



William Norman Whitfield Jr.

June 2, 1934 - May 15, 2026

William Norman Whitfield, Jr, 91, beloved husband, father, and Big Popa, passed away on Friday, May 15, 2026 at his home.

Born in Cleveland, SC on June 2, 1934, he was the only son of the late William Norman Whitfield, Sr and Estelle Purmuney Poole.

Norman worked in textiles at Union Bleachery and Renfrew and then retired as a superintendent in the dye department at JP Stevens. He was a member of Scenic Hills Baptist Church where he was the last surviving member of The Royal Blue Band. Norman was also a Shriner and a Mason.

Left to cherish his memory is his loving wife of 20 years, Julia Grace Rigdon Whitfield; 5 children, Billy Whitfield (Patricia), stepson Tim Batson, Beth Bollinger (Randy), Janice Rodgers (David), and Crystal Clark (Spencer); 10 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, Norman was preceded in death by his first wife of 50 years, Dorothy Elizabeth Fox Whitfield; a granddaughter, Angela Kristina Whitfield; and a grandson, David Scott Rodgers.

Norman was a well-known guitar player, singer, and member of The Sunshine Boys who played live on WESC in the 1950's. The family treasures the

influence Norman had entertaining with his pickin' and grinnin' and oftentimes teaching and guiding the younger generations. His voice was almost indistinguishable from Hank Williams, perfecting his powerful yodel-like sound and country twang. He had a natural talent for singing and was a self-taught musician.

Norman worked hard all his life and even built a lake house from the ground up for his family on Lake Hartwell. He was very quick-witted and could always make a joke out of any situation. He enjoyed life to the fullest and despite physical challenges, his mindset and spirit to live was unmatched.

Norman and Dot often entertained in their home and lake house for family and friends to gather, play music, and sing, always a good time for all. Those memories are endless. The family cherishes the recordings of Norman singing before he lost his voice to throat cancer in 2001. That didn't keep him from continuing to play guitar until well into his 80's. Music was a visceral part of Norman and always part of his day whether he was playing or watching it on TV. He will be forever missed.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday, May 20, 2026 from 12:00 pm-1:45 pm at The Howze Mortuary, 6714 State Park Rd, Travelers Rest, SC 29690. The funeral service will follow at 2:00 pm in The Chapel, with Masonic Rites. Entombment will be at Mountain View Memorial Park Mausoleum, 7 Duncan Rd, Travelers Rest, SC 29690.

Memorials may be made to Scenic Hills Baptist Church, 10 Old Hwy 25, Travelers Rest, SC 29690.

The family warmly invites everyone to please share stories and fond memories of how you knew Norman at www.thehowzemortuary.com.

The Howze Mortuary is handling all arrangements. 864-834-8051

Cemetery Details

Mountain View Memorial Park

7 Duncan Rd
Travelers Rest, SC 29690
(864) 834-3184

Upcoming Events

Visitation

MAY 20. 12:00 PM - 1:45 PM (ET)

The Howze Mortuary
6714 State Park Rd./P.O. Box 369
Travelers Rest, SC

Funeral Service

MAY 20. 2:00 PM - 2:45 PM (ET)

The Howze Mortuary Chapel
6714 State Park Rd.
Travelers Rest
Travelers Rest, SC 29690
thehowzemortuary@yahoo.com

Entombment

MAY **20**. 3:00 PM - 3:15 PM (ET)

Mountain View Memorial Park
7 Duncan Rd
Travelers Rest, SC 29690
(864) 834-3184

Tribute Wall

JF

“ *Jewel Dockery and family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of William Norman Whitfield Jr..*



Jewel Dockery and family - Yesterday at 05:13 PM

JF

“ *Jewel Dockery and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William Norman Whitfield Jr..*

Jewel Dockery and family - Yesterday at 05:13 PM

PF

“ *Norman was my buddy at Scenic Hills Baptist Church. He was always joking and smiling. He will be missed by everyone that loved and respected him. RIP my sweet friend. 🙏*

Pat Friddle - Yesterday at 01:32 PM

BS

“ *Norman was a great man love to hear him sing. Now he is singing in GOD'S choir. Fly high Norman*

Brenda Stewart - Yesterday at 01:18 PM

DR

“ Dear Sweet Family, the Dockery family is sorry for losing such a wonderful, funny friend. I remember being at the Whitfield home as a child and hearing Norman calling "Dottie" and I would of course answer. This is funny because his wife's name was Dottie. So confusing! We love the Whitfield family and pray you feel the arms of Jesus around you during this time.



Dottie Dockery Rhoden - Yesterday at 10:28 AM

JM

“ We will always remember Norman as a member of the church and of the Royal Blue Band. Mr. Bob Dockery (who played the bass fiddle during his lifetime) loved to make up nicknames for the other band members. His name for Norman was The Mayor. For years, we thought Norman had been a real mayor of one of the nearby SC towns. :) The nickname seemed to fit his dignified manner and multiple talents, so we had no reason to doubt it. We appreciate having known him, even though we missed the part of his life when he could sing like Hank Williams. That would have been thrilling to hear. We pray for God's continued blessings on his family. Larry and Janie McKinley

Janie McKinley - Yesterday at 09:35 AM