



## Pastor Cecil Gray Coates

September 16, 1931 - June 17, 2024

Cecil Gray Coates (Pastor Cecil), 92, went home to be with his Lord and Savior on June 17, 2024 at his home in Providence, North Carolina surrounded by his family.

We love our father forever. He loved life and would have never missed an opportunity to serve the Lord with all his heart and share God's word so all would accept the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior and have everlasting life.

He was the son of Callie William Coates and Nellie Mason Coates, both of Brookneal and Nathalie, Virginia. He is survived by his sister, Brenda and Gary Perkins of Roxboro, North Carolina, and wife, Carolyn Hilliard. He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Margaret Carver Coates of Providence, North Carolina, brothers, Roy Coates and Carroll Coates, and sisters, Myrtle Carver and Louise Shepard all of Roxboro, North Carolina.

Pastor Cecil was called to preach at the young age of 16 years. He and his buddy, John Murray, began holding revivals when he was 17 and John 15 years. These men were called to preach the Word of God and as years went by, Pastor Cecil gave over 76 years of his life to preaching the gospel. Soon after holding revivals and preaching God's word, Pastor Cecil was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1950. He started his journey to defend the great United States of America in the Korean War. He became a paratrooper and a

soldier who was put on the front line in battle. He was a God-fearing young man who made many friends while in the war, and as a soldier who would never leave anyone behind, his war buddies saved him after being confronted in a foxhole while staring at the end of a Korean soldier's rifle. Fortunately, the Korean soldier's rifle jammed, and his comrades jumped into the foxhole to save his life. God had a plan for Pastor Cecil that involved being a servant to help rescue all who found themselves in the foxholes of life. As a soldier of the war and now a soldier for Christ, his goal continued to be, to leave no one behind.

During this time, Pastor Cecil was enamored with the love of his life, Margaret Cora Carver of Roxboro, North Carolina. He always said he had to move fast because she was so beautiful, and the other boys were trying to move in on his territory. They were married in December of 1951 and had five children, four girls and one boy. Children surviving are Bet Coates Arnn (Carroll) of Danville, Virginia, Delores Coates Wilkinson (Pete) of Stovall, North Carolina, Cecil Gray Stephen Coates of Asheboro, North Carolina, and Mary Ann Franklin, foster-daughter of Rego Park, New York. Previously deceased are Kay Coates Bolynn (Billy) of Danville, Virginia, and Elaine Coates Poythress (Marion) of Patrick Springs, Virginia. Pastor Cecil and Margaret have 10 grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren. In his early ministry, Margaret's mother, Emma Carver, would drive her children to the Pentecostal Holiness Church on Main Street in Roxboro, North Carolina to hear God's word preached. Her husband, Charlie Wise Carver, and their children, Eunice, Edna Earl, Norma Jean, Mary Zelma, Susie, Peanut, and Doug were a blessing to him and his family.

One of Pastor Cecil's favorite hobbies was antiques. He became a watch and clock repairman. He, his best friend, Roy Morton, and Cecil Steve would go to Boone's Antiques in Wilson, North Carolina almost every weekend. One of his highlights was being on the American Pickers show with Mike and Frank.

Catch the American Picker's episode "Driving Miss Dani" to see Pastor Cecil wheeling and dealing.

Throughout the years, Pastor Cecil pastored churches in Roxboro, NC, Graham, NC, Henderson, NC, Dry Fork, VA, Durham, NC, Valley Chapel in Virginia, and Westover Hills in Virginia. He served as the President of the Danville District Camp Meeting Association. His ministry continued by serving on the Missions and Evangelism Board and Archives Committee for the Western North Carolina Pentecostal Holiness Conference (Now called Cornerstone Conference IPHC).

The family will receive friends on Friday, June 21, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. at Emmanuel Pentecostal Holiness Church. The funeral service will follow at 11:00 a.m. at the church. Interment will follow in Highland Burial Park.

Memorial contributions, in lieu of flowers, may be made to the First Pentecostal Holiness Church, Building Fund, 1810 N. Main Street, Danville, VA 24540.

Our family would like to leave everyone with this, John 15:13, "Greater love hath no one than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Pastor Cecil devoted himself to the love of his life, Margaret, and his children. He served on the battlefield of war to protect the freedom of our great nation. One of Pastor Cecil's fondest memories was his Radio Broadcast while pastoring in Dry Fork, Virginia. He never let a broadcast end without saying to everyone listening, "I'm praying for you." As he is rewarded in Heaven, he will meet hundreds of people thanking him for just those prayers that saved their lives. Pastor Cecil, we miss and love you always.

Wrenn-Yeatts Westover Chapel is respectfully serving the Coates family.

# Cemetery Details

## Highland Burial Park

3049 North Main Street  
Danville, VA

# Previous Events

## Receive Friends

JUN 21. 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM (ET)

Emmanuel Pentecostal Holiness Church  
3612 Dry Fork Rd  
Dry Fork, VA 24549

## Funeral Service

JUN 21. 11:00 AM (ET)

Emmanuel Pentecostal Holiness Church  
3612 Dry Fork Rd  
Dry Fork, VA 24549

## Burial

JUN 21 (ET)

Highland Burial Park  
3049 North Main Street  
Danville, VA



# Tribute Wall

BD

“ Cecil,  
*I am saddened for your loss but so grateful for the life your dad lived and for the legacy he leaves behind in you. He is rejoined with your mom and enjoying eternal life with his creator and chief advisor. You have loved him and nurtured him and cared for him and enjoyed him which is the very essence of life. May the love you know and shared and learned together comfort you always. He has ascended Amen Hallelujah! It is now your turn to rest, recovery and reflect.*  
*Please take care. I send my deepest condolences in the loss of your dad and the great joy you have in having had him all the days of your life. Sending my love to you.*

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**Bill Donovan** - June 21, 2024 at 06:04 PM

BM

“ *We are saddened by the death of Rev Cecil Coates. He was a Godly man and served many churches with honor. God bless his memory 🙏*  
*Tommy and Beth McGhee*

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**Beth McGhee** - June 20, 2024 at 06:00 PM

MF

“ The following is an excerpt from a letter that I sent to Preacher Coates when Margaret passed to express my gratitude for all that they did for me. This gratitude is still felt today and will be for the rest of my life.

*Thank you for letting me stay and stay and stay.*

*Thank you for never questioning why I didn't go home or insinuate that I should.*

*Thank you for caring about me as if I were your own.*

*Thank you for opening your home and church to me even though I was not brought up as a Pentecostal church-goer and initially, it was all so foreign to me.*

*Thank you for sharing special Sunday dinners with me, not to mention numerous other meals, without hesitation.*

*Thank you (I don't know how you did it) for making me feel like I belonged.*

*Thank you for extending your parenting to me as well as to Bet specifically, warnings about not getting into trouble and being good. When I was recently in your home, you extended the same warning to one of your grandchildren. He seemed to notice, too. I'm sure that whatever choices he makes, it won't be without first having heard your words of warning and expectations. As a grandparent, you were still the same caring person.*

*Thank you for giving me a beautiful watch one day. That was a very special gift to me.*

*Thank you for including me in your family fun i.e. jokes on Margaret, me, anyone that was fair game.*

*Thank you for trying in earnest to take me with you to Dry Fork.*

*Thank you for noticing me.*

*Thank you for being a good example of manliness and loveliness.*

*Thank you for living such a good life that one could only try to do as much.*

*Thank you for never cursing or drinking or scaring me.*

*Thank you for never being inappropriate in any way.*

*Thank you for smiling at me.*

*I believe that who I am, and what I believe is good in the world, is in large part because of you and Margaret. How fortunate I was to have lived in your house as much as I did.*

*My love to Bet, Steve, and Delores and the entire family.  
Thank you for sharing your Dad with me.*

*My condolences and love,  
Ann Franklin*

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**Mary Ann Franklin** - June 20, 2024 at 03:21 PM



“ *So sorry for your loss. I'm thinking and praying for you all.*



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**Christina Jackson** - June 20, 2024 at 07:58 AM

JT

“ *I just wanted to express my condolences Steve to you and your family. Pastor Cecil truly was what all pastors should strive to be. I'm so grateful that I had the pleasure of meeting him. May he rest in the arms of Jesus and will continue to keep you all in my prayers.*



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**jeff thompson** - June 19, 2024 at 07:47 PM

RW

“ Rhonda Ward lit a candle in memory of Pastor Cecil Gray Coates



Rhonda Ward - June 19, 2024 at 07:17 AM

CG

“ Christine and Morgan Greer purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Pastor Cecil Gray Coates.



Christine and Morgan Greer - June 18, 2024 at 08:33 PM

CE

“ Corey & Rick Edwards planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Pastor Cecil Gray Coates.

Corey & Rick Edwards - June 18, 2024 at 07:17 PM

CE

“ Corey & Rick Edwards purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Pastor Cecil Gray Coates.



Corey & Rick Edwards - June 18, 2024 at 07:17 PM

KP

“ *Such a sweet and Godly man, Cecil did our wedding 50 years ago will be missed by many*

**Kay Parrish** - June 18, 2024 at 02:07 PM

CH

“ *Cecil was a wonderful man of God..His love for the Lord was so inspiring..He was a kind and generous man and will be missed by all who knew him*



**Cheryl Holland** - June 18, 2024 at 10:38 AM

SS

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with Carolyn and her family with the loss of Cecil or Papa Cecil as he was known to them. We know that he will truly be missed.*

**Shannon Tucker- Town of Stoneville** - June 18, 2024 at 10:17 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Pastor Cecil Gray Coates.*



June 18, 2024 at 09:35 AM

LB

“ *Sending our love and prayers*

**Lucy Ellen Barringer** - June 18, 2024 at 05:53 AM

JW

“ *John & Andrea Wallace purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Pastor Cecil Gray Coates.*



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**John & Andrea Wallace** - June 17, 2024 at 10:26 PM

JF

“ *Johnny Haymore and family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Pastor Cecil Gray Coates.*



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**Johnny Haymore and family** - June 17, 2024 at 09:47 PM

TF

“ *The Echols Family purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Pastor Cecil Gray Coates.*



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**The Echols Family** - June 17, 2024 at 09:42 PM

LJ

“ *Pastor Cecil as we called him. Was a sweet and funny man. With love for all. One of the sweetest thing he for me(PAT) was engrave a gold disc for my necklace with my name on the front and Luther on the back. We enjoyed having him living in Stoneville with his beautiful wife Carolyn and visiting him and going out to eat. Luther and I treasured his Friends. He will ge missed by all. Love and Prayers to the families.*

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**Luther and Pat Jackson** - June 17, 2024 at 09:37 PM