



Joseph Tilley

JUN 4, 1953 - JAN 6, 2026



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Joseph Otis Tilley, 72, of Cornelius, went to be with the Lord on January 6, 2026 after a long battle with Dementia. He was born in Fuquay-Varina, NC on June 4, 1953, to the late Victor and Reba Tilley.

One of his first jobs was working at the FV Food Center. He graduated from FVHS in 1971 and Campbell University in 1975. Joe then continued his career in the grocery business as the Store Manager at Piggly Wiggly, Apex, NC for many years. Joe retired from Sellethics/MDI after many years as a Retail Store Reset Manager.

Joe, a faithful husband of 43 years, a devoted father, loving grandfather, and a gentle presence in the lives of all who knew him. He will be remembered for his kindness, patience, and unwavering support of his family. As a father, he was steady and encouraging, always showing up for his children in ways that mattered most. Whether on the sidelines at a game, during long practices, or in everyday moments, he made sure his kids knew they were supported, valued, and loved.

As a grandfather, his gentle spirit shined even brighter. He took great joy in cheering on his grandchildren in sports and activities, celebrating their efforts with pride and quiet encouragement. His presence was comforting, and his love was constant.

Family vacations were among his greatest joys. He cherished time spent together and felt blessed to be making memories with those he treasured most.

Those who are left to cherish his memories include his wife Phyllis Miller Tilley; son, David Ray Smith-Tilley and wife Megan; daughter August Tilley Dinkins-Brown and husband Derek; sister Ann Marie Tilley and 6 grandchildren (Southern, Chace, Emma, Rivers, Alana, and Kallaway).

A graveside service will be held at Hopewell Baptist Church, 18841 Davidson-Concord Road, Davidson, NC 28036 at 1:00 pm Friday January 9th. Visitation and lunch will follow in the church fellowship hall.



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Memorials may be made to Hopewell Baptist Church Building Fund or Alzheimer's Association.

Pallbearers will be Southern Smith-Tilley, Chace Smith-Tilley, Rivers Smith-Tilley, Kallaway Dinkins, Ryan Miller and Mike Reese.

James Funeral Home of Huntersville is serving the family.

He will be deeply missed and forever loved.




Events


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Graveside Service


 **Friday**, January 9, 2026

 1:00 PM ET

 **Hopewell Baptist Church Cemetery**
18841 Davidson Concord Rd, Davidson NC
28036



Cemetery Details

 **Hopewell Baptist Church Cemetery**
18841 Davidson Concord Rd, Davidson NC
28036





Tribute Wall

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Anonymous sent a Country Basket Blooms to the Tilley family.



January 7 at 11:24 AM



Your Scg-Metrolina Springfield Family planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Joseph.



January 7 at 11:24 AM



Dwilliams - Wca Alumni Dept. planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Joseph.



January 7 at 10:46 AM



Dwilliams - Wca Alumni Dept. sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Tilley family.



January 7 at 10:46 AM



Southern Smith-Tilley posted:

He always had a stick of gum anytime anywhere whenever we asked for some he had some ready

January 6 at 5:21 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Joseph by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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