



Arnold Burrell

August 29, 1942 - October 14, 2025

James “Arnold” Burrell, 83, husband of the late Patsy Waddell Burrell, passed away peacefully on October 14, 2025, surrounded by family. He is survived by his wife, Rita Moon McManus of Greenville, South Carolina; daughter, Keely Remedios (Richard) of Plymouth, Minnesota; son, Derren Burrell (Gloria) of Fairfax Station, Virginia; sister, Beth Burrell (Heath) of Greenville, South Carolina; and five beloved grandchildren — Lydia Gayle, Luke Arnold, David Vernon, Rebekah Ellen, and Nathanael James Burrell.

A native of Greer, South Carolina, Arnold was the son of the late James Angus and Helen Bishop Burrell. A proud graduate of Greer High School (Class of 1960) and The Citadel (Class of 1964, Kilo Company), he carried forward a lifelong sense of honor, discipline, and service instilled in those formative years. After graduation, he served his country with distinction in the United States Air Force, where his leadership and quiet strength earned the respect of all who served alongside him.

Following his military service, Arnold built a successful career with Southern Bell (later BellSouth), where he retired as Regional Director and District Manager. He was known as a principled leader who balanced professional excellence with genuine care for his colleagues and community.

Faith and service were the cornerstones of Arnold’s life. A devoted member of First Baptist Church Greenville, he served faithfully as a Senior Deacon, offering steady guidance and encouragement to all who knew him. His civic dedication extended deeply into the Greenville community, where he held

numerous leadership roles, including:

- Past Chairman of the Board, United Way of Greenville County, as well as Past Chairman of Campaign and Past Chairman of the Palmetto Society
- Past Chairman of the Board, Greater Greenville Chamber of Commerce
- Past Chairman of the Board, Better Business Bureau
- Chairman of the Board, The Commerce Club
- Past Chairman of the Board, Piedmont Health Care Foundation
- Graduate of Leadership Greenville, Class XXIV

Arnold's influence was felt in every room he entered — a man of integrity, intellect, and humor, equally at ease discussing strategy in the boardroom or sharing stories over at the local barber shop. He cherished time with his family, found joy in helping others succeed, and lived his life grounded in faith and humility.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, October 20, 2025, at First Baptist Church Greenville, conducted by Reverend Kyle Matthews.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to:

First Baptist Church Greenville Building Fund, 847 Cleveland Street, Greenville, SC 29601;

United Way of Greenville County Endowment, 105 Edinburgh Court, Greenville, SC 29607; or

The Citadel Foundation, 171 Moultrie Street, Charleston, SC 29409.

Online condolences may be shared at www.thewoodmortuary.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

OCT **20**. 11:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church Greenville
847 Cleveland Street
GREENVILLE, SC 29601

Tribute Wall

JD

“ I worked for Arnold at BellSouth. He was such a nice man. Everyone that I know liked working for him. To the family, I'm so sorry for your loss. To Rita, I'm happy I got to meet you with Arnold, always in the grocery store. He looked so happy with you.

Jane Davis - October 19, 2025 at 09:02 PM

JH

“ I knew Arnold for the last 10-12 years as a great neighbor. He was always quick with a smile, good conversation, and sense of humor. He will truly be missed.

John Howard - October 19, 2025 at 05:35 PM

JH

“ John Howard lit a candle in memory of Arnold Burrell



John Howard - October 19, 2025 at 05:19 PM



“ Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Arnold Burrell.



October 19, 2025 at 01:55 AM

WP

“ William P. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Arnold Burrell.

William P. - October 19, 2025 at 01:55 AM

JF

“ Judy Welch Friddle lit a candle in memory of Arnold Burrell



Judy Welch Friddle - October 17, 2025 at 09:25 PM

SS

“ I am so very sorry to hear this. I worked for Arnold for a number of years and he was a great person. To his family, I am so very sorry for your loss. Praying for you all.

Susan Seigler - October 17, 2025 at 05:09 PM

GM

“ To Mr. Arnold’s family —
I am Hoyt Hanvey’s granddaughter, Angie’s daughter. Mr. Arnold (and Mrs. Patsy) were loyal customers of theirs for many years. They speak very fondly of both of them and have appreciated their business and friendship throughout the years. He was such a pleasant person that I enjoyed talking to through the years when they’d come shop with us in Clinton. I also loved seeing his positive, uplifting Facebook posts. He was just at the jewelry store this past Friday and introduced them to his current wife, so needless to say, we were shocked to hear of his passing.
When my daddy (David McKittrick) passed away this summer, Mr. Arnold attended his funeral — that meant alot to us. We will be there Monday to support his family in the same way.
A life certainly well-lived. A remarkable, wholesome fellow.
Praying for you all.
Love, Ginny McKittrick and the Hanvey crew/ family

Ginny Leigh McKittrick - October 17, 2025 at 10:40 AM

CR

“ Arnold was a leader and just a good man who loved his family, his community and his God.
My memories of Arnold are a true leader who was always available to take on any challenge in our community!
Craig Robinson

Craig Robinson - October 17, 2025 at 10:37 AM

LD

“ Lee D. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Arnold Burrell.

Lee D. - October 17, 2025 at 09:49 AM

BW

“ My condolences to the family.
Keely, Derren & Rita, praying for strength & comfort during this
difficult time. Arnold was a great friend with very strong faith 🙏❤️

Betty West - October 16, 2025 at 05:22 PM

RB

Good friend and better friend-Chased stories with him at Bullock's
Barbershop every other Thursday. 🙏

Ronnie Bruce - October 17, 2025 at 08:29 AM

LD

Arnold and his Sister, Beth, grew up across the street from my Sister,
Ann, and me. Arnold and Ann, the same ages, were best friends; Beth
and I, the same ages five years younger, were best friends. So, we
literally knew one another since birth. I played for Beth's daughter's,
Stacy's, wedding. Arnold's parents, Angus and Helen, were second
parents. So, to lose Arnold is like losing a family member. What a life
Arnold and Patsy lived ! A Citadel graduate, Arnold excelled in
everything he did. Greenville FBC will never be the same. Heartfelt
condolences to Beth, Arnold's children/grandchildren, Rita, and friends.
WHAT A LOSS ! This world needs more Arnolds, not fewer !

Lee Duncan - October 17, 2025 at 09:36 AM

SC

Arnold was a true gift to all who knew him. He had a genuine love and
compassion for all who passed thru his life. We know for certain that
our lives are better because of our dear friend. We are certain the
Angels were singing your praises as you entered those Heavenly
gates. You will be missed my friend.

John Cutler
Stephen Center

Stephen Center - October 19, 2025 at 07:30 PM

GM

Remembering you from 1965 at GREER HIGH SCHOOL.

Glenn Masters - October 21, 2025 at 06:19 PM