



## Johnnie Lee Gilreath

December 29, 1934 - February 19, 2015

Johnnie Lee Gilreath, 80, of 201 Brannon Ave, died February 19, 2015, he was the first born child to James and Flora Bell (Mary) Cox Gilreath, on December 29, 1934 followed by five brothers and one sister.

Mr. Gilreath grew up in Tigerville area and attended local schools. His first job was with S.C. Highway Department as a truck driver. Then was an employee at Southern Bleachery where he worked for seven years. Then an opportunity of a life-long dream came true when he was hired as a police officer with the Greer Police Department where he worked for seven years. He loved his time in law enforcement and was respected and appreciated for his service there. As his family grew, he accepted the opportunity to provide for them by becoming an employee of a new local plant – Hoechst Celanese Plastics, which was another dream accomplished when he became a master industrial mechanic. He worked at Hoechst Celanese until his health brought about his retirement after 30 years of service.

Johnnie was a dedicated and loving husband, dad and Papa to his family, always wanting to care and provide for them in every way to the best he could and was able to do. He was a sincere and quiet Christian man, having accepted Christ as his Savior at age 12, baptized and continued to serve his Lord as long as his health permitted. He was a member of Fairview Baptist Church and loved his church family. He especially supported Barbara in her mission efforts, working extra weeks for the financial funds needed. His comment was “I can’t go, but I can send her”. He was a big man. He leaves a

large empty space in our lives, physically but an even bigger one in our hearts. In his last hours, he shared his love for his Lord, giving his family what we called mini-sermons and giving us a vision of what he was seeing in Heaven.

Surviving are his wife, Barbara Ellen Henson Gilreath of the home; three sons, Bobby Gilreath (Pam) of Greer; Les Gilreath (Rose Ann) of Inman and Loren Gilreath (Tammy) of Taylors; five brothers, Gaston Gilreath (Jenny) of Travelers Rest, Melvin Gilreath (Brenda) of Travelers Rest, Hardin Gilreath (Judy) of Taylors, Nelson Gilreath (Lee) of Goose Creek and Ansel Gilreath (Meri) of Taylors; one sister, Shirley Merck (Joe) of Travelers Rest and three grandchildren, Fonda, Bailey and Gavin.

Mr. Gilreath was predeceased by a grandson, Jonathon Luke Gilreath. Funeral services will be held 2:00 p.m. Saturday at Fairview Baptist Church conducted by Dr. Eddie Leopard and Dr. Tom Burns. Burial will follow in Hillcrest Memory Gardens.

Visitation will be held 12:30-1:45 p.m. Saturday at Fairview Baptist Church. Donations may be made to Fairview Baptist Church Building Fund, 1300 Locust Hill Road, Greer, S.C. 29651.

Online condolences may be made at [www.thewoodmortuary.com](http://www.thewoodmortuary.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Hillcrest Memory Gardens

14050 East Wade Hampton Boulevard  
Greer, SC 29651

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 21. 12:30 PM - 1:45 PM (ET)

Fairview Baptist Church  
1300 Locust Hill Road  
Greer, SC 29651

## Service

FEB 21. 2:00 PM (ET)

Fairview Baptist Church  
1300 Locust Hill Road  
Greer, SC 29651

# Tribute Wall

SS

“ *Barbara and Family, We were so sorry to hear about Johnnie, Our love and prayers are with each of you. Johnnie was a good man and will be missed by many but we can rejoice as we know that he is in Heaven. Our prayers are with you.*

*Love, Steve, Marlene and Ruby*

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**Steve and Marlene Morgan, Ruby Scoggin** - February 21, 2015 at 02:56 PM

DM

“ *I'm so sorry to hear of Johnnie's passing. My prayers go out to the Gilreath & Henson families. May God comfort & keep you in your time of need for His love & support. Losing a loved one is never easy. Take comfort in knowing that we will all see each other again when the roll is called. If there is anything you need please let me know. I love you all! God bless you & the families.*

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**Donna Wright McAbee** - February 21, 2015 at 08:19 AM

DH

“ *Thought a lot Of Johnnie. My thoughts and prayers are with the family. Sorry I won't make the funeral. I have the flu.*

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**David Hipp** - February 20, 2015 at 10:35 PM

DB

“ *Extending my deepest sympathy to all the family in the loss of your loved one. I remember him kindly from all the gatherings we had here in the mountains. Losing a loved one is never easy I pray for God's loving care, and comfort for your family.*

*Diann Wright Ball*

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**Diann Ball** - February 20, 2015 at 04:41 PM

LL

“ *Sadness washed over me when I received the message that Johnnie had died. It seems that he has always been in the family. I remember when I saw him during his dating era. He knew that Barbara was the girl who would be with him until the end. Of course, his presence was very evident at the family activities. You couldn't miss his physical size or his smile. I thought Greer was a safe place to be when he was on duty because who would want to face Johnnie in a police uniform? I know that he struggled with many health issues the past few years, but now he has gained his freedom from the worldly burdens of pain, medications, doctors' appointments, and all the other problems that came his way.*

*Jack and I send the Gilreath and Henson families our deepest sympathy and our prayers. We ask God to give you strength, courage, and comfort as you live with the knowledge that Johnnie is not sitting with you but now has a place at the feet of Jesus. God bless each of you.*

*Love, Linda and Jack*

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**Linda Layton** - February 20, 2015 at 01:47 PM

KW

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. I worked @ Hoechst while Mr. GILREATH was there. He was a kind and gentleman. Then I started @ Fairview Baptist Church and sat in front of him and his sweet wife. Always real nice. Also worked with Johnny. Told his mom one day I was going to get onto him and I did. Sorry to the family because he's a great man and will be missed. I would love to be there to honor him and support the family but I'm in the hospital and don't know when I'll get out.*

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**Karen Woodward** - February 20, 2015 at 12:18 PM

CS

“ *Cyndi Stake sent a virtual gift in memory of Johnnie Lee Gilreath*



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**Cyndi Stake** - February 20, 2015 at 11:07 AM

RM

“ *I am so very sorry to hear about Johnnie. As I was clearing off my table,I picked up the stack of cards that I had bought just for him. I am so thankful that I sent him that first card,and was happy that it brought some joy and laughs.*



*You are all in my thoughts and prayers. What a testimony he gave to you. May The Lord wrap his loving arms around you today and the days to come and comfort you as only he can do. I love you all.*  
*Renae*

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**Renae Madden** - February 20, 2015 at 10:59 AM

CA

“ *Mrs. Gilreath we are so sorry for your loss. If we can do anything for you please call us. Mr. Gilreath was always so kind to my service men. You both were always such a pleasure to chat with over the phone. God has gained a wonderful Angel!*

*Psalm 73:26 “My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”*

*Prayers and thoughts will be with you and your family in the days to come.*

*Cindy Campbell, Sanders Heating & Air Conditioning*

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**Cindy Campbell, Sanders Heating & Air** - February 20, 2015 at 10:57 AM

CH

“ *Cindy Campbell, Manager Sanders HVAC lit a candle in memory of Johnnie Lee Gilreath*



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**Cindy Campbell, Manager Sanders HVAC** - February 20, 2015 at 10:51 AM

KM

*I first met John when he was a police officer in Greer and later worked with him at Celanese. Always enjoyed talking with him. He was a kind and humble man. May God comfort his family.*

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**Ken Mayfield** - February 21, 2015 at 12:38 PM