



Mr. Thurman "Bubba" Starnes Jr.

August 7, 1961 - June 6, 2025

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." –
2 Timothy 4:7

Thurman "Bubba" Starnes Jr., 63, of Sumter, South Carolina, entered into eternal rest on June 6, 2025. He was born on August 7, 1961, in Atascadero, California, to the late Therman Starnes Sr. and Lucille Lewis Pompey.

A proud graduate of Sumter High School's Class of 1979, Thurman met the love of his life, Dorothy McCray, in 1977. The two were united in marriage on December 21, 1979, and their love stood strong for over four decades.

Following high school, Thurman answered the call to serve his country by enlisting in the United States Army, where he served honorably for 17 years of active duty and 2 years in the Army Reserve as a 92Y Supply Clerk. A veteran of the Desert Storm Gulf War, he was proud to have trained as part of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) while stationed at Fort Campbell, KY. His military career was one of honor, discipline, and unwavering commitment.

After retiring from the Army due to medical reasons, Thurman continued serving his community through his work with Kimbrell's Furniture, Federal Mogul (Sumter and Indiana), the Sumter DMV, and Tuomey Prisma Health. He also pursued higher education and earned an Associate Degree in Applied

Science Management from Central Carolina Technical College.

Thurman was baptized at an early age and later became a devoted member of Mulberry Missionary Baptist Church, where he served faithfully until his health began to decline.

He was a man of strong character, known for his loyalty, integrity, and unconditional love for his family. Thurman was the kind of man who could make you laugh with his quick wit and “trash talk,” but he also knew how to give the best advice and show up when it mattered most. Stern but gentle, he raised his daughters and granddaughters to be strong, independent women, and he lived by the motto “Ride or Die” when it came to protecting his own.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Therman Starnes Sr. and Lucille Pompey; his brothers Offette S. Starnes and Reginald D. Starnes; and brothers-in-laws Willie McCray and David McCray Jr.

He leaves to cherish precious memories: his loving wife of 45 years, Dorothy McCray Starnes; his children Lateka Starnes, Demetri Starnes, Jessica (Latoya) Johnson, and Latesha Starnes, all of Sumter, SC; and his beloved grandchildren: Imanee Summerlin (Jordon Ponder) of McDonough, GA, Imaree Summerlin of Conway, SC, Kayla Johnson of Sumter, SC, Zaniyah Watson of Orangeburg, SC, Aniya Brailsford of Sumter, SC, and his only grandson, Markell Toney of Sumter, SC.

Thurman is also survived by his siblings: Pamela (Irvin) Gober of Gainesville, GA; Beverly (James)Hargrove of Sumter, SC; Ministers Mary (Reginald) Wright of Anderson, SC; Teresa Sterling of Sunnyvale, CA; Dr. Lucretia Starnes of Kissimmee, FL; Sherry Pitt, Jean Slaton, Kevin Starnes, and Latasha Pompey all of Sumter, SC.

He also leaves behind a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-

nephews, extended family members, and dear friends.

Thurman "Bubba" Starnes Jr. didn't just live. He showed us how to love, fight, and never give up.

He lived a life of purpose, service, and laughter. His voice, wisdom, and spirit will live on in all who knew and loved him.

Army Strong.

Previous Events

Public Viewing

JUN 13. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Palmer Memorial Chapel
304 South Main St.
Sumter, SC 29150
(803) 773-3381

A Celebration of Life

JUN 14. 1:00 PM (ET)

Mulberry Baptist Church
1400 Mulberry Church Rd
Sumter, SC 29153
(803) 481-2154

Burial

JUN 14 (ET)

Mulberry Baptist Church
1400 Mulberry Church Rd
Sumter, SC 29153

Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Thurman "Bubba" Starnes Jr..*



June 13, 2025 at 02:32 PM



“ *Deeply saddened by the passing of passing of a great devoted and wonderful man, praying that God will strengthen everyone during your loss today,tomorrow and day's to come. We love you!!!
The Summerlin Family*



Carolyn Jenkins Summerlin - June 13, 2025 at 11:26 AM



“ *I'm going to Miss you Uncle bubba I'm going to Miss the peace 🙌 up at people and I miss all the laughs all the good times we have shared you will always be my favorite uncle
Love you Always and forever 💔💔💔💔*



Lashonda Wright - June 13, 2025 at 05:59 AM

LM

“ *Latinya, theresa, musha purchased the Pretty Ple
ase for the family of Mr. Thurman "Bubba"
Starnes Jr..*



Latinya, theresa, musha - June 13, 2025 at 01:48 AM

LM

“ *Latinya, theresa, musha planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Mr. Thurman
"Bubba" Starnes Jr..*

Latinya, theresa, musha - June 13, 2025 at 01:48 AM

GF

“ *Our sincere sympathy and condolences and
prayers to the family and relatives and
friends.*



Gloria Harrison Brown and Family - June 12, 2025 at 10:51 PM

TC

“ *Uncle Bubba words can't express how much you are going to be
missed.*



Tyeisha Wright- Charlot - June 12, 2025 at 09:10 PM

VW

“ To Dorothy and the Starnes Family

I'm so sorry for your loss. May the Lord give you the strength and peace you need to bear such heavy burden. Know that my thoughts and prayers are with you. Sending my love.

*Veronica Wilson-Dukes
SHS class of 1979*

Veronica Wilson-Dukes - June 11, 2025 at 10:04 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mr. Thurman "Bubba" Starnes Jr..*



June 11, 2025 at 11:51 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mr. Thurman Starnes Jr..

June 11, 2025 at 11:51 AM

TF

“ *My deepest sympathy and condolences and prayers to the family and relatives and friends.*

Rest in peace, my battle buddy.



Tammy Harrison-Edwards & Family - June 10, 2025 at 11:22 PM