



Harold Wayne Traylor

October 7, 1940 - May 3, 2026

With deep admiration and respect of a life well lived, we remember Harold Wayne Traylor, 85, of Laurel, Mississippi, who passed away peacefully at home on May 3, 2026, surrounded by love until his soul found peace.

Born on October 7, 1940, near Sandersville, Mississippi, Wayne's early years were defined by the steady rhythms of rural life. Growing up in a home without electricity or running water, he learned the value of a hard day's work and the importance of resourcefulness. These childhood lessons in humility, grit and helping out his fellow man stayed with him throughout his life, shaping the principled man he became.

Wayne's life took a beautiful turn when he decided to attend Laurel High School, where he found lifelong friends and met his one true love, Ginny Risher. He attended the University of Southern Mississippi and after graduation, began a long career at First National Bank which later became Deposit Guaranty and eventually Union Planters, rising through the ranks to Vice President. Wayne was a "people's banker" at heart guided by integrity. He took immense pride in helping those in his community achieve their dreams and often lamented the transition to computerized banking, missing the face-to-face connections and personal handshakes that he felt were the true soul of the business. Wayne was the recipient of many community leadership and service awards that were given by Mayors of Laurel, the

Jaycees, United Way and even the Governor of MS.

Wayne and Ginny's marriage was a real-life love story—sixty years of partnership, laughter, and devotion. They raised three daughters—Tracy, Janie, and Susie—and built a home centered on faith and stability. In 1988 their lives were forever changed when Tracy suffered a traumatic brain injury. Tracy endured months in a coma and a long rehabilitation before returning home. During that period Ginny stayed with Tracy during the week while Wayne visited on weekends, often passing each other on the interstate. Together they became Tracy's devoted caregivers while continuing to love and raise Janie and Susie, showing a resilience and devotion that defined their family. Wayne embodied the idea that love is not just a feeling but a commitment to show up day after day no matter what.

Wayne's faith in his savior Jesus Christ was his true north. A founding member and Elder of Westminster Presbyterian Church, he did not simply attend church—he lived it. He and Ginny were pillars of the congregation, known for their generosity, service, knowledge of the scripture and an unwavering commitment to helping friends, family, and the wider community. His church family showed profound compassion when Ginny passed and continued to surround Wayne with care and love.

When Wayne was away from the bank, his happy place was the golf course. Golf was his escape and recharge. He achieved a remarkable feat at Laurel Country Club by recording a hole in one on every Par 3; Hole 8 and 9 were his favorites and became his warm up routine and The Club ended up naming it the "Traylor Trail." Lifelong friendships were forged on the course, and the family extends deepest gratitude to Joe Sanderson, whom Tracy calls "Uncle Joe," for his love and dedication to Wayne to the very end. The family also thanks Mike Allen and Billy Horne for their loyalty and support.

Wayne was known by many nicknames—Wonderful Wayne, Bubba, Whiffer, the Zip—but his favorite and most cherished name came from his grandchildren Reed and Della: “Grand Buddy.” You might say that being called Grand Buddy was the greatest badge of honor for Wayne. It made his heart swell every time he heard it. He will be remembered for his steady presence, gentle humor, quiet generosity and the dignity with which he met both triumph and trial. All of these attributes made him a steady anchor for those who knew him and made a community that was better for his presence.

Wayne was preceded in death by his parents, Hobson and Dorothy Traylor; his siblings Marthell, Jerry and Jeanette; and his beloved wife Ginny Traylor.

His legacy of resilience and love lives on through his three daughters, Tracy Traylor, Janie Collins, and Susie Jones; his two grandchildren, Della Shuster and Reed Jones; his nephew Chuck Bell & wife Nancy Bell; his nieces Kim Casey, Linda Ramos, Karen Traylor and Marsha Traylor.

A celebration of Wayne’s life will be held on Tuesday, May12, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church. A graveside service will be at Erata Cemetery for family.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to Quiet Waters, a non-profit Christian Ministry in Canton, MS- www.quietwaters-ms.org in Wayne’s honor.

To view or sign the online guest book, visit www.memorychapellaurel.com.

Previous Events

Service

MAY 12. 1:00 PM (CT)

Westminster Presbyterian Church
1200 Hwy 15 North
Laurel, MS 39440

Tribute Wall

CT

“ *Rest in peace. You and Ginny will be deeply missed.*

Charles Twiddy - May 12 at 03:32 PM

DM

“ *Sending our deepest sympathy and prayers. Wayne and Ginny both were such wonderful Christian's friends to us. We have many special and fond memories of them.*

Steven and Denise Morgan

Denise Morgan - May 11 at 06:44 PM

LP

“ *Deepest Sympathy Extended To The Family.
Many Prayers For Comfort and Peace.*

Linda Grafton Patterson

Linda Patterson - May 08 at 08:41 PM

CB

“ *Wayne was a lifelong friend since we attended Gardiner High School and through the youth activities in the First Presbyterian Church in Laurel in the 50's. His happy attitude and generous spirit were evident even at that young age and his friendship was to be cherished by all who knew him. How I will miss our brief visits during my visits "backhome" to Laurel. My love to his family. Cindy Karer Barrow.*

Cindy Karer Barrow - May 08 at 05:28 PM

BE

“ Deepest sympathies. Wayne was a lifelong friend. He would help anyone. I did my banking with him. Knew him at Southern Miss, Wayne was a true gentleman and friends. I Pray he's at Peace with our Father in Heaven. My Prayers to all of you in family. I'm sure Wayne with Ginny to. 🙏🙏🙏🙏❤️❤�

Bill Elliott - May 06 at 03:39 PM

KG

I just saw where Wayne Traylor died. I worked with him at Regions and the banks that came before . He was the nicest, kindest and funniest person I have worked with . So sorry he died. Kaye Bolander Gaskin

Kaye Gaskin - May 12 at 08:33 PM



“ Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Harold Wayne Traylor.



May 06 at 11:01 AM

NJ

“ Worked with Wayne at First National Bank. He was so loved by everyone. I saw him in Walmart in March. SO glad I got to give him a hug and talk to him . praying for the family. My heart is broken for all,of you. 💔🙏🥹 JT and Nancy Jernigan

Nancy Jernigan - May 05 at 06:07 PM