



Benny Ray Hayes

May 16, 1954 - September 28, 2018

Micah 6:8 “He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” Benny Ray Hayes was born May 16, 1954 in Newnan Hospital. For the next 64 years, Benny would journey through his life under the admonitions of that verse of scripture – sometimes very quietly – sometimes creating a little wake on the seas of life. Life for Benny was a constant season of gratitude for he considered his life to be blessed. His ability to be at ease with others and to make them at ease with him made his circle of friends amazingly wide and inclusive of people from all walks of life. He was possessed of a great servant spirit. He went about his life’s work as a diesel mechanic for 40 years with a great sense of pride; not just because he was one of the best, but he knew that others; mainly Newnan’s first responders depended on that fire truck or that police car to be operating at 100% because their lives and the lives of those they were helping depended on his skills. For twenty four years, he faithfully served Newnan. As a child, most young boys are fascinated by fire trucks, and Benny felt he was lucky to put his big boy skills to work on the real deal! Benny never forgot that the strength in his life came from the God who created him. He was a member of the church family of Freeman Memorial United Methodist Church. Benny translated the love of God into a deep love for his family. He was the dad in the stands, the dad who brought the Christmas tree, the Brownie or Girl Scout dad. There was never a concert, recital or program that was not given the highest priority in his busy

life. Benny was a “Romantic”. The word would usually not require a capital letter, but in Benny’s life it did. He adored his wife, Dora. For the 43 ½ years of their marriage, “a great adventure” might come close to describing those years together. Every five years they would renew their vows (in case Dora Forgot how lucky she was). There would never be enough years together to cram all the many things Benny wanted in his life and they were years filled with fishing, gardening, landscaping, cooking, movies, concerts, The Newnan Theater Company, The N.I.T.W.I.T.S. As is evident by now, Benny fulfilled all of God’s designs for any man which would have given Benny peace at the end of his life’s journey. Benny’s near perfect life was clouded somewhat by health challenges these last years, but his life was given greater quality by the careful attention of his doctors, nurses, therapists and dialysis providers. Dr. Andrew McDonald was not only Benny’s doctor, but also his friend and advocate during these years of health issues. Benny’s life was a glorious time of love made possible by his adoring wife Dora Long Hayes (no, she did not write these words). He was an exemplary father to his daughters Ashley Hayes Desjardin; Lindy Hayes and his daughter by love, Lindsey Brown. He was the proud grandpa to Benjamin Desjardin and Gethan Rohrbaugh. Also surviving him are his mother Helen Hayes Tanksley and his father-in-law Emmett R. “Bud” Long, Sr. He was preceded in death by his father James Tanksley and mother-in-law Linda Stitcher Long; his brothers Joel Tanksley, Alvin Ernest Tanksley, and his brother-in-law, Emmett Long, Jr. He will surely be missed by CoCo and Sunny. All the family and friends who have been so faithfully involved in Benny’s life will gather to remember and celebrate those happy days on Friday, October 5th between 5:00 PM and 8:00 PM at McKoon Funeral Home at 38 Jackson Street. The service to honor his life will be on Saturday, October 6, 2018 at 11:00 AM in the chapel of McKoon Funeral Home to be led by Reverend James Hearn and Reverend Kathy Broadwater. In lieu of flowers it is suggested that memorial contributions be made to Freeman Memorial United Methodist Church P.O. Box 755 Newnan GA 30264. Online condolences may be expressed at www.mckoon.com. McKoon

Funeral Home 770-253-4580.

Cemetery Details

McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory

38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263
(770) 253-4580
care@mckoon.com
<http://www.mckoon.com>

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **5**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home
38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263
(770) 253-4580
care@mckoon.com

Service

OCT **6**. 11:00 AM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home Chapel
38 Jackson Street
Newnan, GA 30263
(770) 253-4580
care@mckoon.com
<http://www.mckoon.com>

Tribute Wall

BS

“ Am out of town so won't be there. Sorry for your loss and thoughts and prayers for y'all. Love you Lindy. Miss Bonnie

Bonnie Smith - October 06, 2018 at 09:31 AM

CM

“ Carol Mckoy lit a candle in memory of Benny Ray Hayes



Carol Mckoy - October 05, 2018 at 05:14 PM

CS

“ Dora, Rhonda and I were so very sad to learn of Benny's death. You two guys brought sunshine into our lives every time we saw or talked to you, no matter what you were going through at those time. May God grant you comfort during this trying period. We love you, Charles

charles Stone - October 05, 2018 at 03:39 PM



Stephanie Teigue

“ Momma Dora, Lindy, Ashley & the rest of the family, I am SO VERY sorry to hear about Benny's passing. I am SO VERY sorry for y'all's loss! Benny was a WONDERFULLY GREAT man! I will always have so many fond memories of him. Sending love, thoughts and prayers to all of you. Take care, Stephanie



Stephanie Teigue - October 05, 2018 at 11:48 AM

KS

“ *Dora and Family,
So, sorry to hear about Benny. I know what you are going through.
You are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time and
after.
My God Bless,
Kathi Sumner*

Kathi Sumner - October 04, 2018 at 09:46 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for
the family of Benny Ray Hayes.*



October 04, 2018 at 05:24 PM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased
for the family of Benny Ray Hayes.*



October 04, 2018 at 03:09 PM

MY

“ *Our thoughts and prayers to Dora and family. May God give you
comfort and peace in the days to come. Benny was a good man and
will be missed. Mike and Bev Yeager family*

Mike Yeager - October 03, 2018 at 08:44 PM

JL

“ *SO sorry for your loss,may he rest in peace. June lombara peachtree vil Las*

Junerose Lombara - October 03, 2018 at 03:42 PM

RB

“ *I am so sorry. Prayers and love to Dora, Ashley, Lindy, Lindsey and the grandchildren.*



Rev BettyJean Bowers - October 03, 2018 at 08:41 AM

MB

“ *To Dora and Family, I was so sorry to hear the news about Benny. He was a wonderful man, always with a smile on his face. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Meg Blubaugh*

Meg Blubaugh - October 03, 2018 at 06:52 AM

HD

“ *Dora I am so sorry to hear of your loss.Benny was a sweet man. You are in my thoughts and prayers my friend.*

Hazel Dominick - October 02, 2018 at 07:36 PM

JG

“ *Jeanie Gaylor lit a candle in memory of Benny Ray Hayes*



Jeanie Gaylor - October 02, 2018 at 05:18 PM

JG

Dora my heart goes out to you and your family. I am keeping you in my thoughts and prayers. Love Jeanie (Fulmer) Gaylor

Jeanie Gaylor - October 02, 2018 at 05:21 PM

CP

Sweet Dora and family, I am saddened by the loss of Benny! You guys were just the ideal couple and always busy and always with a smile on your faces and happiness in your heart! Always time to talk and visit in which I did enjoy when I was lucky enough to run into you guys!!!! Take care my sweet friend and you all are in my prayers for comfort! Much love to you all. Cindy Moore Powell.

Cindy Moore Powell - October 03, 2018 at 09:50 PM



Bless you and the family, Dora. You and Benny were the perfect match. He was such a kind sweet man, I know he'll be missed by many. You and the family are in my prayers. Alice (Newman) Dyes.

Alice Dyes - October 04, 2018 at 07:46 AM

DJ

“ *Dora I am so sorry to hear of your loss. My prayers are with you, Lindy, and Ashley . Love Delia Jackson*

Delia Jackson - October 02, 2018 at 02:52 PM


LR

“ *Dora and Family,*

Janet, Natalie, Melanie, and I send our heartfelt condolences. We are keeping you and your family in our thoughts and prayers. May the peace of our Lord be with you during these difficult days. Peace be with you all!

Larry and Janet Robertson

Larry Robertson - October 02, 2018 at 11:52 AM

 Donna Summers

“ *Dora,*
Warren & I were heartbroken to hear of Benny. Please know that you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers.

Warren & Donna Summers



Donna Summers - October 02, 2018 at 11:32 AM

WG

“ Dora, Lindy, and Ashley,

The Mansour Circle of my childhood wouldn't exist without certain people. Benny was one of those personalities. I am reminded of fond childhood memories when I think about us all roaming about the yards. Who remembers the vacant lot during snowstorms, when Mr. Benny would string rope on old truck mudflaps for sleds. I also remember the peddle car fire trucks that he displayed in the living room (weird memory, but I cant always choose what I remember!)

In short, he (as well as the three of you) was always very generous and kind to my family. People like Benny are a rarity, and I am a better person for having known him. I pray for you all to find a peace in his passing.

Wilson Glover

Wilson Glover - October 02, 2018 at 11:26 AM



Dora, Lindy and Ashley, I cannot imagine what you all are going through at this sad time. David and I have you in our thoughts and prayers. We've got some real fun memories and we will never forget them. What a happy family and he will be missed but he's in heaven walking seeing his old friends just a perfect body. We love y'all and you need us please let us know.

Irene Hemmings - October 02, 2018 at 02:02 PM

FF

“ We are so sorry to hear this. Our thoughts and prayers are with all the family during this time of loss. God be with all of you. Frank and Melody Farmer

FRANK AND MELODY FARMER - October 02, 2018 at 08:26 AM

CH

“ *Cathy Houston lit a candle in memory of Benny Ray Hayes*



Cathy Houston - October 02, 2018 at 07:27 AM

GW

“ *We are so very sorry for your loss. May your memories comfort you in these difficult days.*

Getaldine Bobby Welch - October 02, 2018 at 06:18 AM

JE

“ *We may not have known Benny the way most do, but we knew he was a truly blessed man who loved everyone. We are so sorry to hear of his passing and hope that his family and friends are able to find comfort in the time of need.*

Jennifer Walker, Betty Mayo & Donald Spradlin

Jennifer - October 01, 2018 at 08:09 PM

EP

“ *Dora and girls - you are in my heart and in my prayers.*

Love

Beth

Elizabeth S Pitts - October 01, 2018 at 07:52 PM

TD

“ Terry And Karen Durrough lit a candle in memory of Benny Ray Hayes



Terry and Karen Durrough - October 01, 2018 at 07:30 PM

SW

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with ya'll during this difficult time.
Susan and Ronnie

Susan Whatley - October 01, 2018 at 07:13 PM



“ Benny & Dora were some of the first people I met here in Newnan when I moved here 9 years ago. They really made me feel comfortable here, and I knew I had moved to the right place. Rest in peace, my friend.
Cantrell

Chris Cantrell - October 01, 2018 at 06:51 PM

TW

“ Dear Dora and Family,
We are so sorry to hear of Benny's death, Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you through this trying time. May the God give you Peace, Love and Comfort during this very difficult time.
Tony & Jenny Whitten

Tony & Jenny whitten - October 01, 2018 at 03:31 PM

SR

“ I feel so blessed to have known Benny in my lifetime, your entire family is a beacon of love and compassion. You are all in my prayers daily.

Sabrina Reasor - October 01, 2018 at 03:25 PM

BB

“ Dear Dora,
Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you through this trying time.
Betty Boylston, Smart Solutions.

Betty Boylston - October 01, 2018 at 03:03 PM

DS

“ Dear Dora, Helen, Emmett and Family,
I am so sorry to hear of Benny's death, he was a fine Fellow. May the Good Lord give you Peace, Love and Contentment during this very difficult time.
God loves you and I do too,
Don Jones Sr.

Don Jones Sr. - October 01, 2018 at 02:12 PM