



Timothy Wyatt Cotman Sr.

October 5, 1942 - August 1, 2023

Timothy Wyatt Cotman, Sr. (Tim), 80, of Charles City, Virginia, went to be with the Lord on August 1, 2023. Born on October 5, 1942, he was preceded in death by his parents, Timothy and Hortense Jones Cotman, stepmother, Lorene Bradby Cotman, brother, Vernon S. Cotman, and sister, Elva A. R. Cotman.

Timothy joined Gilfield Baptist Church and gave his life to Christ at an early age. He attended Ruthville High School before matriculating to Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, as an 'early entrant' in the fall of 1960. While at Fisk, he became a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and went on to graduate with a bachelor's degree in chemistry in June of 1964 and a master's degree in science education in 1967. He continued his education at Virginia Tech, earning a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies in 1992 while working toward a doctoral degree in education.

With a degree in chemistry, Tim began his professional career as a teacher at Ruthville High School in 1964. There he taught science in grades 7-12, including general science, chemistry, physical science, and physics until 1978. Former students have described him as tough but fair. He was also employed as a chemist by Allied Chemical in Hopewell, Virginia during that period (1968 - 1972). In 1978, he was promoted to assistant principal at the same high school, which became Charles City County High School. In 1980, Tim was

employed by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) as a Science Education Specialist until he was promoted to Staff Development Specialist in 1993. In 1995, Tim left the VDOE to direct a National Science Foundation project called Project SUCCESS until December of 1998 when he returned to the VDOE as the Curriculum and Instruction Specialist with the Governor's Best Practice Center of Southside, Va. Upon retiring from the VDOE, he worked as an independent educational consultant.

Tim lived in Charles City County his entire life, with the exception of his time spent in college in Nashville. In 1967, he married Olivia Ellen Gardner of Detroit, MI, with whom he raised three children, Nicol, Deana and Tim, Jr.

He was an active member of the community, giving of his time, talents and energy as President of the Charles City Recreation Association (1968-1973), Chairman of the Organizational Committee for the Charles City Volunteer Fire Department and first President (1972), Member and Trustee Board Chairman at Gilfield Baptist Church, Member of the Board of the Virginia Mathematics and Science Coalition, Member of the Board of the Charles City Cultural Alliance, Member of the Charles City County Board of Supervisors (January 2002 - December 2011), and Member of the Charles City Spiritual Ensemble.

In 1988, Tim married Sammie Choyce Blake, reconnecting many years after their initial meeting at Fisk University. Together, they enjoyed a life of love, travel and adventure while continuing to work in their community. They were known for hosting fun events at their home on the river.

Tim loved spending time with family and friends. He enjoyed socializing and often displayed the Cotman wit, which is so very common with him and his siblings. Tim was a classic car enthusiast who could instantly recall the slightest change in body style from year to year on a variety of cars. He was particularly fond of convertibles, especially those painted red. He prided

himself on his ability to 'MacGyver' things, like when he used a wire hanger to temporarily replace an accelerator cable that had broken on his '68 Skylark Buick. Tim was quick to encourage the younger generation to continue their educational pursuits. He believed the more education you acquired the more options you would have for your future. Tim was a fan of Motown classics with Smokey Robinson and the Miracles being one of his favorite groups and "Rainy Night in Georgia" by Brook Benton being one of his favorite songs. He dedicated years of his life to Gilfield Baptist Church, earning the designation of Trustee Emeritus in 2021.

Timothy leaves to cherish his memories his devoted and loving wife of 35 years, Sammie Cotman; two daughters, Nicol Tinsley (Alfonso) of Chesterfield, VA, and Deana Miles (Marvin) of Newport News, VA; one son, Timothy Cotman, Jr. (Shanna) of Clifton, VA; brothers, Elwin Cotman and Christopher Cotman of Charles City, VA; devoted stepsister, Pamela Bradby of Henrico, VA; three stepbrothers, devoted brother Henry Bradby, Sr. (Maria) of Richmond, VA, Robert Bradby, Jr. (Anna) of Charles City, VA, and Steven Bradby, Sr. (Tonya) of Durham, NC; six grandchildren, Aliah Cotman, Marvin Miles, Jr., Jorion Tinsley, Mason Miles, Harper Cotman, and Natasha Hutchinson; one great-grandchild, Keturah; two godchildren, Zachary Smith and Sydney Smith; devoted friends, Lisa Putney-Smith, John Allen, and John Hardy; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

A funeral service will be held 1pm Saturday, August 12, 2023, at Gilfield Baptist Church 6640 Church Ln, Charles City, VA 23030. A viewing will be from 5pm-8pm, Friday August 11, 2023, at Vincent Funeral Home, 9923 Pocahontas Trail, Providence Forge, VA 23140.

Cemetery Details

Gilfield Baptist Church Cemetery

6640 Church Ln.
Charles City, VA 23030

Previous Events

Viewing

AUG 11. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Vincent Funeral Home, Providence Forge Chapel
9923 Pocahontas Trail
Providence Forge, VA 23140
(804) 966-7075

Funeral Service

AUG 12. 1:00 PM (ET)

Gilfield Baptist Church
6640 Church Ln.
Charles City, VA 23030

Tribute Wall

LB

“ I worked with Tim at VDOE. He was a good man and will be missed. His work with the Center for Staff Development in 1993 improved education in the state. Sammie, my deepest sympathy to you and your family. God be with you always.



Larry W. Brooks - August 18, 2023 at 03:04 PM

WE

“ Warren & Esther lit a candle in memory of Timothy Wyatt Cotman Sr.



Warren & Esther - August 18, 2023 at 01:47 AM

JJ

“ Joanne Johnson lit a candle in memory of Timothy Wyatt Cotman Sr.



Joanne Johnson - August 14, 2023 at 02:24 PM

RB

“ To be absent from the body is to be present with the lord. Prayers and condolences to the family.

Reggie and Tawande Barbour - August 11, 2023 at 07:58 PM

BB

“ Our sincere condolences to the Cotman family. Remembering Tim as a good person, a devoted father and a good friend. Treasure the memories he left behind. Wishing you peace, comfort and courage during this difficult times.

R.I.P

John and Brenda Bailey



Brenda Bailey - August 11, 2023 at 03:34 PM

CO

“ My condolences to the Cotman family. May Mr. Timothy Cotman R.I.P.

Corlisse Calhoun and family



corlisse - August 10, 2023 at 02:34 PM

MD

“ Mr. Cotman was like a 2nd father to me and some of of my other friends. We've played basketball with him, gotten some wisdom from him, had a beer or two with him, and shared quite a few laughs!!! Heck, he taught some of our parents, too!!! Thank you, Mr. Cotman, and "thank you" to your family for sharing him with us!!! Not too many out there like this one, and his wit and wisdom will be greatly missed by all!!! My most sincere condolences to The Cotman Family: may your tears give way to pleasant memories & smiles, and may your hearts mend in due time!!! Love you all!!! God Bless!!!

Montrese Dobson - August 10, 2023 at 02:00 PM

DC

In loving Memory's of my School Teacher. Mr. Cotman was a very strong teacher, didn't play with us. I got to speak to him doing the parade(In his Little Sports Car) as a friend, not a teacher, so I wasn't worried about not passing his class. Already Graduated. Rest in Peace Mr. Timothy Cotman. My Heart goes out to the Family

Dale Barbour Crawley - August 11, 2023 at 03:05 PM

MT

“ *Marilyn Wallace Thompson lit a candle in memory of Timothy Wyatt Cotman Sr.*



Marilyn Wallace Thompson - August 09, 2023 at 06:10 PM

JH

“ *My heart felt condolences to your family. May God bless each one of you in his way .Keep close to family and May memories remain with you'll.*



Joie Howell - August 09, 2023 at 03:58 PM

TS

“ *Tonya Smith lit a candle in memory of Timothy Wyatt Cotman Sr.*



Tonya Smith - August 08, 2023 at 10:02 PM

EC

“ To the Cotman family we are sending our condolences and prayers to you all during this difficult time . Tim as we called him was a very special person who loved everyone and we all loved him and he will be truly missed. He added so much back to Charles City and for this we have so many wonderful memories. We are sending you all our love and prayers. Eugene and Judy Crump



Eugene and Judy Crump - August 08, 2023 at 06:00 PM

VB

“ Vera Burrell lit a candle in memory of Timothy Wyatt Cotman Sr.



vera Burrell - August 08, 2023 at 02:56 PM

DC

“ Mrs. Cotman and Family:
Timothy was one of the outstanding members of the Class of 1961. We were proud to know he gave back to our beloved community. Timothy hosted one of our class reunions at your home on the James River. You and him created another beautiful memory for the Class of 1961.
May it continue to comfort you that so many people share your sorrow at this time.
Doris Bradby Charity and Family

Doris Charity - August 08, 2023 at 01:40 PM

CC

“ *Candy Cotman-Johnson lit a candle in memory of Timothy Wyatt Cotman Sr.*



Candy Cotman-Johnson - August 08, 2023 at 06:13 AM

BC

“ *Bruce Cutler lit a candle in memory of Timothy Wyatt Cotman Sr.*



Bruce Cutler - August 07, 2023 at 09:37 PM

BC

“ *Barbara Charity lit a candle in memory of Timothy Wyatt Cotman Sr.*



Barbara Charity - August 07, 2023 at 06:36 PM

CJ

“ *Carrol W Hughes Jr lit a candle in memory of Timothy Wyatt Cotman Sr.*



Carrol W Hughes Jr - August 07, 2023 at 12:34 PM

CJ

Condolence to your family from ours..God bless ...

Carrol W Hughes Jr - August 07, 2023 at 12:36 PM

EM

Mr Cotman was a true mentor; he was my cousin and my frat brother. While employed as a Director for Chesterfield County public schools, I could always call him when I needed advice. Nicole may the Lord keep his precious hands upon you and the family during these trying times.

E. Wayne Green, Sr MBA - August 11, 2023 at 02:55 PM

KC

“ *My sincere condolences on the passing of your dad.*



Kerry Charity-Simms - August 07, 2023 at 12:21 PM

CP

“ *Thinking of you in this time of sorrow. Sending heartfelt sympathy and prayers.*

Charlotte and Wesley Peterson - August 07, 2023 at 10:41 AM

CM

“ *Christopher Marrow lit a candle in memory of Timothy Wyatt Cotman Sr.*



Christopher Marrow - August 07, 2023 at 10:16 AM

RC

“ Rev Sheila Crump lit a candle in memory of Timothy Wyatt Cotman Sr.



rev sheila crump - August 07, 2023 at 02:21 AM

TQ

May The Lord Keep You And Bless You In Your Time Of Sorrow

Terry Quivers - August 09, 2023 at 09:20 AM

TQ

THE QUIVERS FAMILY WE LOVE YOU 🙏🙏🙏

Terry Quivers - August 09, 2023 at 09:23 AM

LJ

“ Lisa M Jones sent a virtual gift in memory of Timothy Wyatt Cotman Sr.



Lisa M Jones - August 07, 2023 at 01:43 AM

AB

“ Adrienne Crawley Burrell lit a candle in memory of Timothy Wyatt Cotman Sr.



Adrienne Crawley Burrell - August 06, 2023 at 10:01 PM

AB

Condolences to the family. Rest in Peace, Mr. Cotman.

Adrienne Crawley Burrell - August 06, 2023 at 10:06 PM

LM

“ *To the family,*

I'm so sorry to hear of Mr. Cotman's passing. He taught me years ago and was a great teacher. Sending prayers of comfort for you all during thus difficult time.

Lois "Sugarfoot" Miles - August 06, 2023 at 07:33 PM

YB

“ *Yvonne Bradby sent a virtual gift in memory of Timothy Wyatt Cotman Sr.*



Yvonne Bradby - August 06, 2023 at 07:25 PM

EG

“ *Evelyn Miles Giebel lit a candle in memory of Timothy Wyatt Cotman Sr.*



Evelyn Miles Giebel - August 06, 2023 at 06:31 PM



“ *My condolences to the family. Tim was a trooper but now, he is in a beautiful place that no man can change. The Lord Mighty and Strong - Blessings - Nancy*



Nancy Jones - August 06, 2023 at 05:28 PM

WB

“ *So sorry to learn of Cousin Tim's passing. Praying that God will bless, keep and comfort the family during this trying time.*



Warren and JoAnne Bell - August 06, 2023 at 02:41 PM

GW

“ *Gwendolynn P Whiting lit a candle in memory of Timothy Wyatt Cotman Sr.*



Gwendolynn P Whiting - August 06, 2023 at 02:34 PM

AE

“ *Anthony And Ebony lit a candle in memory of Timothy Wyatt Cotman Sr.*



Anthony and Ebony - August 06, 2023 at 09:08 AM

BC

“ Mr. Cotman who later became just Tim to me was my Chemistry teacher at CCHS. I have many memories filled with laughter and some that are not so funny. He always instilled in us to do our best. It is amazing how some of my teachers became some of my best friends. Tim and I shared many political views, community concerns, and even sung in the Spiritual Ensemble. Tim will be missed but his spirit of friendship will continue to radiate in the community and in the hearts of those who loved him. Sweet rest my teacher and friend.

*Brenda Jones Cotman
CCHS Class of 76*

Brenda Jones Cotman - August 05, 2023 at 12:42 PM

KT

“ Kenneth Tabb lit a candle in memory of Timothy Wyatt Cotman Sr.



Kenneth Tabb - August 05, 2023 at 09:01 AM

CC

“ Corey And Nicole Cotman sent a virtual gift in memory of Timothy Wyatt Cotman Sr.



Corey and Nicole Cotman - August 04, 2023 at 02:43 PM

LI

“ *Linda lit a candle in memory of Timothy Wyatt Cotman Sr.*



Linda - August 04, 2023 at 02:34 PM

MG

“ *I knew Tim for about twenty years and every time I saw him in good and bad times, he always had a jovial positive attitude.
Love always, Shelly Gittens*

Michelle Gittens - August 04, 2023 at 12:37 PM