

“If Tomorrow Starts Without Me”

If Tomorrow starts without me, and I'm not there to see,
If the sun should rise and find your eyes, all filled with tears for me;
I wish so much you wouldn't cry the way you did today,
While thinking of the many things, we didn't get to say.

I know how much you love me, as much as I love you,
And each time that you think of me, I know you'll miss me too.
But if tomorrow starts without me, please try to understand
That an angel came and called my name, and took me by the hand
He said my place was ready, in heaven far above,
And that I'd have to leave behind all those I dearly love.

But as I turned to walk away, a tear fell from my eye
For all my life, I'd always thought, I didn't want to die.

I had so much to live for, so much left yet to do.
It seemed almost impossible, that I was leaving you.
I thought of all the yesterdays, the good ones and the bad,
I thought of all the love we shared, and all the fun we had.

If I could relive yesterday, just even for a while,
I'd say good-bye and kiss you, and maybe see you smile.
But then I fully realized, that this could never be.
For emptiness and memories, would take the place of me.

And then I thought of worldly things, I might miss come tomorrow,
I thought of you, and when I did, my heart was filled with sorrow.
But when I walked through heaven's gates, I felt so much at home.
When God looked down and smiled at me from His great golden
throne.

He said, "This is eternity and all I've promised you."
Today your life on earth is past, but here life starts anew.

I promise no tomorrow, but today will always last.
And since each day's the same way, there's no longing for the past.
You have been faithful, so trusting and so true.

Though there were times you did some things
You knew you shouldn't do. But you have been forgiven
And now at last you're free. So won't you come and take my hand
And share my life with me?

So if tomorrow starts without me, don't think we're far apart.
For every time you think of me, I'm right here, in your heart.

Floral Bearers

Nieces

Pall Bearers

Nephews

Acknowledgment

We wish to express sincere thanks and gratitude for the many comforting acts of kindness and sympathy shown during the passing of our loved one. We would like to thank Atrium Health-Union, Monroe Manor and Novant Oncology for the care they provided.
May God bless you all.

*Contributions may be made to the
American Cancer Society.*

The Family of Mr. Joseph Donald Oates



~ Funeral Services Entrusted To ~

Enloe Mortuary

231 North Lafayette Street • Shelby, NC 28150 • (704) 487-9598

www.enloemortuary.com

“Sympathetic and Efficient Service”

A Home Going Service For *Mr. Joseph Donald Oates*



**Tuesday, March 3, 2020
2:30 PM**

**Washington Baptist Church
Shelby, NC**

**Pastor Melvin Clark, Officiating
Rev. Vincent Ross, Eulogist**

Order of Service

Prelude

Processional

Reception of Friends.....1:30 PM until 2:30 PM

Officiating Minister.....Pastor Melvin Clark

Selection.....Sister Carolyn Wilson

Scripture Reading
Old Testament.....Minister Tim Wilson
New Testament.....Rev. Joe Wilson, Jr.

Prayer of Comfort.....Bishop John McCullough

Selection.....St. Peter's Gospel Assemble

Remarks.....Family Member/Friend
Mr. Joel Guyton and Mr. Jordan Guyton
Ms. Peggy Oates
Mrs. Pamela Oates Guyton
Rev. Charles Webber

Obituary Reading.....Silently

Selection.....Rev. Joe Wilson

Words of Comfort.....Rev. Vincent Ross

Recessional.....“The Keynotes Prayer”.....

Interment

Washington Baptist Church Cemetery
Shelby, NC



Obituary

Mr. Joseph Donald Oates of Monroe, NC transitioned from this life for his heavenly home on February 26, 2020 at Atrium Health Union in Monroe, NC. He was born on June 1, 1937 in Shelby, NC to the late Charles M. and Lucy Hunter Oates.

Mr. Oates graduated from Washington High School and served in the US Air Force. He grew up in the Washington Community and was a former member of Washington Baptist Church. He was an active member of Restoration Outreach Church in Monroe, NC under the leadership of Pastor Eddie Williams until his health declined. He enjoyed serving his church family. He also enjoyed westerns, sports - especially boxing and baseball, playing cards, bingo, solving puzzles, and laughing. He truly loved quartet music! But most of all, he said he “loved Pam, Peggy, Donna, his grands, and his great grands!”

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Charles Oates Jr. and Samuel W. Oates; and two sisters, Barbara Oates Schenck and Idola Oates.

Left to cherish his memory are three daughters, Pamela Oates Guyton (Joseph) of Kings Mountain, NC, Peggy Oates and Donna Oates, both of Charlotte, NC; former wife and mother to his children, Jeanette Montgomery Oates of Kings Mountain, NC; one brother, Stonewall Oates of Shelby, NC; one sister, Dr. Virginia Oates of Charlotte, NC; three grandsons, Jacobi Oates and Joel Guyton of Kings Mountain, NC, and Jordan Guyton of Huntsville, AL; three great grandchildren, Josiah Guyton, Peyton Lewis, and Izzabella Blanton; special friends like family, Evelyn and Larry Carelock of Monroe, NC; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.