

A Place Upon The Green

When life on earth is over
Life anew is seen
Affording simple pleasures
In a place upon the green

The course behind is in the past
A journey lived by faith
Step by step life's fairway
Brought me here by grace

Now I've gained new access
The course unfolding view
To master hill and valley
With each stroke straight and true

To enter into pleasures
Of the beauty I have seen
Since I was given entrance
To a place upon the green



What a comfort...

For us to know that our burden of grief
was shared by our family & friends.

~ Thank You



Berry Funeral Home
& CREMATORY

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Celebrating
THE LIFE OF

"Big Mike"
Jessie Michael Baston

11 o'clock in the morning
Friday, August 25, 2023
Fortsonia Baptist Church

Golf *is Life*

*A lot of walking,
broken up by disappointment
and bad arithmetic.*

Therefore we are

always
confident

knowing that,

whilst we are at home in the body,

we are absent from the Lord.

(For we walk by faith & not by sight.)

We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be

*absent from the body:
and to be present with the Lord*

Wherefore we labor that,

whether present or absent, we may be

accepted
of Him

- II Corinthians 5:6-9

Order of Service

Processional	"All The Way My Savior Leads Me"
Welcome	Rev. Bobby Baston
Remarks	Mr. David Baston
Musical Selection	"Because He Lives"
Remarks	Mr. Michael Baston
Message	Rev. Bobby Baston
Musical Selection	"In The Garden"
Remarks	Rev. Andrew Danals
Musical Selection	"Stroll Over Heaven"
Closing Prayer	Rev. Andrew Danals
Recessional	"God Is Good"

Interment

Fortsonia Community Cemetery
Rev. Al Butler, officiating
Mr. Ben Thompson, bugler

Pallbearers

Garrett Baston, Mason Baston, Travis James, Nicky James
Mark Adams, Rick Adams, Brady Starrett, Zack Caldwell

Contributions

T.J. & Friends Foundation
PO Box 6161
Elberton, Georgia 30635

Loving ^{Honor} Memory

Mr. Jessie Michael "Mike" Baston, age 73, entered into rest on Sunday, August 20, 2023, at his residence on River Road in the Fortsonia Community of Elberton. Mike courageously fought cancer for four years, and his last days were spent surrounded by family and friends that he loved so dearly.

Affectionately known as "Big Mike", he was born in Augusta on July 27, 1950, to Claude O'Neal Baston and Verna Grace "Bunny" Jennings Baston. The Bastons moved to Elberton when Mike was 6 and his dad accepted employment with McLanahan Crushed Stone. He grew up in Elberton where he graduated in 1968 from Elbert County High School, and married Victoria Ann Wilson the same year. Mike joined the Georgia Army National Guard where he served faithfully for six years.

Anyone who knew Mike Baston knew that his passion was golf. He was fortunate enough to live his dream by working as a golf course superintendent at Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Golf Course in St. Simons, and Coldstream Country Club in Irmo, SC.

In 1981, Mike and Vickie, with sons Michael and Bobby in tow, moved back to Elberton to be closer to their family. Son David completed the family in 1983. He began working in the granite industry and did so for the remainder of his career, his last place of employment being along side his son at Baston Monuments, Inc. Mike still practiced his passion of golf, and devoted much of his time volunteering with the Elbert County High School Golf Team. This afforded him the opportunity to share his love of the sport, as well as the love of Jesus, with many young folks.

As long as his health permitted, Mike was an active member of Fortsonia Baptist Church. He was a member of the church choir and often sang solos, was the teacher of the Mike Baston Adult II Sunday school class, and previously served as a deacon.

Mike loved working and his sons and grandchildren brought him immense joy. He relished the many friends he made throughout the years, and made it a point to stay in contact with them - even those across the world, literally. Mike taught us all how to love life and live it to the fullest because he certainly did.

He is survived by Vickie, his wife of 55 years; sons and their wives: Michael O'Neal Baston and Sarah House Baston, Bobby Lee Baston and Britley Mercer Baston, and David Paul Baston and Jodie Wilhite Baston, all of Elberton; grandchildren: Mallory Layne Baston and Matt Pulliam of Lawrenceville, Sydney Lee Baston of Elberton, Mason O'Neal Baston and Kiersten Worley Baston of Hartwell, Garrett Chase Baston and Cynthia Collins, Emmie Marie Baston, Kendall Victoria Baston, Willow Jane Baston, Tucker Paul Baston, Cody Allen James, and Cassidy Amelia James, all of Elberton; great-grandchild, Hadlee Reese Baston; mother-in-law, Bobbie Sue Kidd and Roy of Elberton; sister-in-law, Cindy Wilson Adams and Rusty of Elberton; very special friend, Brady Starrett; and a host of other relatives and friends.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by sister, Diane Baston Abernathy and her husband Terry.