

# Pop

*Pop Pop, you were funny, supportive, loving very caring, and strong. I couldn't have asked for a better role model or grandfather. -Quinton Stewart*

*The memories we share will always be here. You were always there for me as I was for you. The amount of love you gave was incredible. You were the greatest father figure I could ever ask for. To know you is to automatically love you. I know you are watching over us, and I'm hoping one day you will visit me. Your legacy will live on forever. Rest in paradise. -Zimiera Stewart*

*Who my Pop Pop was? He was a caring and kind soul. It was basically like having a best friend and a father figure in one person. There are no words to express how much I miss you, but this isn't goodbye because you always said not to say goodbye, so this is a see you later since I know you are still watching over us and is still here with us. -Ja-Kenya Stewart*

*Thank you, Pops for all you have done. Provided to us whenever we needed, been there for us whenever we needed. I want to appreciate & thank God that you were able to even live this long it's a blessing as I now see it. You got to see us all grow up, it's what you've always wanted. Even though you passed on to God, the memories will not be forgotten. I see you as another dad. When my father passed you came along and been there through the hard times. Even though you're gone physically, you're not gone spiritually. Your name will forever live on, forever Rest in peace. -Kyir McCoy*

*You have loved me with open arms from the start. You were the best granddad that I could ask for. And I'm forever grateful for you. I know you're with us each and every day. -Ciera Cavallaro*

# Acknowledgements

Pall Bearers  
Nephews  
Flower Attendants  
Nieces

God's plan allowed each of us to experience different parts of you, and somehow, we each received the best. Thank you for your unconditional love and for believing in us more than we believed in ourselves. You've left us better people and the world a better place. We love you and will see you again.

Your Children: Donnie C. Strickland Jr., Abdul Christopher Stewart, Michelle Adams, Chasity Bless Cheek

Because I Love You So  
Time will not dim the face I love,  
The voice I heard each day,  
The many things you did for me,  
In your own special way.  
All my life, I'll miss you,  
As the year come and go,  
But in my heart, I'll keep you,  
Because I love you so.  
- Crystal Strickland

## WORDS OF APPRECIATION

Our hearts have been made to rejoice during the illness and passing of our loved ones by the many acts of kindness extended to our family. Your prayers and all expressions of love and sympathy are greatly appreciated. May God continue to bestow blessings upon each of you richly.

The Strickland Family

*Loving Care & Professional Services Entrusted to:*

 Sanders Funeral Home  
EST. 1957  
806 E Market St • Smithfield, NC 27577  
Phone: (919) 934-8416

# Celebration of Life for Donnie Clarence Strickland



**Sunrise July 12, 1953**

**Sunset June 18, 2023**

*Graveside Service:*

*Saturday, June 24, 2023*

*Pineville Chapel Church of Christ Cemetery  
720 Motorcycle Rd. Clayton NC 27520*

*Officiating Pastor Rev. Darnell Wiggs*

# The Obituary

Mr. Donnie {Don} Clarence Strickland was born July 12, 1952, to the late Wille Melvin Strickland and Essie B. Wiggs Strickland. He departed his life on June 18, 2023, at his home. He was preceded in death by his brother Ronnie Strickland, sister Connie Orr, granddaughter Shymeria Smith, and grandson Ja'shon Stewart.

She was united in holy matrimony to Cheryl A. Scales on January 1, 1994, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Donnie was born and raised in Clayton, North Carolina. He was educated in the Johnston County School System and graduated in 1972 from Clayton High School. He was proud to be a part of the first class to integrate from segregated to non-segregated in the Johnston County School System. He served his country as a Sargent in the New Jersey National Guard for 20 years. He joined Mount Vernon Christin Church at an early age, and later he joined The Garden of Prayer World Prayer Center in Philadelphia. Donnie loved his family, and his grandkids were the apple of his eye.

Don was a unique human being, and he was always in good spirits despite all the challenges he faced; he would always find a way to see the positive side of any situation. One of his favorite sayings was, "I have figured it out." Donnie had a telephone ministry and would always call his family and friends to give them words of encouragement. Donnie was an Advent Dallas Cowboys, Los Angeles Lakers, and UNC Tar Hill fan. Donnie enjoyed boxing, wrestling, NASCAR, fishing, going to the beach, and family gatherings. He was loved, honored, respected, and cherished. Cheryl thanked God for blessing her with a husband who loved her beyond measure.

His beautiful life will forever be cherished by his loved ones of, his wife: Cheryl, his sons Donnie C. Strickland Jr. (Crystal) and Abdul Christopher Stewart of Clayton, NC, and daughters Michelle Adams (Darryl) and Chasity Bless Cheek (Archie) of Garner, NC. Sisters Katie Strickland-Sanders, and Madie Strickland, both of Clayton, NC. Brothers Willie Charles Strickland (Beverly) of North Topsoil, NC; Jimmie Strickland (Patricia) of Clayton, NC; Rickie Strickland (Dorothy) of Garner, NC; and Dannie Strickland (Shelly) of Clayton, NC. 1 Sister-in-law Peggy Strickland of Raleigh, NC, Daughter-in-Law Tameka Preston of Philadelphia, PA; 10 Grandchildren, 5 Great-grandchildren, Goddaughter, Arlacia Curtis of Philadelphia, PA, and a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and other relatives and friends.

A special thanks to Abdul Christopher Stewart (his right-hand man), Stephanie Strickland, Madie Strickland, Dannie Strickland, Harmony Pitman, and Kourtney Griffin (caregiver) for being a special blessing as we traveled this journey together.



# Order of Service

**Processional Clergy and Family**  
**- Bishop Darnell Wiggs**

**Presiding Officiate**  
**- Rev. Bennie Jones**

**Hymn- I'll Fly Away**

**Old Testament**  
**- Willie Charles Strickland**

**New Testament**  
**- Tori Strickland**

**Prayer of Comfort**  
**Kenneth Wayne Johnson**  
**{Classmate}**

**Selection**  
**- William Finch**

**Acknowledgments & Obituary**  
**Mrs. Regina Hamilton**

**Solo**  
**- Charlene Atkinson**

**Eulogy**  
**- Bishop Darnell Wiggs**

**Mortician Brief**  
**Sanders Funeral Home**

**Selection**  
**- Linda Kelly**

**Recessional**

**Interment**  
**Pineville Chapel Church of Christ Cemetery**  
**720 Motorcycle Rd. Clayton NC 27520**

**Repast**  
**Mount Vernon Christian Church**