



## Reverend Cory Martin Massey

March 31, 1951 - August 15, 2024

Reverend Cory Martin Massey, with a heart full of peace and joy, embraced the loving arms of Jesus as he was gently led into eternity. His journey was marked by serenity, guided by the faith and love that had always been his compass. As of Thursday, August 15, 2024, Cory rests in the eternal light, where love and peace reign forever.

Rev. Massey's transition was a moment of profound love and deep connection. With his soulmate of forty-six (46) years (Fran) tenderly by the bedside and his beloved goddaughter, Kayla, softly present in the background, he peacefully crossed over from his home in Clemson, SC. His final moments were a testament to a life filled with unwavering love and enduring bonds. Rev. Massey fixed his eyes on the ultimate prize and, with immense determination, crossed the finished line of his earthly race. His journey was one of purpose and resolve, and in his final moments, he claimed the victory he had been striving for all his life. Now, Rev. Massey stands triumphant, his spirit soaring into immortality ... "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." 2Timothy 4:7.

Rev. Massey made his entrance into this world on March 31, 1951, a precious gift lovingly presented to his parents, the late Ernest and Donnie Banks Massey. His modest upbringing, shaped by the nurturing embrace of the church, instilled in Rev. Massey a deep sense of humility and grounded him in

faith. Despite life's challenges, these early lessons of resilience and devotion became the bedrock of his character, guiding him through every step of his journey.

Rev. Massey made history when he enrolled at Daniel High School, stepping into the unknown as the first Black male during the turbulent onset of desegregation. Though he seldom spoke of the pain and hardships of those days, the memories were etched in his heart. When he did open up, he would recall John McKenzie, the one who saw beyond the color of his skin and the poverty that marked his life. John was the one who stood by him, refusing to join in the cruelty, offering kindness instead of scorn. In a world that tried to break him, that friendship became a beacon of hope. [His late sister Eugenia Massey (Geany Masai - actress name) was one of the two first Black females at Daniel.] Rev Massey played football at Daniel starting on the junior varsity team. Rev Massey would say, "I was the first black to make a touchdown on that field"; then chuckle and say, "as a JV team player". Later in his days at Daniel, he was shown great love. His letterman jacket was destroyed when his family lost everything in a house fire. His teammates came together to replace his jacket.

After high school, Rev Massey attended Tri-County Technical College where he studied Electronics. He used this trade to assist in wiring many homes at Keowee Keys and the old Badcock Furniture Store in Seneca. Family and friends also pulled on Rev. Massey's generosity.

In 1970 Rev. Massey was approached and asked to come by the Clemson Police Department. It rattled him, wondering what am I being accused of. He was assured that he had done nothing wrong. From that meeting Rev. Massey became the first Black officer with the City of Clemson Police Department at the age of 19. He later went to the Pickens County Sheriff's Department (PCSD) and worked his way up to Sergeant. His first road partner was Robert

Griffin. He and Rev. Massey kept in touch by text and calls. Rev. Massey was an encourager in Robert's life always seeing the best in him. It was also during his time with the PCSD that he met Harold Porter. They worked closely and became true brothers ... only by death has the bond been broken. We have heard the stories of their marathon conversation where they talked non-stop from 9pm to after 9am the next morning. Fran would get out of bed periodically to ensure Rev. Massey was awake. The world has never known two men having so much to talk, cry, and laugh about. Harold had asked Rev. Massey to preach his funeral should he go first from the cancer battle. Rev. Massey, not knowing his fate, wrote the speech for his brother about three months ago so Carol (Harold's daughter) would have it when the death angel calls. Rev. Massey also joined the Prison Ministry of Pickens County. He went to the prison serving under Pastor Joe Moss to deliver a word, a song or a meal. For his work, the church was presented a plaque.

Rev. Massey had several jobs after law enforcement, but one led him to meeting his soulmate, his life partner. Janete Hunter and Rev. Massey worked together at Jacobs Chuck. She set him up on a blind date with her sister Fran in 1978. They went to see the Manhattans in concert with the Commodores. Five (5) months later, they eloped and truly became one... Rev. Massey and Fran Massey til death... forty-six (46) years of an endless love.

Rev. Massey rededicated his life to the work of the Lord and became a devoted member of St. Matthew Baptist Church, Westminster SC. He was passionate about sharing the love of Jesus with others. A loyal servant dedicated to playing music, loving and feeding others, and building a community wherever he went. Although content with being a choir member and doing physical labor around the church, the call on his life sounded louder and louder. He preached his initial sermon in 1987, "Consider Your Ways", at St. Peter Apostolic Missionary Baptist with Rev. William Cureton. He was later

called by Rev. E. Haynes to pastor a Presbyterian church in Anderson SC temporarily for three (3) years. After providing the requested service, Rev. Massey returned to St. Matthew where he was elected Assistant Pastor under the mentorship of God and Pastor Patricia C Grant. He also served as Sunday School Superintendent, Brotherhood liaison, and Director of Youth Education (with Fran). Working with the youth was a joy! They intertwined it with the ministry they founded in 1997, the Keeper's Inn for Developing and Directing Sheep (KIDDS) Ministries. It was/is a help ministry that has fed thousands, clothed hundreds, and furnished the homes of many with furniture and appliances. He annually took the youth to WinterFest in Gatlinburg, summer trips to Virginia, Florida, Tennessee, and Georgia at no expense to the church. KIDDS prepared breakfast every Sunday and saw that there was an explosive Vacation Bible School and a revolutionary Youth Revival each summer.

Rev. Massey bought a 5 ton dump trailer in order to haul more food from the fields that were gleaned. He would drive to Rawl Farms in Pelion, SC with a group many times to glean corn and bring back a dump trailer load to distribute. He would drive to the Rawl Farms in Lexington SC to gather summer squash and zucchini. Rev. Massey would drive the gleaners to Callahan Orchards for peaches and strawberries... and to Chattooga Belle Farms for apples, and to the Vineyards at The Cliffs for muscadines. Though Rev. Massey delivered to many agencies and families, he kept home, Dot's Kitchen in Westminster, close to heart. Always calling Mr. Kinard/Mr. Truman for first choice of goods. Even in his sickness, Rev. Massey rode with Fran to pickup and deliver most times. He never wanted to stop helping people... and never complained of the personal expense to accomplish any of the above. Rev. Massey (and Fran) received several Service to Mankind Awards from Sertoma International for their significant and meritorious service. Some of their activities were noted in newspapers and on WYFF News 4.

Rev. Massey had several hobbies/activities. He loved to drive... in addition to

the ministry drives, he drove 18 wheelers as far as California packing up and moving families' belongings. He was a driver for Coach Charter, Greenville SC for years on weekends. Upon retiring from Clemson University in 2006 as Director of Staff Development Training for Housing, he took on more trips with Coach Charter. He was driver for the Sensational Southern Echoes, a gospel singing group, Belton, SC. And he was Fran's personal chauffeur to gatherings with her Winthrop University Golden Girls. Those golden girls (Phyllis, Jill, Janice, Shirley) became Rev. Massey's sisters.

Rev. Massey enjoyed shopping more than Fran. His godson Brian Mulwee would occasionally carry him for a doctor's visit or to drop off a piece of equipment for repair. They would be gone the entire day going from one store to another...until Fran would call to ensure all was well. Rev. Massey would always thank his bonus sister Lannie Grant for sharing her son.

Music was another love especially his bass guitar. He was overjoyed when he once got to play with his cousins (the Crooks) on the House of Prayer for All People Band. It was said that, "Rev. Cory Martin Massey gained his wings Thursday morning, and immediately signed up for bass player position with the heavenly choir."

He enjoyed family... It was a blessing when he postponed a surgery to spend a week with his closest biological living relative, a niece in Maryland, Dr. Johari Makeba Massey (Earl). She continued to spoil him with gifts after his return home. He cherished spiritual support - books to read, CD's to play, and private conversations with Ch. Deacon Bobby Hunter; spent quality time in the home of a recently found second cousin, Rev. James Massey (Lady Jaye), Piedmont SC; tinkered around with Brother Samuel whether building a room, trimming limbs, changing batteries in cameras...any opportunity for conversation; the times nephew Marcos stopped working on lawn care just to sit on the patio, have a sandwich/drink and talk with Uncle C; and the

afternoons spent teaching godson Darryl Jr. how to change a tire and brake shoes, how to use a yard blower and how to operate a riding lawn mower.

Rev. Massey was also fond of golf. In addition to watching it on TV, when his health was good he traveled to many courses throughout SC and other states to play a round of golf. Some thought playing golf was expensive, but it was pennies to his hobby of building trucks, trailers, and tankers from kits. The thousands of pieces to paint and assemble was tedious work. And of course, the lights, sounds and whistles were a must. Imani, a self-appointed daughter, would stop by occasionally. They had a great time racing trucks up and down the street. Fran once commented that he had spent enough on this hobby to buy her a 'real' truck. Now, Rev. Massey did not like gardening, but he did enjoy sitting on the patio watching Fran's every move as she worked it. He loved that lady!

With all of Rev. Massey's work and hobbies, none were more fulfilling than his work for the Lord. Fran, his furry baby (Sadie) and his godchildren had to take back burner when duty called. Speaking of godchildren, he said he had thirty-four (34). Since then, three (3) has been added... goddaughter Kendra Christian, a nursing student at Tri-County Technical College, godson Jim Carling, a retired and accomplished business coach, and grand goddaughter Little Ms. Noa Brielle Hunter born May 20, 2024 who was able to visit him once.

Rev. Massey was predeceased by his four grandparents, parents, sister, and godchildren.

He left behind his "once, twice, three times a lady"; his committed, unshakable, and unwavering wife who saw him as the H in her H<sub>2</sub>O; daddy's girl Sadie; faithful niece: Dr. Johari Makeba Massey (Earl); loving brother of

his journey: Harold Porter; dedicated chosen brothers and sisters in unity: Samuel Cleveland, Travis Cleveland (Kathy), Darryl Cleveland, Pastor Patricia Grant (Bruce), Rev. Janete Hunter (Bobby) all of Seneca SC and Dr. Elder Jacqueline Davis-Gines (Marlin) Ooltewah, Tennessee; devoted bonus sisters: Vivian Watson and Lannie Grant; bonus brothers: Hosea Cleveland and Timothy Cleveland of Seneca SC; a caring aunt in bond: Virginia Carter, West Union SC and an uncle in bond: Henry Cleveland, Westminster SC.

Rev. Massey's life was a radiant reminder to cherish those we love deeply, to embrace each day with a positive heart, and to find pure joy in the simple, everyday moments, live with a positive outlook. Above all, his legacy urges us to Trust in God, holding onto faith as the anchor that guides us through life's journey.

Mountain View Funeral Home – Seneca Chapel is serving the Massey family.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG **20**. 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM (ET)

Mountain View Funerals and Cremations - Seneca Chapel  
101 E. North 2nd St  
Seneca, SC 29678  
(864) 200-2068  
info@mountainviewfunerals.com  
<http://www.mountainviewfunerals.com>

## Funeral Service

AUG **21**. 2:00 PM (ET)

Westminster First Baptist Church  
426 W Oak Hwy  
Westminster, SC 29693

## Burial

AUG **21**. 3:15 PM (ET)

Heritage Memorial Gardens  
4500 Highway 11  
Westminster, SC 29693

# Tribute Wall

VH

“ I loved reading this beautiful obituary. Such a moving tribute to a life well-lived.. I am so sorry for your loss, Fran and family/friends. Rest in the peace of Christ, Cory.

Verna Howell - September 26, 2024 at 04:29 PM

NG

“ Nancy Gee lit a candle in memory of Reverend Cory Martin Massey



Nancy Gee - September 07, 2024 at 11:35 PM

NG

“ I knew Cory Massey at Daniel High when he played football there. What a leader and special spirit who encouraged everyone he met. The world was blessed when he was born and will be a spirit lost. What a kind spirit and gentle giant. Cory will always be with us and his legacy carries on!!

Nancy Gee - September 07, 2024 at 11:34 PM

EB

“ I was saddened to hear of the passing of Mr Massey. I remember him and his mother Ms Donnie VERY well. Both were genuine and real in EVERY way that I saw, and always had a good worship of wisdom for me to help me as I was growing up. Even though I moved away later on I would still asked about them, even after Ms Donnie passed I kept in touch with Mr. Massey. My prayers are with the family for Spiritual healing and strength in the mighty name of Jesus.

---

Elder R. Cannon-aka Bamn Bamn Baltimore - August 24, 2024 at 11:45 AM

JC

“ Dear Aunt Fran and St Matthew family, I love you! My heart is with you! My prayers are with you! Even though it has been so long since I lived in Seneca, you are so close to my heart! You are my family! I love you!

When I learned about Reverend Massey, I instantly knew where he is, no doubt about him being with Jesus. But my heart aches knowing he is gone. And my heart aches for you! I wanted so badly to be with you today!

I love you!

~ Julie

---

Julie Casil - August 21, 2024 at 06:43 PM

EE

“ To the family of Rev Massey you all have my deepest sympathy the daughter of late Edna and Thomas Breazeale

---

Elaine Earle - August 20, 2024 at 10:50 PM

CH

“ *Uncle Cory.....you were my uncle by birth, my Godfather by choice, and my ABC by the love you gave. You will be missed but never forgotten.*

---

**Chuck Hunter** - August 20, 2024 at 08:22 PM

~C

“ *~ Julie Casil purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Reverend Cory Martin Massey.*



---

**~ Julie Casil** - August 20, 2024 at 06:14 PM

AR

“ I’m usually decent with words. But for the life of me, they can’t convey the despair and emptiness that I feel. In our humanity, the sadness we feel when a loved one leaves this earth is endless and deep. As deep and vast as the oceans. Reliving wonderful memories, tend to be the most bittersweet part of it all. But we know that there IS life after death. And for those who are one with God, there is ETERNAL life. So today, and tomorrow and yesterday and the day before that, my eyes shed tears, and my heart ached. Oh, but how my spirit rejoices. For I know that he is living again. He is whole again. Without a walking stick, without pain, without stress. So I thank God for his mercy. I will always miss you Uncle Cory. All that you’ve done will never be forgotten. You and Aunt Fran planted a seed in me. The desire to do community outreach. And I hope I can plant that seed in someone else.



Anjel

---

Anjel & Rhiannon - August 20, 2024 at 06:14 PM

AN

From Anjel AND Rhiannon

---

Anjel/Rhiannon - August 20, 2024 at 06:14 PM

NM

“ My deepest sympathy to Massey in the loss of her husband. They made a great team. May God comfort your heart as only He can do. Love and prayers!

Nancy E McConnell  
Co-worker at Clemson University

---

Nancy E McConnell - August 20, 2024 at 05:43 PM

PN

“ I never had the pleasure of meeting this amazing ma. Janet’s Hunter and I were good friends in high school and Nursing school. My prayers are with all the family during this time.  
*Patti Nelson*



---

**Patti Nelson** - August 20, 2024 at 04:46 PM

BC

“ Sincere condolences to Cory’s family and friends. He served as a role model for my career in law enforcement and I had the privilege of working with him at the Pickens County Sheriff’s Department. I have always held him in highest regards and he imparted great things in everyone he came in contact.

*Bill Cromer*

---

**Bill Cromer** - August 20, 2024 at 10:48 AM

BC

“ Sincere condolences to Cory’s family and friends. He served as a role model for my career in law enforcement and I had the privilege of working with him at the Pickens County Sheriff’s Department. I have always held him in highest regards and he imparted great things in everyone he came in contact.

*Bill Cromer*

---

**Bill Cromer** - August 20, 2024 at 10:47 AM

TE

“ The Carling’s - Jim, Amy, Maddie & Ethan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Reverend Cory Martin Massey.

---

**The Carling’s - Jim, Amy, Maddie & Ethan** - August 20, 2024 at 09:23 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Reverend Cory Martin Massey.*



---

August 20, 2024 at 09:23 AM



“ *Hughes Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Reverend Cory Martin Massey.*

---

**Hughes Family** - August 20, 2024 at 12:32 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Reverend Cory Martin Massey.*



---

August 20, 2024 at 12:32 AM



“ *Condolences to Ms. Massey and family from Marilyn and Fred Robinson. Mr. Massey and Fran treated me like a son and I will be forever grateful. Mr. Massey was a man of many skills and possessed great knowledge on countless subjects. He will be missed but not forgotten!*



---

**Fred Robinson Jr.** - August 19, 2024 at 11:37 PM

DQ

“ Prayers for family and friends 🙏🙏



Durrell Quarles - August 19, 2024 at 09:35 PM

SH

“ Cory my dear friend from Clemson University we had some great memories from you always there for us in the Housing Department you had our back you always called mom Mossy and I was little Mossy it's time for you to take your rest my friend



shirley hagood - August 19, 2024 at 08:22 PM

BK

“ Bruce Ransom & Emma Knight planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Reverend Cory Martin Massey.

Bruce Ransom & Emma Knight - August 19, 2024 at 06:51 PM

BK

“ Bruce Ransom & Emma Knight purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Reverend Cory Martin Massey.



Bruce Ransom & Emma Knight - August 19, 2024 at 06:51 PM

CD

“ Uncle Cory was such an amazing, understanding, and patient individual. He’s guided so many of us “KIDDS” and assisted with some personal things that he probably never knew would impact me. I recently was telling my family how often I think of him doing such minor things around the house... Can’t open a jar; place the lid under warm water. Can’t get the ketchup to come out of a restraint glass style bottle; hold it at a tilt and hit the side... Uncle Cory taught me that. He and my Aunt both were/are such selfless people...Just so caring. There is no amount that I could ever give in repaying them for EVERYTHING they’ve done. It’s hard to separate the two of them, but I find peace in knowing he no longer in pain. We love you so much and always thinking of the lasting impact you had on our lives.

Carissa and Declan - August 19, 2024 at 06:10 PM

MH

“ Loved the guy while at DW Daniel, rest in peace my Brother.

Michael Hendricks - August 19, 2024 at 05:49 PM

VW

“ The song, “How do I live without you” is playing on what seems like a nonstop repeat. I have to check myself because you definitely taught us about situations like this. I am so happy that you and Fran had a major influence in my life, my sons and his children’s lives. We will never forget you, your beautiful wife and Sadie in our thoughts and prayers.

For we know to be absent from the body is to present with the Lord!  
Take your rest Rev. Massey 📖🙏🕊️

Vivian Leigh Watson - August 19, 2024 at 05:43 PM

ZK

“ So sorry for your loss. I went to high school with Cory and worked with him for many years. He was a great guy in school and a great guy at work; always had a smile and talked about his Fran. Cory, we will miss you.

Zelda Barnett Kleister - August 19, 2024 at 05:24 PM

AC

“ I tried for years to get Cory to come to our high school reunions and finally he came to our 45th. When he arrived it was like whatever anyone was doing, they immediately went to Cory and hugged and shook his hand. He really did not realize what an impact he had on his high school classmates but most especially those of us who had the honor to play football along side of him. Rest in Peace my friend, thou good and faithful servant.

Al Cumbie

Alton B Cumbie - August 19, 2024 at 05:02 PM

KK

“ Kendra and Karah purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Reverend Cory Martin Massey.



Kendra and Karah - August 19, 2024 at 04:15 PM

AS

“ Uncle Cory, you have been the greatest lesson in faith I have ever known.

*"The only scars in Heaven, won't belong to me and you.*

*There'll be no such thing as broken, and the old will be made new. But the thought that makes me smile now, even as the tears fall down;*

*Is that the only scars in Heaven are on the hands that hold you now."*

*I'll love you forever Unc C! See you on the other side.💕💕💕💕*



---

**Angela G Sicard** - August 19, 2024 at 04:08 PM

ST

*I was sad to see Cory's obituary. I've not seen him since I worked with him at the Sheriff's Office in the late 1970's, but I still remember what a joyful person he always was. This obituary sounds just like the person I remember and is so nicely written. Deepest sympathy to all the family & friends. Sandi Tinsley*

---

**Sandi Tinsley** - August 19, 2024 at 11:25 PM

RG

*We had the honor of meeting Cory when he came to our lawnmower shop-he was the kindness and caring person I have ever met-he always had time to visit with us when he came . You could ask him anything and he would listen with so much care .Anyone who knew this wonderful man can say they have been blessed .We will miss Cory but you earned your wings so go fly high and please watch over all of us left down here .Know that someday we will meet again . We will miss you so much but I know you would tell each one of us to carry on . Thank you for everything. Steve ,Rachel and Patrick ( Yardpro)*

---

**Rachel Goodwin** - August 21, 2024 at 06:59 PM

MM

*What a wonderful fellow and an old friend, I met at Clemson so many, many years ago. I met Cory through Melvin Maw who worked with me in Ag. Engineering. What a kind and gentle soul. Be with God Cory...*

---

**Mike McLeod** - September 09, 2024 at 05:50 PM