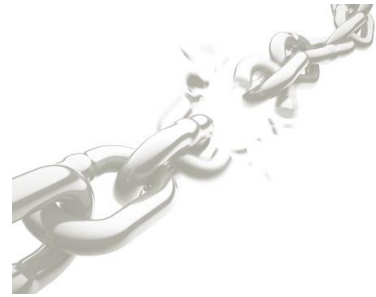


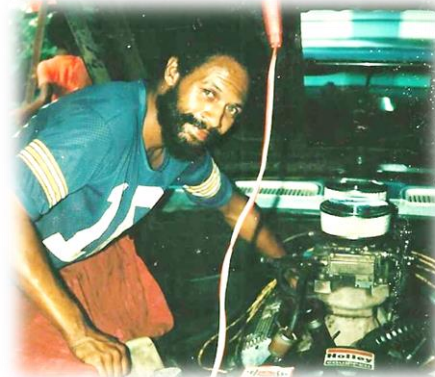


## *The Broken Chain*

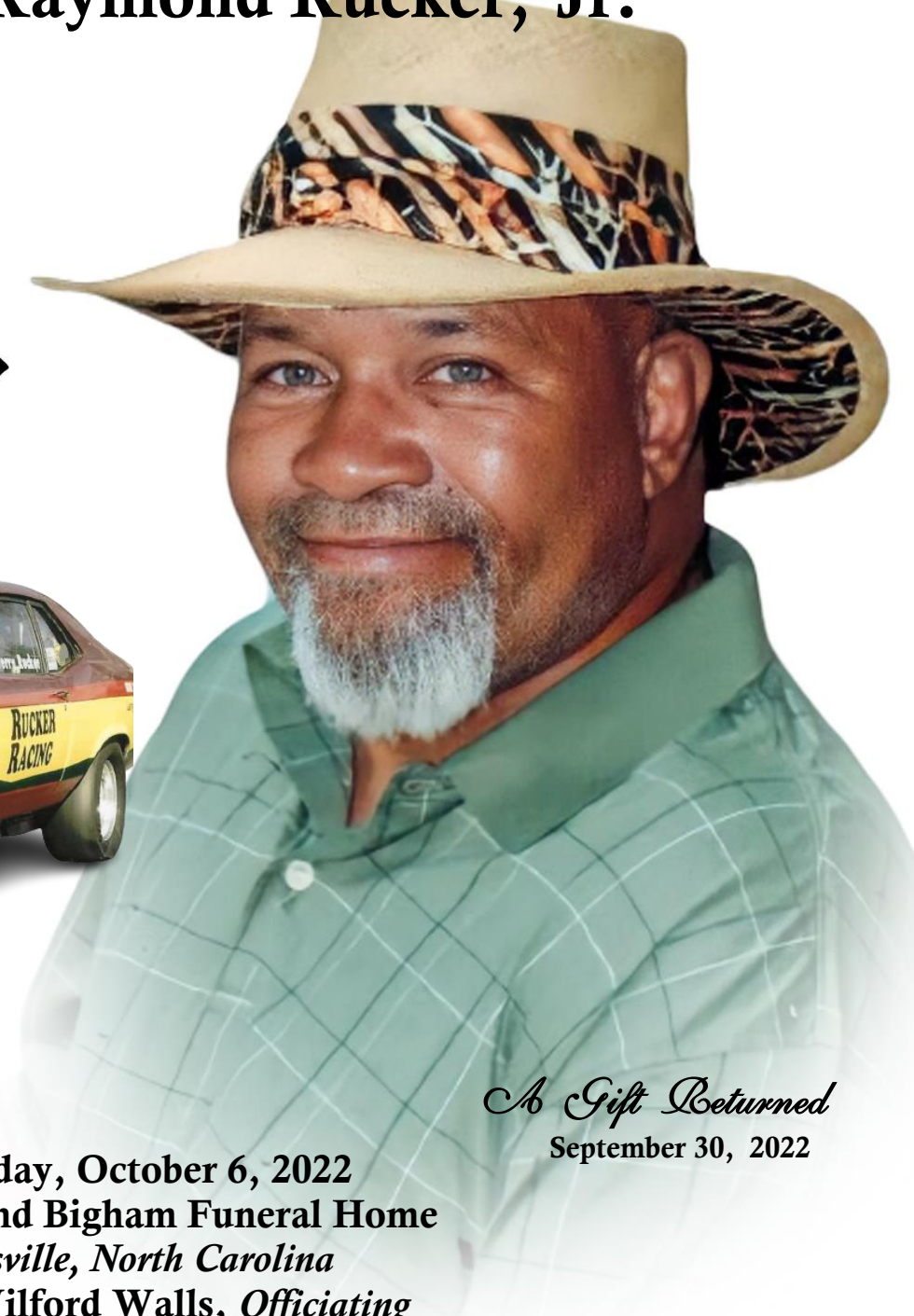
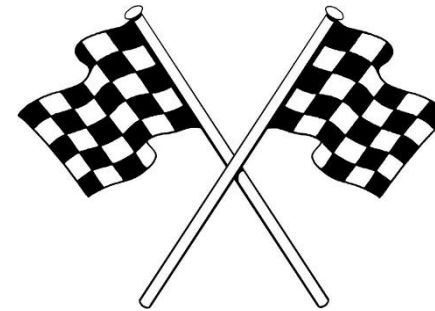
*We little knew that morning that  
God was going to call your name.  
In life we loved you dearly, in death we do the same.  
It broke our hearts to lose you, you did not go alone;  
for part of us went with you, you did not go alone;  
the day God called you home.  
You left us peaceful memories,  
your love is still our guide;  
And though we cannot see you,  
you are always at our side.  
Our family chain is broken,  
and nothing seems the same*



*but as God calls us one by one, the Chain will link again.*



# A Service of Thanksgiving to God For the Life of Tensley Raymond Rucker, Jr.



*Master, I have fulfilled my contract, wrought by my heart and hands,  
Not alone by my deeds shall they judge me, but by the works of my hands.  
Master, I have done their biddings, and the sun is sinking low in the west,  
The long, long race is over, Master, I've earned it... Rest!"*

Professional Services Entrusted to "Those Who Care"  
**Rutledge & Bigham Mortuary, Inc.,**  
603 South Center Street, Statesville, NC 28677 - (704) 873-3611  
Visit "Mr. Rucker" online tribute at  
[www.rutledgeandbigham.com](http://www.rutledgeandbigham.com)



*A Gift Given*  
March 22, 1943

Thursday, October 6, 2022  
Rutledge and Bigham Funeral Home  
Statesville, North Carolina  
Bishop Wilford Walls, *Officiating*  
Pastor Carolyn Morrison, *Eulogist*

*A Gift Returned*  
September 30, 2022

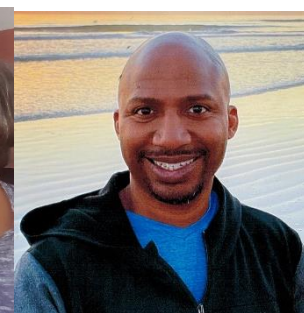
*I fought a good fight, I finished the race, I kept the faith. II Timothy 4:7*













# The Family Tribute

## GOD ONLY TAKES THE BEST

God saw he was getting tired and a cure was not to be  
 So he put his arms around him, and whispered, "Come with me."  
 With tear-filled eyes we watched him suffer and fade away.  
 Although we loved him deeply, we could not make him stay.  
 A golden heart stopped beating, hard-working hands put to rest.  
 God broke our hearts to prove to us, He only takes the best.



**Mr. Tensley Raymond Rucker, Jr.**, 79, was born in Iredell County on March 22, 1943, and was the son of the late Tensley R. Rucker, Sr., and Odessa Virginia Mayhew Rucker. He entered into eternal rest on Friday, September 30, 2022, at Gordon Hospice House, Statesville.

Tensley attended Morninside High School. He was a Carolina Panthers football fan, and he was an avid lover of drag racing where he won several championships at the Mooresville and Farmington Dragway. Tensley taught his son, Terrance D. Rucker, how to race as well, and today he is still racing, and has won several championships at different dragways. He was co-founder and owner of TLC Trucking Co. He was a great mechanic, building and assembling motors, also he loved to do landscaping around his home. He was an active member of Greater New Mt. Olive Holiness Church and worked at J. C. Steele and Sons for twenty-five years. Tensley was an all around person who was always helping people with solving and fixing their vehicles when needed and attending his childrens football games. He was a great father and family man to all his siblings whom he loved dearly.

In addition to his late parents, Tensley R. Rucker, Sr. And Odessa Virginia Mayhew Rucker, he was also preceded in death by his grandparents, Reverend Tinsley Rucker and Minnie Holbrooks Rucker; John Mayhew, and Mammie Lowery Mayhew; nephews, Larry Edward Parsons and Marty Parsons; brother, Larry Edward Rucker; brother-in-law, Dr. Fred J. Long, Jr. (Peketa); sister-in-law, Shirley Long Gaither; father-in-law, Fred J. Long, Sr. (Genvieve); grandmother-in-law, Viola Long Cooper, and Beulah M. Turner; and mother-in-law, Margaret L. Turner.

Tensley leaves to cherish the memory of his life, a wife of 47 years, Shelia Turner Rucker of the home; daughter, Sahara (Gerald) Hamilton of Lincolnton, N.C.; three sons, Emanuel M. Faulks of Marietta, Ga., Terrence D. Rucker of Benson, N.C., and Tensley R. Rucker, IV of Statesville, N.C.; one godson, Kareen Jabbar Stevenson of Statesville; brothers, James Rucker of Raleigh, N.C., Freddie (Ludmila) Rucker of Duluth, GA, Rucker, Gary (Debbie) Rucker, Gregory (Kokeeta) Rucker, and David Ross, all of Statesville, Ricky (LeAndrea) Rucker, of Greenwich, CA., and Lloyd Rucker of Lilburn, Ga.; brothers-in-law- Keith Jackson of Statesville, N.C., Robert (Ursula) Long, of Hickory, N.C., Kevin Long of Knoxville, Tn., and Stanley Long of Nashville, N.C.; sisters, Barbara (Bernard) Robertson, Brenda Rucker Dean, Gloria Rucker, Debra (Spencer) Sharpe, and Tuwana Lawrence, all of Statesville, N.C., and Sheila (Nathan) Johnston of Mooresville, N.C.; grandchildren, CaVian Hamilton-Degree, Destinee Rucker, and Dajia Rucker, all of Fayetteville, N.C., Faith Hamilton, of Hampton, Va; Za'Kia Hamilton, Mariah Hamilton, JaRehyl Hamilton, all of Lincolnton, N.C., Zanaa Foy of Gastonia, N.C., Aniece Rucker, Justice Rucker, Taliyah Rucker, Taziah Rucker, Tyzere Rucker, Isaiah Rucker, all of Statesville; sister-n-laws, Gail White, Avis Turner, and Synetta (Ted) Raye, all of Statesville, N.C.; a host of nephews, nieces, cousins, other relatives, and friends.

### Rest In Peace

Rest in peace, dear Father, your road was rocky and hard.  
 You fought a good fight—full of struggle and strife - Now rest with the saints above.  
 We'll never forget the times that we've had, full of memories that make us both happy and sad.  
 We know you did your best—We feel truly blest, to have know you and loved you.  
 Rest in sweet peace, dear Father, the things that you've taught us, will live on and on.  
 Though you're no longer with us, you'll never be gone.  
 We'll think of you often and try hard to do, whatever we think will be pleasing to you.  
 With each passing day and in every way. We'll love you forever.  
 So til comes the day when again we will meet, and rejoice in salvation at our Savior's feet.  
 We'll see you in heaven, our sorrows will cease. So until then, Dear Father, rest in peace.  
*Love, your children*

# The Celebration of Life Service for Mr. Tensley Raymond Rucker, Jr.

Thursday, October 6, 2022  
 Rutledge and Bigam Funeral Home  
 Statesville, North Carolina  
 Bishop Wilford Walls, Officiating  
 Pastor Carolyn Morrison, Eulogist

*The Moments of Sharing*  
 12:30 p.m. until 1:00 p.m.

The Processional  
 Friends are welcome to visit with family

*The Order of Service*  
 1:00 p.m.

Invocation ..... Pastor Carolyn Morrison  
 Selection ..... Greater New Mt. Olive C choir  
 Scripture Reading  
 Old Testament ..... Evangelist Martha Tucker  
 New Testament: St. John 14:1-6..... Pastor Burrel Brooks  
 Prayer of Comfort ..... Deacon Rydell Cowan  
 Selection ..... Miss Sharondria Thomas  
 The Silent Reading of the Obituary  
 Acknowledgments  
 Commemorative Presentation ..... Funeral Director  
 Selection ..... Greater New Mt. Olive C choir  
 Eulogy ..... Pastor Carolyn Morrison  
 Recessional Selection ..... Mrs. Carla Brown

*Please remain prayerful as we travel to the final resting place.*

*Iredell Memorial Park*  
 Statesville, North Carolina  
 The Gathering of the Christian Community  
 The Ritual of Consignment  
 The Prayer of Benediction  
 The Final Departure  
 Final Departure

*Dinner will be served in the Dining Room of the Greater New Mt. Olive Holiness Church  
 immediately following the Interment Service*

