



## Rev. Galen Franklin Dunbar

July 26, 1933 - August 27, 2025

Reverend Galen Franklin Dunbar peacefully entered his heavenly home on Wednesday, August 27, 2025, surrounded by the love of family and faith he cherished so deeply. Born on July 26, 1933, to William Othar and Irene Elizabeth Dunbar in Oswald, WV, Galen's life was a remarkable testament to service, devotion, and love. He was preceded in death by his wife, Barbara June Hancock Dunbar, his parents, and sister, Louise Williams. Galen is lovingly remembered by daughter, Joyce (Doug) Little of Mt Juliet, TN; daughter, Rebecca Dunbar, of Cramerton, NC; and son, James (Euvon) Dunbar, of Russellville, AR; his grandchildren, Rachel Whittenburg (Mt Juliet, TN), Rebekah Dunbar (Russellville, AR), Joshua (Sarah) Dunbar (Oklahoma City, OK), Samuel Dunbar (Benton, AR), and great-grandson Grant Whittenburg (Mt Juliet, TN). Also surviving are his sister, Dorothy (David) Redden of Bradley, WV, many nieces and nephews, and friends around the world. After graduating from Woodrow Wilson High School in 1951, Galen pursued his calling at Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee, earning a B.S. in Bible with a minor in missions. In May 1955, he married his beloved college sweetheart, Barbara June Hancock, and together, they embarked on a 70-year journey of love and ministry, faithfully serving in thirteen churches across the country. Galen's pastoral journey began while working on the West Virginia Turnpike, serving the congregations at Price Hill and Kilsyth Free Will Baptist Churches. He continued his studies at Columbia Bible Institute while pastoring in Patrick, South Carolina, before moving his

family to Grifton and then Beaufort, North Carolina. There, this West Virginia native became a deep-sea fisherman, embracing life's adventures with joy. He was a skilled carpenter as well. Galen's ministry took his family to many places—Hazel Park, Michigan; Norfolk, Virginia; Salina, Kansas; Glennville, Georgia; Timmonsville and Florence, South Carolina—each community blessed by his strong leadership, compassion, and unwavering faith. A tireless supporter of the Free Will Baptist movement, Galen helped build youth camps, supported missionaries, and traveled to Japan, Spain, France, and Russia on overseas trips, always eager to share the gospel with hope and kindness. Throughout his ministry he served in various roles in the Free Will Baptist ministries, notably the FWB Board of Foreign Missions (now IM, Inc.) and the Sunday School and Church Training Board (now D6 Family Ministry). Reverend Galen Franklin Dunbar leaves behind a legacy of faith, service, and love that will continue to inspire all who knew him. His family and friends will forever cherish his wit, warmth, and the steadfast example he set. A committal service will be held at 2:00 PM, Saturday, August 30, 2025, at Blue Ridge Memorial Gardens, 5251 Robert C Byrd Dr, Beckley, WV 25801, with son-in-law Doug Little, officiating. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial gifts be sent to the World Mission Offering of IM, Inc, or Welch College.

# Cemetery Details

## Blue Ridge Memorial gardens

5251 Robert C. Byrd Drive  
Beckley, WV 25801

# Previous Events

## Committal

AUG 30. 2:00 PM (ET)

Blue Ridge Memorial gardens  
5251 Robert C. Byrd Drive  
Beckley, TN 25801

# Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Rev. Galen Franklin Dunbar.*



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August 29, 2025 at 07:10 PM



“ *Brother Galen Dunbar was my pastor at Grifton FWB Church (NC) when I went off to Bible College in 1961. A few years later he was my pastor in Hazel Park, Michigan. He and Barbara were great role models and mentors for me. To Joyce, Becky and James - You all were blessed with parents who loved and served our Lord and Savior! They loved each of you and they also loved all those whom God put in their paths. Thank you, Heavenly Father, for the blessing and honor of knowing Galen and Barbara Dunbar!*

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**Violet Frazier** - August 28, 2025 at 10:33 PM



*Joyce, Doug, and family,  
I'm so sorry for the passing of your dad. I'm praying God will be with you all at this difficult time.  
Love and Prayers,  
Theresa C. MOSS  
(BURCH)*

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**Theresa Cunningham Moss ( Burch)** - August 29, 2025 at 09:54 PM

GW

*Gene and Galen shared a great passion for missions and worked together to spread the gospel through IM. Barbara was special to us, too. For many years we had a quilt her Mother made for Gene. I'm thankful for Galen and Barbara's ministry and love for people everywhere.*

**Genevieve Waddell** - August 31, 2025 at 10:40 AM



*I met Galen Dunbar when he pastored in Norfolk, Virginia. I had recently answered God's call to preach and even though he was not my pastor, he allowed me several opportunities to come and minister to their youth group and invited me to lunch several times so he could mentor and encourage me. My pastor passed away and Brother Dunbar became an even greater mentor to me in the early years of pastoring. I will never forget what he would say to me every time I called to talk to him. He would say "I always have time for you. You can call me anytime!" He was a true man of God. His impact for Christ and his legacy of ministry lives on in all whom he touched and influenced. I thank God that I had the privilege to know him.*

**Paul Collins** - September 01, 2025 at 12:42 PM

ML

“*Sending our thoughts and prayers from Alabama to all of the family. Mike and Cathy Littlefield*”



**Mike and Cathy Littlefield** - August 28, 2025 at 10:29 PM