



Billy Luther Rainey

September 22, 1934 - December 21, 2025

Billy Luther Rainey, 91, of Greenville, beloved husband, father, and “PaPa”, died December 21, 2025, after a period of declining health.

Born in Greenville, he was the son of Robert and Lucille Rainey.

Billy never met a stranger and would talk to anyone and everyone he met. He was employed by Steel Heddle, J.D. Hollingsworth on Wheels, and a local furniture store until he started his own construction business. After contracting and building the new WGGs-TV16 television studios, he signed on as a sales representative for the station. This led to him developing and starring in his own Saturday night show, “Gospel Star Time” and “Down Home Gospel” which ran as the number one show for many, many years. He was recognized and approached everywhere he went and was always friendly and gracious to each person he greeted.

In addition to his parents, Billy was predeceased by his brothers, Bobby and Nathan, his sister Doris Rainey Bryant, and his daughter, Rhonda Rainey Bridwell Knight.

Those left to cherish his memory are his beloved wife of seventy-three years, Delores Campbell Rainey; his son Terry Wayne Rainey and daughter-in-law Vicki Hielscher Rainey; his sister Marty Brown; grandchildren, Joshua Todd Rainey, Seth Adam Rainey (Crystal), Jared Bridwell (Loriann), Michelle Bridwell and Rebecca Bridwell, as well as ten great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren.

At his request no funeral is planned, instead a simple graveside service will

take place Tuesday, December 23, 2025 at Mountain Creek Baptist Church Cemetery at 11:00 a.m.

The family would like to express their grateful appreciation for the care that Billy received from VIA Healthcare.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Meals On Wheels Greenville SC, 15 Oregon St., Greenville, SC 20605.

Online condolences may be expressed to the family at www.thehowzemortuary.com.

The Howze Mortuary, Travelers Rest is in charge of arrangements. (864) 834-8051

Cemetery Details

Mountain Creek Baptist Church Cemetery

225 West Mountain Creek Church Road
Greenville, SC 29609

Previous Events

Graveside Service

DEC **23**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Mountain Creek Baptist Church Cemetery
225 West Mountain Creek Church Road
Greenville, SC 29609

Tribute Wall

CJ

“ *Camilla Langley Jameson*

Camilla Jameson - December 26, 2025 at 08:12 PM

MA

“ *Love and prayers to Sister Rainey and the family.
Brother Billy will be missed. What a blessing he was. He was a biblical example of a witness for the Lord Jesus.*



Michael Anthony - December 23, 2025 at 06:52 PM

DW

“ *I remember him fondly supporting The SC Gospel Music Association and the newspaper. I was the secretary of the Association and met him and his wife thru this. Sympathy to his family and friends. God Bless.*

Deborah Whitcomb - December 22, 2025 at 07:11 PM



“ *Nancy Lance lit a candle in memory of Billy Rainey*



Nancy Lance - December 22, 2025 at 03:23 PM