



Rev. Tommy Merlin Esuary

September 2, 1938 - February 12, 2026

Rev. Tommy Merlin Esuary
Pickens, South Carolina

Rev. Tommy Merlin Esuary, age 87, loving husband of 69 years to Donnarene “Donna” Esuary, went home to be with his Lord and Savior on Thursday, February 12, 2026, at his home, surrounded by his loving family.

Born on September 2, 1938, in Pickens County, South Carolina, Preacher Tommy was the beloved son of the late Clayton William Esuary and Julia Irene Brown Esuary. A devoted member of Mt. Sinai Baptist Church in Pickens, he faithfully served the Lord and his congregation with unwavering dedication. For 42½ years, he shepherded his church as pastor, and for a remarkable 63 years, he answered God’s call as a preacher of the Gospel.

Preacher Tommy loved his family deeply, cherished his church, and above all, loved his Lord and Savior. His life was a testament to steadfast faith, humble service, and enduring love. He adored his wife beyond measure and, in a tender and fitting reflection of their lifelong devotion, he was gazing into her eyes when he peacefully passed from this life into eternity.

His favorite Scripture was James 4:14 (KJV):

“Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is

even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”

He not only quoted these words, he lived them, reminding all who knew him to cherish each day as a precious gift from God.

Survivors include his wife, Donna Esuary of the home; daughters, Debbie Liveright (Todd) of Seneca, and Patricia Bearden (Kirby) of Pickens; grandchildren, Spencer Waldrop (Tammy), Robbie Waldrop (Jessica), Levi Bearden (Ashley), Lacey Ellenburg (David), Illyse Bearden, Chris Liveright (Kristie), and Sean Liveright (Heather); 20 great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren; and brothers, Alton Esuary, Jacky Esuary, and Jimmy Esuary.

In addition to his parents, Preacher Tommy was predeceased by his brothers, Billy Esuary and Bobby Esuary, and sister, Betty Gillespie.

The family would like to express their heart felt gratitude to Agape Hospice, especially Tonya and Stephanie, for the exceptional care, kindness, and compassion they so lovingly showed to Preacher Tommy during his final days.

They also extend their sincere appreciation to their church family at Mt. Sinai Baptist Church for the many prayers, visits, calls, and unwavering support. The love and encouragement shown during this time have been a true blessing and a source of strength.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, February 15, 2026, from 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM in the sanctuary of Mt. Sinai Baptist Church with a funeral service to follow at 3:30 PM. A private entombment will take place at Hillcrest Memorial Park.

Flowers will be accepted.

Mountain View Funeral Home is serving the Esuary family.

Cemetery Details

Hillcrest Memorial Park

2410 Gentry Memorial Hwy
Pickens, SC 29671

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 15. 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM (ET)

Mt. Sinai Baptist Church
830 Country Club Road
Pickens, SC 29671

Funeral Service

FEB 15. 3:30 PM (ET)

Mt. Sinai Baptist Church
830 Country Club Road
Pickens, SC 29671

Tribute Wall

GW

“ *Genelle Fortson White lit a candle in memory of Rev. Tommy Merlin Esuary*



Genelle Fortson White - February 17 at 07:38 PM

ST

“ *My thoughts are with all of you. I have such sweet memories of Preacher Tommy at Second Baptist . He was such a man of God and preached the Word! Praying for peace and strength for all the family.*



Sandy Timmons - February 16 at 03:20 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Rev. Tommy Merlin Esuary.*

February 15 at 07:35 PM



“ *I remember the first sermon I heard, Bro. Tommy preached in 1972 at Pine Grove Baptist Church entitled, "The Master is Come and Calleth for Thee." For more than fifty years, Bro. Tommy has always been one of my favorite preachers. His faithfulness to the ministry and his love for souls will always be what I remember. Our world is certainly a poorer place to live without him. May God bless the family. Dr. Michael A. Smith*

Michael Smith - February 15 at 05:54 PM

TK

“ Teresa and Jimmy Key purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Rev. Tommy Merlin Esuary.



Teresa and Jimmy Key - February 14 at 08:20 PM

TK

“ Teresa and Jimmy Key planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rev. Tommy Merlin Esuary.

Teresa and Jimmy Key - February 14 at 08:20 PM

RC

“ Ms. Donna,Debbie, Patricia, and family, Our thoughts and prayers are with each of you. Preacher Tommy was a precious man of God. His smile could light up the darkest of rooms. Reda Collins and family



Reda Collins - February 14 at 05:44 PM

JH

“ Tommy led me to the Lord and was always the most loved Pastor and friend.. He was the most God fearing and loveable Pastor I ever knew.This world lost a great man and heaven gained one of the best. James {Skeeter} Holcombe

James Holcombe - February 14 at 05:00 PM

PT

“ *Patty Turner lit a candle in memory of Rev. Tommy Merlin Esuary*



patty turner - February 14 at 02:03 PM

DW

“ *Dear Esuary family,
So sorry to hear of Tommy's passing. He was a great preacher and a Godly person inside and out. Will miss him. Praying for comfort for all his family and friends. Love you all. Love, Darla and Wayne Wheeler*



Darla Wheeler - February 14 at 01:39 PM

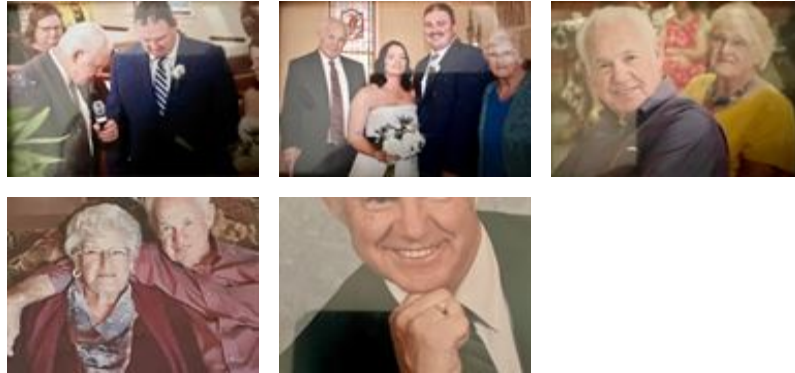
SG

“ *Sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you Shirley Diane Hutto Grant*

Shirley Grant - February 14 at 01:36 PM

Mo

“ 31 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Mountain View Funerals and Cremations - February 14 at 01:10 PM

CR

“ *Cheryl Raines lit a candle in memory of Rev. Tommy Merlin Esuary*



Cheryl Raines - February 14 at 12:39 AM

TF

“ *Tim & Kelly Smart and Family purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Rev. Tommy Merlin Esuary.*



Tim & Kelly Smart and Family - February 13 at 09:14 PM

LH

“ *Rev. Tommy Esuary love to hear him preach, with love in his heart. Giving my deepest Sympathy to Donna and the girls I love dearly. Love &Prayers Always Linda*



Linda Hutto - February 13 at 07:58 PM

GD

“ *Donna and family, our sincerest prayers are being said for you all, and our deepest love. You and Preacher Tommy have been part of our life for many years, and we will miss him deeply. I always told him I wanted him to preach my funeral, but he's gone on to glory before me, and I know he is bowed before Jesus thanking Him. He was one of the most humble men I ever knew, and one of the most devout Christians. Praise God we were privileged to know him. We love you.*

Gayle Duncan - February 13 at 07:39 PM

BN

“ *Billy And Ralphie Nix lit a candle in memory of Rev. Tommy Merlin Esuary*



Billy and Ralphie Nix - February 13 at 07:31 PM

KA

“ *Kathy Addis lit a candle in memory of Rev.
Tommy Merlin Esuary*



Kathy Addis - February 13 at 07:12 PM