and pouring his faith's teachings into others. He was the Chairman Deacon and the Superintendent of Sunday School at Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Vale, NC for over 40 years. As a long-standing member of the 32nd Consistory Freemasons and a Past Worship Master at Lomax Lodge in Lincolnton, he lived by the values of brotherhood and service. To the kids in his neighborhood, Joe was more than a neighbor—he was a "second father" who offered guidance, a firm hand, and a safe place to grow.

In his spare time, you could find Joe working in his shop and trying to convince the neighborhood kids to come in and learn about cars. To his delight, Cesar'e "Shakey" Callands finally took him up on his offer. He thoroughly enjoyed having someone that he could pour his knowledge into and that he could count on to help him on a moment's notice. Yet, the thing that he cherished most was the quiet hours spent fishing and traveling with his lifelong childhood friend, James "Pete" Rendleman.

A Legacy of Love

Above all else, Joe lived for his family, especially his granddaughters, Jasmine and Sierra. He loved to say, "In the end, all that we have are family, friends and memories."

Joe was preceded in death by his parents; his son, Jerry Patterson; and two sisters, Mattie Mae Stinson and Jacquelyn "Robin" Patterson.

He leaves behind a lifetime of beautiful memories to be cherished by his devoted wife, **Velmon Patterson** of Iron Station, NC; his son, **Willie "JJ" Patterson** and daughter-in-law **De'Siree** of Wendell, NC; and his two granddaughters, **Jasmine and Sierra**.

His memory will also be carried on by his four brothers: **David (Betty)** of Lincolnton, **James "Pete" (Shirley)** of Durham, **Noah "Squirrelly" (Beverly)** of Concord, and **Deon "Pudge" (Carol)** of Stone Mountain, GA; adopted brother, Rudolph Young (Emma); one aunt, Virginia Cunningham Franklin (Dozier) and one uncle, Larry Cunningham (Bett). He also leaves behind a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and a community that is better because he lived.

Joe Patterson was a man who knew that a life well-lived isn't measured by what you take, but by what you leave behind in the hearts of others. Joe has laid down his tools, but his work will live on in all of us.



LOVING MEMORIES

MOMENTS OF SHARING

Processional
Receiving of Family and Friends

Ministers and Family
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

ORDER OF SERVICE

Call to Worship	Pastor Maurice Allen
Selection	Rev. Tremie Lockhart
Old Testament Scripture	Rev. David Evans
New Testament Scripture	Rev. Alvin Lockhart
Prayer of Comfort	Rev. Nellie P. Kirkland
Selection	"How I Got Over" Minister Robin Dillingham and Mt. Calvary Choir
Obituary Reading	De'Siree' Brown-Patterson
Family Reflections	JJ Patterson
Selection	"Goodness of God" Minister Robin Dillingham and Mt. Calvary Choir
Eulogy	Rev. Benny Thomas
Recessional	"Take Me To The King" DeVonya Nightingale
Final Masonic Rights	Gravesite

Committal/Interment
Mt. Calvary Baptist Church Cemetery
Vale, North Carolina

Floral Bearers
Classmates, Friends, and Family

Pall Bearers
Lomax Lodge No. 29

God's Garden

God looked around his garden
And found an empty place,
He then looked down upon the earth
And saw your tired face.
He put his arms around you
And lifted you to rest.
God's garden must be beautiful
He always takes the best.
He knew that you were suffering
He knew you were in pain.
He knew that you would never
Get well on earth again.
He saw the road was getting rough
And the hills were hard to climb.
So he closed your weary eyelids
And whispered, 'Peace be Thine'.
It broke our hearts to lose you
But you didn't go alone,
For part of us went with you
The day God called you home.

IN GRATITUDE

The family of Willie Joseph Patterson would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone for your kind words and support during this difficult time.

Your thoughtfulness and presence has been a great comfort to our family. We deeply appreciate your compassion and friendship as we navigate through our grief.

Ebony & White's Funeral Service, Inc.
1139 E. Pine Street | Lincolnton, NC 28093
Phone: 704-732-1041
"Dedicated To Those We Serve"
www.ebonyandwhitesfuneralserviceinc.com

Celebrating

THE LIFE OF

Willie Joseph "Joe" Patterson



SUNRISE
April 26, 1948

SUNSET
May 7, 2026

Sunday, May 17, 2026
3:00 PM

Mt. Calvary Baptist Church
Vale, North Carolina

Pastor Maurice Allen, Officiating Pastor
Mt. Calvary Baptist Church
Vale, North Carolina