



John Wesley Eley Sr.

August 27, 1933 - April 26, 2022

John W. Eley, Sr. (88) the son of the late Daisy and Lula Scott Eley departed his earthly life to be with the Lord on Tuesday, April 26, 2022, at Vidant Hospital in Greenville, NC. He was a native of Hertford County where he received his formal education in the public schools and graduated from C.S. Brown High School. He was a life-long farmer in Winton, NC until his retirement. Mr. Eley was a dedicated member of New Bethany Missionary Baptist Church where he served as Minister of Music for over 60 years. Mr. Eley's ministry of music was not limited to New Bethany, he also played the piano and organ for many other choirs and churches in Hertford County, Northampton County, Gates County and Bertie County. Because of his devotion to his music and widespread musical acclaim, he was often affectionately referred to as the "Maestro". Mr. Eley was also well known for his staunch dedication to his family and his love of exchanging jokes with everyone. Mr. Eley's friendship, hearty laughter and ever-present toothpick will be missed by those who knew him well.

Left to cherish his memories are his children: John W. Eley Jr. (Beverly), Durham, NC; Jeanetta R. Johnson (LeRoi), Bowie, MD; Jamison D. Eley (Wanda), Winton, NC; and Jasmine E. Anthony (Demitrius), Ft. Washington, MD; his grandchildren: Katheryne Shoemaker (Ben), LeRoi A. Johnson III, McKenna J. Anthony, Morgan B. Anthony, and Maryssa L. Anthony; a brother-in-law, Johnny Thomas; sister-in-law Esther C. Cross, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mrs.

Janice Boone Eley, one brother, Mr. Daisy Eley, and three sisters, Mrs. Arie Brown, Mrs. Laura Ricks and Mrs. Althea Thomas.

There will be a Wake on Saturday, April 30 from 5 PM until 7 PM at New Bethany Missionary Baptist Church. Homegoing services will be held at 2 PM on Sunday May 1, 2022, at New Bethany Missionary Baptist Church.

Cemetery Details

Hillcrest Cemetery

Ahoskie, NC

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 30. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM.

New Bethany Missionary Baptist Church
Harrellsville, NC

Service

MAY 1. 2:00 PM.

New Bethany Missionary Baptist Church
Harrellsville, NC

Tribute Wall



“ *John Wesley Eley Sr.*

November 09, 2022 at 12:28 PM



“ *Joyce Wiggins lit a candle in memory of John Wesley Eley Sr.*



Joyce Wiggins - May 06, 2022 at 04:48 PM



“ *I am sorry to learn of your father's passing. My daughter's loved to hear him play the organ at New Ahoskie Baptist Church. He gave me my first job that was going in the chicken house picking up the little chicks that didn't make it.... Needless to say that job didn't last long....*

It is not easy losing a parent to Heaven's gain.. Much love to your family. Margo and Daryl Howard.

Margo and Daryl Howard - May 06, 2022 at 04:28 PM



“ *Wanda Moore lit a candle in memory of John Wesley Eley Sr.*



Wanda Moore - May 04, 2022 at 02:15 PM



“ *Antwan Campbell lit a candle in memory of John Wesley Eley Sr.*



Antwan Campbell - May 03, 2022 at 06:06 PM

MM

“ *I will always treasure the memories our families shared. No one could play the organ the way he could. I pray that God will comfort you all in such a difficult time. However, find comfort in the sweet memories of which he left you.*

Marian Morris-Graham - May 02, 2022 at 11:45 AM

CD

“ *Cienna Deas lit a candle in memory of John Wesley Eley Sr.*



Cienna Deas - May 01, 2022 at 01:55 PM

GD

“ *GERILDINE DICKERSON lit a candle in memory of John Wesley Eley Sr.*



GERILDINE DICKERSON - May 01, 2022 at 09:25 AM



“ *Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of John Wesley Eley Sr..*



May 01, 2022 at 07:27 AM



“ *52 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Hertford County Undertakers - April 30, 2022 at 11:48 PM



“ *Joyce Eason lit a candle in memory of John Wesley Eley Sr.*



Joyce Eason - April 30, 2022 at 07:15 PM

LM

“ *To the Family,*

We were deeply sorry to hear of the loss of Mr. John Eley, He was quite a Christian gentleman. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time.

Richard and Linda Moore



Linda McNair-Moore - April 30, 2022 at 05:11 PM

M1

“ *MHS Class Of 1985 sent a virtual gift in memory of John Wesley Eley Sr.*



MHS Class of 1985 - April 30, 2022 at 11:08 AM



“ *Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of John Wesley Eley Sr..*



April 30, 2022 at 10:48 AM

BF

“ Always remember Mr. Eley playing the organ as I was growing up in Zoar Baptist Church in Galatia.



Brenda Dickerson& Family - April 30, 2022 at 10:47 AM



“ Eternal Grace was purchased for the family of John Wesley Eley Sr..



April 30, 2022 at 09:34 AM



“ Healing Tears - All White was purchased for the family of John Wesley Eley Sr..



April 30, 2022 at 07:45 AM



“ Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of John Wesley Eley Sr..



April 30, 2022 at 07:23 AM

LF

“ *Papa John... The Music Ministry in heaven... Only the ones who love and know you can imagine... Jeanetta's Bestie Lisa Fleming and Family*

Lisa Fleming - April 30, 2022 at 06:56 AM

DM

“ *Rip mr. Eley you will be missed*



Deshawn Mizzelle - April 30, 2022 at 01:41 AM

MM

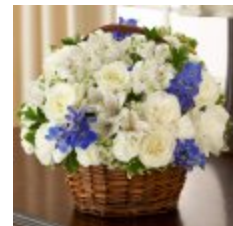
“ *The choirs and the entire church family of First Baptist Church of Severn offer our prayers of comfort to the Eley Family and the New Bethany Church family during this time of remembering the life of a man who meant so much to so many.*



Marion Mizell - April 30, 2022 at 01:22 AM



“ *Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White was purchased for the family of John Wesley Eley Sr..*



April 30, 2022 at 12:48 AM

RR

“ *Rhynda & Dianese Riddick lit a candle in memory of John Wesley Eley Sr.*



Rhynda & Dianese Riddick - April 29, 2022 at 11:32 PM

JJ

“ *Sincere condolences to the family of John W. Eley Sr. He could play that organ like no other! The heavenly choir has welcomed him in their mix. We will miss him here on earth but God had another mission in song for him to perform. His mission on Earth was accomplished by lifting hearts to God through his music. Job well done Mr. Eley. You have left a great legacy for your love ones.*
The Rochelle and Susan Vann Family



Jacqueline V. Jones - April 29, 2022 at 11:09 PM

AM

“ *“Rev. Paul, Audrey, Deanna and Andrea Moore lit a candle in memory of Mr. John Wesley Eley Sr. Mr. Eley was a “Great Giant” and will be greatly missed by this North Eastern Community!”*

Audrey Moore

Audrey Moore - April 29, 2022 at 10:40 PM

SM

“ His love for music was contagious! RIP Mr. Eley! ❤️🙏



Sylvia Mizzelle - April 29, 2022 at 10:38 PM

CL

“ Chenita Lee lit a candle in memory of John Wesley Eley Sr.



Chenita Lee - April 29, 2022 at 08:49 PM

PM

“ Some Fine Morning I will be listening and hear you and Dr. Gathers Praising GOD in both your new homes. Sorely missed you both will be. Phyllis Manley Newsome and family.

Phyllis Manley - April 29, 2022 at 08:44 PM

DV

“ I will always remember Mr. Eley as a man who loved Christ, people, and good music. Forever grateful for every opportunity I had to share a stage with him. Rest on Mr. Eley.

Dr. Shirley Vinson - April 29, 2022 at 08:08 PM



“ *Your APB Family purchased the White Standing Wreath for the family of John Wesley Eley Sr..*



Your APB Family - April 29, 2022 at 07:52 PM



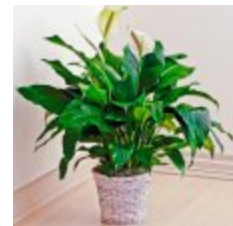
“ *Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of John Wesley Eley Sr..*



April 29, 2022 at 07:31 PM



“ *Tyrone & Terese purchased the Floor Plant for Sympathy for the family of John Wesley Eley Sr..*



Tyrone & Terese - April 29, 2022 at 06:57 PM

TF

“ Mr. John Eley AKA Maestro will be missed! I will always remember him and the late Dr. Ola Gathers for their awesome music ministry at New Bethany. Mr. Eley was known for his expertise on the Rodgers Organ at New Bethany. He could really make that organ sound like the thunder and lightning when he performed "Peace Be Still" with his toothpick in the side of his mouth! I enjoyed our music ministry at First Baptist Murfreesboro. We served as the musicians for the 8 a.m. Worship Service; we made awesome music. We always looked forward to every Thanksgiving when Dr. Westelle Howington, a fine soprano would sing "Bless this House"! ❤️ He will be missed, but he was needed to provide music for the heavenly choir. The Rodgers Organ at New Bethany will miss his touch. A musical genius will be missed; he could do classical, gospel, and hymns. ❤️

With Sympathy,

Mr. & Mrs. Chris Jones

THE JONES FAMILY - April 29, 2022 at 06:02 PM

NI

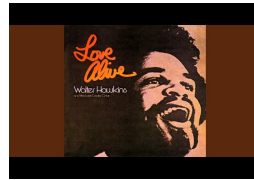
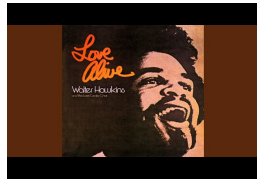
“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Nikki - April 29, 2022 at 04:57 PM

NI

“ 4 files added to the album John W. Eley service



Nikki - April 29, 2022 at 04:55 PM

DS

“ Doris Archer And William Stewart lit a candle in memory of John Wesley Eley Sr.



Doris Archer and William Stewart - April 29, 2022 at 04:34 PM

KM

“ Condolences from the Manley/Sessoms family of Cofield. We love you Mr. Eley. Rest on!! Albert and Marjorie, Rhonda, Chris, San, Dale, Keshia, And the crowd

Kenya Manley - April 29, 2022 at 04:01 PM

KM

“ So many wonderful memories with Mr. Eley. From a young girl singing in the choir at New Bethany until I got grown. His smile lit up the church, he closed those eyes with his toothpick and played his way into Heaven. His favorite songs to hear me sing were, I Really Love the Lord, All I wanna Do is Bless your name, and Mercy that Suits. He is a lifetime friend of my family and we cherished Mr. Eley. Love you all family!!

Kenya Manley - April 29, 2022 at 04:00 PM

AO

“ Adell Overton sent a virtual gift in memory of John Wesley Eley Sr.



Adell Overton - April 29, 2022 at 03:47 PM

DA

“ I have such fond memories of Mr. Eley playing for the different Choirs at New Ahsokie Missionary Baptist Church. He was a musical genius. Take your rest Sir. Praying for the family!



Dr. Cynthia Askew - April 29, 2022 at 03:19 PM



“ Antwan Campbell lit a candle in memory of John Wesley Eley Sr.



Antwan Campbell - April 29, 2022 at 02:16 PM



“ *Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of John Wesley Eley Sr..*



April 29, 2022 at 01:56 PM



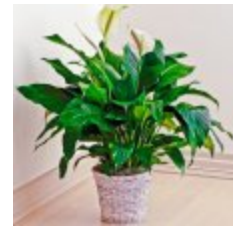
“ *A great one has left us to be with the Lord. He will be dearly missed. My deepest condolences to the family*



Westelle Cherry - April 29, 2022 at 01:29 PM



“ *Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of John Wesley Eley Sr..*



April 29, 2022 at 01:24 PM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of John Wesley Eley Sr..*



April 29, 2022 at 01:13 PM



“ *Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of John Wesley Eley Sr..*



April 29, 2022 at 12:15 PM



“ *Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White was purchased for the family of John Wesley Eley Sr..*



April 29, 2022 at 12:13 PM



“ *We, the children of Rudolph and Dana Chavis, are profoundly saddened at the passing of your father and grandfather. Heaven has surely embraced a new member. May God embrace each and everyone of you with His unwavering strength, peace and comfort during this most difficult time. We pray for strength and healing in the coming days as each of you grieves the loss of a wonderful, caring, and joyful man.*



*Love to all of you,
The Chavis Family*

Carolyn Bond - April 29, 2022 at 11:55 AM

AP

“ Alfred and Michelle Payne purchased the Floor Plant for Sympathy for the family of John Wesley Eley Sr..



Alfred and Michelle Payne - April 29, 2022 at 11:43 AM

LF

“ Love, Cheryl & Faith purchased the Yellow & White Sympathy Standing Spray for the family of John Wesley Eley Sr..



Love, Cheryl & Faith - April 29, 2022 at 10:47 AM

AA

“ Alberta Archer lit a candle in memory of John Wesley Eley Sr.



Alberta Archer - April 29, 2022 at 10:44 AM



“ Red & White Sympathy Standing Spray was purchased for the family of John Wesley Eley Sr..



April 29, 2022 at 10:26 AM

TE

“ Tammy Eason sent a virtual gift in memory of John Wesley Eley Sr.



Tammy Eason - April 29, 2022 at 09:22 AM

JS

“ Mr. Eley was our musician during a period in the lives of our choir at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church. I remember him fondly as caring, patient and never complaining, even when I got the note wrong or the timing was off. Thank you, Mr. Eley, you saw me as successful even when I didn't. You helped me so much with, "If God Is Dead". ---- James Sears

James Sears - April 29, 2022 at 09:20 AM



“ Fields of Europe was purchased for the family of John Wesley Eley Sr..



April 29, 2022 at 09:04 AM

VR

“ Victor Ross lit a candle in memory of John Wesley Eley Sr.



Victor Ross - April 29, 2022 at 08:55 AM

HM

“ A TRUE DRUMMER MAJOR HAS LEFT US. HEAVEN HAS GAINED A GREAT MARCHING SOLDIER. I SHARE YOUR SYMPATHY. GOD BLESS EACH OF YOU AND KEEP YOU IN HIS CARE!

HENRY L MOORE - April 29, 2022 at 08:46 AM

MB

“ Condolences to the Eley Family. Our hearts are saddened, truly we have lost a friend and a great musical master.
Murray and Glendale Boone

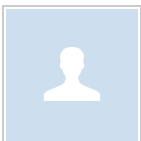


Murray and Glendale Boone - April 29, 2022 at 07:56 AM



“ John Eley was the Dean of God's music.He was my mentor and hero.If he is not in the heavenly band; the rest of us don't have a chance.A truly great man in all ways! Dr.Melvin C.Lawrence

Melvin Lawrence - April 29, 2022 at 07:47 AM



“ Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of John Wesley Eley Sr..



April 29, 2022 at 07:36 AM

SM

“ Prayers of comfort and strength to the Eley family.



Sarah Montague - April 29, 2022 at 07:14 AM



“ Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of John Wesley Eley Sr..



April 29, 2022 at 06:39 AM

CH

“ Condolences to the Eley family on the loss of your love one.

Doctors Gilbert and Charmont Hall-Stephen



Charmont Hall-Stephen - April 29, 2022 at 01:57 AM

DJ

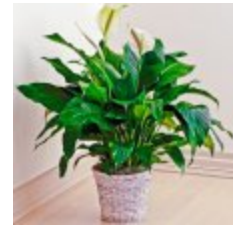
“ My sincere condolences to the family and I pray that God will give you peace especially now. Diana James



Diana James - April 28, 2022 at 10:28 PM



“ *Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of John Wesley Eley Sr..*



April 28, 2022 at 10:11 PM



“ *He was one of the nicest people I have ever had the pleasure of knowing and loving. May God bless his wonderful children, grandchildren and family who did what ever it took to take care of him. He is at sweet peace now with our Awesome God! Gone home but his legacy lives on. I love you Mr. Eley!*

Sharon Bennett - April 28, 2022 at 10:01 PM



“ *PRAYERS & STRENGTH FOR THE ELEY FAMILY. GOD BLESS!!! LETIA DICKERSON & THE DICKERSON FAMILY/ZOAR BAPTIST CHURCH.*



LETIA DICKERSON - April 28, 2022 at 09:40 PM



“ *Anthony & Josephine Paige purchased the White Standing Spray for the family of John Wesley Eley Sr..*



Anthony & Josephine Paige - April 28, 2022 at 09:33 PM

VS

“ He was definitely the Maestro at Zoar. He loved music. My favorite song that he played was Jesus Saves.

Velma Stephenson - April 28, 2022 at 08:27 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Hertford County Undertakers - April 28, 2022 at 07:58 PM