



Michael Thomas Orders

Sept. 12, 1951 - July 25, 2025

Michael Thomas Orders, 73, of Glen Alpine, NC, joined his Lord and Savior on Friday, July 25, 2025.

Born in Burke County, NC on September 12, 1951, he was the son of the late Raymond Thomas Orders and Josephine Houck Orders.

Michael “Mike” Orders was a devoted husband and father, beloved family man, and respected member of his community, passed away peacefully surrounded by loved ones.

Born and raised in Glen Alpine, Mike attended Glen Alpine School, where he met and later married his high school sweetheart, Susan Leonard. The two shared a strong and loving marriage that lasted 53 years.

Mike retired after 45 years of dedicated service with Duke Energy. Known for his strong work ethic and willingness to lend a hand, he also spent years volunteering at the Glen Alpine Fire Dept.

At an early age, Mike worked alongside his father in construction and could fix or build just about anything—a true jack of all trades. He had a deep love for the outdoors, spending countless hours hunting, fishing and tending to his garden.

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A devout Christian, Mike was a longtime song leader at his church and served in many ways of missionary work.

Mike's legacy is one of love, service, and unwavering dedication—to his family, his faith, and his community. He will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Those left to cherish his memory include his wife, Susan Leonard Orders; daughter, Jennifer Holden (Stephen) and Christina Holden (Sam); grandchildren, Alan Michael Holden (Kyra), Luke Holden (Anna), and Caleb Holden (Anna Marie); great-grandchildren, Alayna, Chloë, Owen, Boone, Julia, and Calvin Holden; siblings, Susan Bingham, Donna Poteet, and David Orders, and numerous extended family.

In addition to his parents, Mike was preceded in death by his sister, Rama Whitlock; and his brother, Larry Orders.

A celebration of life will be held at 4 p.m., Wednesday, July 30, 2025 at Bible Tabernacle with Brother Joe Greene officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made to Bible Tabernacle Missionary Fund, 207 US Hwy. 64, Rutherfordton, NC 28139 or to Carolina Caring (carolinacaring.org/give).

Sossoman Funeral Home and Crematory Center is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Tribute Wall

—Phyllis Smith



Sorry to the family , we stayed at windy hill with half of family an ours when I was little a was friends with all of them ever since!59 years!

—Chris Causby



My thoughts and prayers are sent to family. I have known Bro Mike and Sis Susan for over 40 years. My dad Homer Frazier came to camp meetings every year. Bro Mike would lead the song services. He was a blessing I'm sure to so many around the world.

—Denise Shifflett



Mike will be missed by so many. I was fortunate enough to have met him and got to know him working for Barbara. Your mother worked for us before she retired so I got to know Mike even better. My husband would always enjoy his conversations with Mike when he would come to Ingles and then come home to tell me all about it. One thing for sure Mike got the words spoken well done my good and faithful servant (Matthew 25:21) spoken to him that we all try to

strive for in this lifetime! My prayers and thoughts are with Susan and you girls that he loved so deeply.

—Haley Shelton

Go rest HIGH..Brother Mike you were such a blessing to so many people so faithful all them years I've been coming to camp for 36 years now and I always remember you now you're inside those Pearly Gates..that you just sang about oh what a day oh happy day ..I'm praying for your family and your wife I know it so so hard but soon we'll all be reunited forever with no more partings and no more pain of Sorrow thank you so much for all your Faithfulness

—Sis.Janet Payne

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—Sis.Janet Payne

My deepest condolences to the loved ones and church family he left behind. He was a man after God's own heart and as a song leader he was in a league of his own. For every song he sang, there was an anecdote or mini testimony that blesses our hearts. He stood tall inspite of the trials, including Sis. Susan's condition. His life was a reflection of our Savior Jesus Christ.

—Cynthia Soriano

—Susan Houck





He was a wonderful friend and True and Faithful servant to his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

—Larry Melton



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He was a precious Brother!! See you on the other side Brother Mike. You "fought a good fight, kept The Faith." Henceforth there is laid up for you a Crown of Righteousness"!! God bless all the family! I'm sure he will be missed by many. He was a great inspiration to me and a great servant of "The Lord", as a song leader. We'll meet again, Brother!!

—Steven O Center



A wonderful man of God. A wonderful song leader in his church. He is in the place where all of us want to be in. May God bless and be with his family. He will always be remembered.

Precious Bro. Mike, Beautiful memories of your departure shall forever linger in our hearts What a blessing you were to us all!!! We will deeply miss your charismatic expressions by the way you led songs during the missionary camp meeting Rest peacefully in the bosom of your Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ until we meet again...!

—Gideon Oyekunle



I remember 10 years ago going to Bro Joe Greenes camp meeting and Brother Mike led singing! His heart and soul was poured out when he sang! You could tell that he loved the Lord and that he had many talks with Him, just by the way he sang about Him. Oh his voice will never be forgotten! We will see you soon Brother Mike!

—Hannah Morris Bennett



We were very fond of Bro. Mike. We enjoyed him coming to our revivals in Virginia and singing. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family Thomas and Barbara Frazier

—Thomas & Barbara Frazier

Wonderful, Special Man left us too soon

—Harry C Poovey

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My brother, Bud Lail, and I are sad to hear of Mikey's passing. He and his family were great childhood friends and neighbors. Sending many prayers and much love to all his family.

—Revonda Lail Sutton



Mike was one of a kind. He was always smiling and go out of way to speak to you. He loved Glen Alpine and the people there. He will be missed and remembered by all who knew him. RIP. Praying for family and friends. Donald Carroll

—Donald Carroll



Dang-I had not seen Mike in few years, but didn't even know he was sick or not doing well. I was shocked to see this! Mike was one of the good ones! I recall meeting him in 1996 and knowing him while I worked there until the end of 1998. I loved stopping by if he was in the driveway or out in his building. Of course my memory is fuzzy so I may or may not have been there while he was shooting his "potato gun" ;) or sighting in a handgun in the building ;). And yes-a man of Christ. Heck if NOTHING else proves that-the distance he drove to church to worship and serve his church shows his dedication! I can hear him now "Mike Orders...Orders...you know like orders from headquarters!" :) You will be missed sir.

—David Kiser

We are so sorry for your loss. Mike was a wonderful person and a fine Christian man. He will be missed by many but the promise of one day meeting again. Prayers for all.

—Rick & Teresa Cline

We had the privilege of meeting Mike when my daughter Kyra married Alan Holden . We are thankful to have met such a nice man. We look forward to meeting him again in his glorified body where we will all be young again. See you soon my precious brother we will be hugging you very soon . Until we meet again ! All our love Stephen & Helene Kitching

—Helene & Stephen Kitching

Mike was more than a friend he was a source of knowledge someone you could turn to in an emergency or whenever you just needed to talk to someone. I loved talking with him about his hunting trips and sharing stories of the great outdoors. We will keep his family in our prayers rest in peace my friend.

—Thomas Reece