



## Samuel Joseph Holley

April 29, 1963 - February 15, 2020

Samuel Joseph Holley "Sam" was born April 29, 1963 in Murfreesboro, North Carolina to Sarah and the late Edward Holley. Our beloved son, brother, uncle and friend departed this life on Saturday, February 15, 2020. Sam joined Parker's Grove Baptist Church at an early age. He was a member of the Parker's Grove Junior Choir and the Junior Missionaries, and he was also a member of the Usher Board. During his formative years, Sam was a faithful member of Parker\*s Grove.

Samuel attended Murfreesboro High School where he was president of the Senior Class, a member of the Drama Club, and the high school chorus. He was a member of DECA and FBLA. Sam was always interested in the area of Fine Arts, namely the Performing Arts. He fervently worked to achieve a career in show business. He participated in school activities that assisted in his success. Sam loved to sing, dance, and act. He always wanted to learn to play the piano. His learning to play the piano spurred him to practice, and he learned to play by ear. He also took lessons with various teachers. The most important factor in Sam\*s life was his religion. His religion was the beginning of his awareness and a driving force of his life.

He participated in plays on Murfreesboro High School\*s campus and on the Chowan College campus. Sam graduated from Murfreesboro High School in 1981. Sam was preceded in death by his father, Edward Holley and his

brother Karl Jonathan Holley.

He leaves to cherish his memory; his mother Sarah Holley of Murfreesboro, NC. Five brothers Gary Holley, Melvin Holley (Tammy), George Holley, and Tony Holley all of Murfreesboro, NC, and Mark Holley (Vanessa) of Weeki Wachee, Florida; two sisters Ava Holley Closs of Raleigh, NC and Vivian Holley of Wake Forest, NC and sister in law, Paula S. Holley and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

# Cemetery Details

## Eley Family Cemetery

Winton, NC 27986, NC

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **20**. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Hertford County Undertakers  
416 S Main St  
Winton, NC 27986  
(252) 358-3141

## Service

FEB **21**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Parker's Grove Baptist Church  
131 Mapleton Rd,  
Murfreesboro, NC 27855  
(252) 398-4930

# Tribute Wall

“ *My heart is heavy; this is a message I never imagined writing.*

*I first met Sam when my closest and dearest high school friend, Stewart Daylida, began performing and touring with Young Americans. Stewart and Sam became close friends within the group. They spent a great deal of time touring, but when we were all in southern California, everything just seemed to click. The many friendships we forged during those years were effortless.*

*Sam and I had numerous interests in common, and as he toured the United States and France, we kept a very close correspondence while I finished my senior year of high school. There was nothing we could not talk about, and there was nothing we withheld from one another.*

*We would discuss the latest Sondheim show, the latest in pop music, and we plumbed the depths of great art and great music together. Ours was a conversation that never seemed to end. We might put it away for a time, but we would also pick it up, dust it off, and resume it again — right from where we left off.*

*As I look back on the various times of my life, our ability and willingness to communicate without reservation is one of the things I prize most highly. It remains one of the most honest, one of the most meaningful and one of the greatest connections I have had with anyone... ever.*

*We would sing together, laugh together, cry together. Nothing was off limits and nothing was taboo.*

*We discussed politics, religion, art...*

*The last time I saw Sam was in April of 1997. We had gotten back in touch after we were both copied in a random email message, and we decided to meet.*

*We sat on the patio of the Foxfire in Anaheim Hills and had a lovely dinner and a great visit. We discussed all the necessary topics: love, life, art, performing, music.*

*We caught up on all the things we had let go for several years.*

*The last time I spoke with Sam was in July of 1997 when I called*

*him to share the news that my wife, Barbara, had died at the end of May.*

*Recently, I my curiosity piqued, and I tried to locate a few people from my past in the trappings of social media. It was then I learned the terrible news that Sam was gone.*

*I will always love you, Sammy!*  
*Jeff*

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**Jeffrey Holland** - June 18, 2023 at 05:44 AM



“ *Samuel Joseph Holley*

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November 09, 2022 at 12:28 PM



“ *Sam was a wonderful friend and brought happiness to everyone who knew him. He was always there to lend an ear and make things better. His infectious smile was a trademark. My children were very young when they met Sam, and as reserved and shy little girls., they took to Sam like he was family. He will always hold a special place in our hearts. We will miss you much, but always smile when thinking of You.*

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**Linda Edwards** - April 06, 2020 at 11:31 AM

EV

“Wow! My heart is sadden by you being my friend! Chris and me going down memory lane. I will miss you a whole bunch. That amazing voice you had. It was a pleasure performing with you. I will see you in heaven and save me a spot next to you in choir “Walk him up the stairs!” 🙏❤️100 Anita Cooper 🎤🎤🎤



Emily Verdict - March 30, 2020 at 02:12 AM

EV

Not sadden by you being my friend, by being gone. 😞

Emily Verdict - March 30, 2020 at 02:13 AM

Chris Chavez

Memories forever! Secret Lovers ❤️🙏😹😹😹

Chris Chavez - March 31, 2020 at 12:33 PM

DC

“You will always be in my heart and mind. Thank you for sharing your many talents and experiences with us. Rest in paradise my kind and lovely friend. Peace.

Doug Coon - March 21, 2020 at 11:23 AM

Chris Chavez



Chris Chavez - March 22, 2020 at 11:24 AM



“ Sam was a beautiful soul and one of the most talented people I have ever met. What an angelic and soulful voice! He used to make me laugh until my stomach hurt. I first met Sam in the Young Americans in the 80s. I would have been 19 and he 18. His voice blew me away. He, Bruce Sampson, Michael Lopez, Bob Valdés, and I had a vocal group together. I will never forget how he listens to and wrote out the vocal parts to Earth, Wind and Fire’s song Fantasy. We performed the song at the Roxy in Hollywood. Sam sung several solos that night and tore the house down. His rendition of Bruce’s song “Lisa” was an all time favorite of mine. I can still hear and see him in my minds eye singing, with that soulful style of his, “Lisa, please don’t go” with a killer insane riff on the word go. Diana and I were so honored when he accepted our invitation to sing at our 1984 wedding. He sang a duet with the brilliant pianist and songstress, Paula Prince. They sang, “I believe in You an Me, I believe that we will be, in love eternally.” Now they are both singing together in heaven’s magnificent choir. I will always remember Sam as a beautiful spirit and soul. Diana, sam and I sang right three part harmony to Atlantic Star’s song Circles: “Out of my head  
That’s where I’m going  
Trying so hard to deal with you  
It’s not so easy trying  
To bear these changes  
Ooh, boy  
That you’re putting me through.”  
We nailed it every freakin time!  
Rest in Power my beautiful friend. I send up prayers to you and to your family. May the memories of your time here on this earth wrap your loved ones in a tight embrace as they celebrate your incredible life. I will see you again one day, my good friend. I leave you with my favorite comedy routine that you used to deliver in Cannes France every time I said “Palm Beach Club” (the casino where we performed on the French Riviera). Your response always cracked me up:

*"Palm Beecha? Down by the beecha? Awe....you son of a Beecha!"  
See you at the beecha again one day. I love you, friend.*

*P.S. your Princess Diana bus routine with Stewart Daylida was one of the best, too!*

*Kenny*

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**Kenneth Morris Jr** - March 15, 2020 at 11:55 PM



*Love your words Kenny!*

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**Danny Farrell-Armstrong** - March 18, 2020 at 11:13 PM



*Sam,*

*You were the most kind person I could have known. Your voice was so calming, I would always get you to sing for me and play the piano when you came to Chowan College. I remember one song you would play all the time is Jesus Christ Is The Way by Walter Hawkins. Every time I hear this song, it reminded me of you and I would wonder where you were and would try to find you on facebook. I also remember we sang The Closer I Get To You at the Murfreesboro High School talent show and won 1st place. You will be missed My Dear Friend. I will see you later.*

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**Lola Peebles** - May 07, 2020 at 04:37 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**Danny Farrell-Armstrong** - March 15, 2020 at 06:07 PM

 Chris  
Chavez

“ I met Sam in the Young Americans in 1981..... the minute I heard him sing, I fell in love with him. We toured together, we danced and sang together, we laughed together..... Even though he wasn't in touch with many of us after he moved back home, we managed to stay in touch..... I am forever grateful for this. The last time we talked was 12/23 /2019..... he sounded just as good as always.....I am grateful for our last conversation. Sam , you were the love of my life and always will be..... I feel you took a piece of my heart with you. Rest In Peace and please continue to sing from the Heavens above..... You're voice was a gift of God for all of us..... All my love, Chris ( UTZ) Chavez



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**Chris Chavez** - March 15, 2020 at 11:40 AM

JP

“ Many of us met Sam in June of 1981 in Petoskey, MI for a summer of musical theatre with *The Young Americans*. Sam was one of the brightest, most talented singers any of us have crossed paths with - before or since. The power behind that tenor belt and stratospheric falsetto blew everyone away. He was immediately cast as Judas in "*Jesus Christ, Superstar*" and (at least for me) to this day every Judas I see is measured by the bar he set - at just 18 years old. None of us who were there will ever forget the legendary night his harness failed and he accidentally REALLY hung himself! Stage hands rushed onto the stage in front of the horrified audience, unhooked him, and carried him off as the rest of us, stunned, made our way on for the big finale. The explosion of energy was deafening when he thankfully made it back on, a trouper, singing "Every time I look at you I don't understand..." (The tears of relief when that curtain came down!). Later, we traveled doing community concerts all over the country, an east coast stint with *Liberace*, and an unforgettable summer on the French Riviera (and later he went onto the Orange County dinner theatre scene). But far beyond all that talent, he was a character, funny and kind, loving and loved, an irreplaceable member of our tribe! I know I'm not alone when I say that so many of the happiest memories of my youth are from those musical days, and none of us can think back on those times without Sam's smiling face right there - front & center. Love to Sam. You left an indelible mark.

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**John Pardee** - March 15, 2020 at 12:31 AM



*Beautiful John!!*

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**Danny Farrell-Armstrong** - March 15, 2020 at 05:58 PM



Christine Tolbert

*So well said John!!! I will never forget that legendary night of "Jesus Christ Superstar" either.....And I'll never forget his singing at Baxter Street :) What an incredible voice & person who will never be forgotten.  
Christine Tolbert*

**Christine Tolbert** - March 16, 2020 at 11:10 AM

BS

“ *So sad to hear that Sam is gone. Sam was the best man at my wedding and a dear and trusted friend. He was a phenomenal vocalist and performer that I had the honor of sharing numerous stages and recording studios with over the years. So blessed to have known him and learn from him. Prayers for peace and comfort for Sam's family and loved ones.*



**Bruce Sampson** - March 14, 2020 at 01:45 PM

SS

*Well said, Bruce. He was such a special man. He was a huge part of my life during a very special time. The talent, the humor, the respect, the intelligence, and the love he shared with myself and everyone in his wide circle of friends was always a constant. 35 years later, his presence is still felt. I will always think of you with a smile on my face and warmth in my heart. I love you Sam. ❤️ Sarah Schaeede*

**sarah santangelo** - March 14, 2020 at 04:05 PM

LA

“ *Latasha sent a virtual gift in memory of Samuel Joseph Holley*



Latasha - March 02, 2020 at 11:17 AM

RF

“ *Condolences, love, and prayers to the family. Sam was the epitome of kindness, dedication, love, humbleness, and humor. I was privileged to know him. SEVTC will never be the same.*

Rhonda Faulks - March 01, 2020 at 09:45 AM

FA

“ *Condolences, love, and prayers to the family. Sam was the epitome of kindness, dedication, love, humbleness, and humor. I was privileged to know him. SEVTC will never be the same.*

faulks - March 01, 2020 at 09:45 AM

ED

“ *edrina grant*

Edrina - February 27, 2020 at 05:54 PM



“ *As our hearts ache we are comforted with the promise of seeing you again. Sam, I always smiled when you entered the room. You carried so much joy and had a calm, gentle spirit. Though things may have been falling apart all around, you would find the positive and smooth out the problem. I will miss your quick wit and twitching mustache as you joked around.*

Lacy Gomoke - February 27, 2020 at 05:47 PM

ED

“ *I'm truly sorry for your loss* ”



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**Edrina** - February 27, 2020 at 05:25 PM



“ *"Sam was my go to guy at my job" . We always laughed and spoke every day. I will miss our funny conversations and miss you always asking me if I had any meat ( hahahaha). He stayed hungry. I will miss your smiling face and you were always so positive in every situation. Our last conversation was about the summer time and how we were going to take our vacations weeks apart. Prayers to you and your family. Love you always, DeMarea aka grasshopper* ”

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**Demarea CoLson** - February 27, 2020 at 04:03 PM

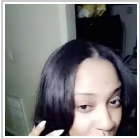
FS

“ It is with deep regret that I just learned of the passing of one of our former Upward Bound participants, Sam Holley. Our prayers are with his family and friends. Sam was a multi-talented performer-entertainer which was came shining through the first time you met him. One night when Sam was a senior in high school my staff and I took the Upward Bound students to Portsmouth, Va., to a concert featuring The Young Americans music and dance traveling performing group. When the show was over the group's director asked if there were any folks in the audience who would like to audition for a place with the group. Sam auditioned that night and was subsequently invited to join the group to tour with them. The Upward Bound staff at Chowan University is extremely proud of the many professional accomplishments and achievements of Sam and we share in the loss of this very fine man.

*Frank Stephenson, Upward Bound Director, Chowan University*

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**Frank Stephenson** - February 25, 2020 at 10:45 AM



“ Sam , you will always be remembered. I'm going to miss your kind words and sweet gestures.. Eating till you couldn't eat anymore. Coming back to a place without your warm spirit there is going to be hard....LOVE RITA



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**Nicole Keith** - February 24, 2020 at 09:21 AM

JT

“ *Prayers for the Family! See you in Heaven Sam!*  
*Alkeviades Theodorakis*  
*Jerry*



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**Jerry Theodorakis** - February 22, 2020 at 08:27 PM



“ *Della Taylor lit a candle in memory of Samuel Joseph Holley*



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**Della Taylor** - February 22, 2020 at 09:51 AM

GM

“ *I'm a parent of a resident at Southeastern Training Center. Our condolences to Sam's family for your unimaginable loss. My son and I have been blessed to have Sam in our lives for over 20 years. He has always been our rock; loyal, caring, steady, reliable and sure in a world of uncertainty and fear. Just knowing Sam was there was a great comfort to me and my family. I thank God for Sam.*  
*I have told Sam on several occasions how much he means to me and my son; that we love him, and how wonderful it was to have him in our lives.*  
*Everyone that knows Sam knows what a special person he was. His positivity will last forever* ❤️ 🙏  
*Gloria Marler*

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**Gloria Marler** - February 21, 2020 at 10:39 AM

BC

“ Sam was one of the most Charismatic humanitarians I have ever met. He loved people and people loved him. He was the definition of kindness and reckless generosity; and was probably the most gifted, respected, and effective managers I have ever had the privilege of working with. Sam was also a stimulating and interesting conversationalist. He looked forward to our many discussions on various topics of interest to him, and we often had opposing viewpoints. I will never forget the day he described me as one of his "dearest friends." I can't believe he's gone.

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**Bernard Campbell** - February 21, 2020 at 12:52 AM

LP

“ Oh my...Sam and I sang in a Talent Show together. We sang the closer I Get To You. We won and every time I hear that song I remember him. Sam had the voice of an angel and had a good heart. He will be missed. Rest In Peace my dear friend.



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**Lola Peebles** - February 20, 2020 at 10:50 PM

JE

“ Jackie Eley lit a candle in memory of Samuel Joseph Holley



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**Jackie Eley** - February 20, 2020 at 06:35 PM

JE

Although I knew Sam for a short time , he was truly a joy to know. I will always remember the kindness and the joy that he gave to my son. Sam was and still is a special person and I will always remember him.

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**Jackie Eley** - February 20, 2020 at 06:40 PM

KG

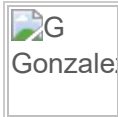
“ Although I've been working with Sam less than a year, in just that short time his joyful spirit has left an everlasting impression. My heartfelt condolences go out to the family and all who know & love him. He will truly be missed.

Kim Gamble - February 20, 2020 at 06:21 AM

LM

“ Oh my sweet & dearest Sam! You were one of my most favorite friends throughout school & so proud of you as our senior class president. Heaven now has a beautiful angel representing us. Thank you for being a true friend and such a kind and gentle soul. I have such hugs waiting for you when we meet again! Linda

Linda (Paul) Martin - February 19, 2020 at 11:00 PM



Wondering if this is Linda from Woodland Dr... it's Gladys Gonzalez and I have no idea how to connect with you... would hate it to be too late as it now has happened with Sam.

G GonzalezJessurun - February 22, 2020 at 08:06 PM

PB

“ Pina Baker lit a candle in memory of Samuel Joseph Holley



Pina Baker - February 19, 2020 at 10:36 PM

CH

“ I'll always remember Sam as a genuine and kind man with a smile and a laugh for all. You will be missed Sam. Sending condolences to the Holley family from Sam's SEVTC family.

Christine - February 19, 2020 at 09:47 PM

DH

“ Wassup Critter Lol. I Remember Meeting You In 2012. I Will Always Remember The Good Times In 303. The Laughs, & Jokes. I Know You Are In A Better Place. & We Will All Miss You Dearly, & That Laugh So Its Not A Goodbye, Its See You Later My Brother.

Devon Harris - February 19, 2020 at 08:53 PM

JB

I work with Sam for 10years at SEVTC. Sam loved the residents and love helping the staff and others, He will truly be missed

Jessica Butts - February 20, 2020 at 05:11 PM

AP

“ Sam will be greatly missed. He was one of the most genuine people I've ever come to know, as well as the greatest supervisor. 303 loves you Sam and will forever miss you ❤️

Amber Pemrick - February 19, 2020 at 07:27 PM

CS

“ Condolences to the Holley family on the loss of your love one. May God continue to strengthen you each and every day.

Gilbert and Charmont Hall Stephen

Charmont Hall Stephen - February 19, 2020 at 07:16 PM



RH

“ *Raye Holley lit a candle in memory of Samuel Joseph Holley*



Raye Holley - February 19, 2020 at 07:12 PM

WC

“ *Westelle Cherry sent a virtual gift in memory of Samuel Joseph Holley*



Westelle Cherry - February 19, 2020 at 06:58 PM

DL

“ *I always looked forward to seeing Sam in the morning. We had many, many good laughs, and talked about the world and life in depth. The last words I said to you were "I'll catch up with you later. I had no idea how much later that would wind up being. I will always remember you, my dear freind.*

Daphne Lynne - February 19, 2020 at 06:36 PM

DH

“ *Sam was always friendly, positive, kind and supportive. His spirit of caring and optimism was unwavering. He found joy in supporting the most challenging individuals and finding a way to make the best of adversity. He was pleasure to work with. The entire SEVTC community will miss him deeply.*

Douglas Hansel - February 19, 2020 at 05:38 PM

GH

“ *May beautiful memories always bring comfort and joy to those who knew and loved Sam.* ”



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**Gloria Hatcher** - February 19, 2020 at 01:32 PM

TF

“ *The Tann Family lit a candle in memory of Samuel Joseph Holley* ”



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**The Tann Family** - February 19, 2020 at 12:29 PM

CL

“ *Sam was always so upbeat and full of energy and always had a way of making you feel welcomed! He was one of the first people to help me along the way at SEVTC. He always gave me a good laugh and will truly be missed!* ”

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**Clarissa** - February 19, 2020 at 09:30 AM

DA

“ *Condolences, love, and prayers to the family. Sam was the epitome of kindness, dedication, love, humbleness, and humor. I was privileged to know him. SEVTC will never be the same.* ”



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**Dawn** - February 19, 2020 at 09:08 AM

TA

“ Sam was an awesome Team Leader/ House Manager. He was loved by so many at SEVTC. He was humble and loving at all times; always had a kind word to say to everyone that crossed his path. We all loved him and will miss him dearly. God bless his family and friends. No words can bring you comfort but t as long as you remain in Gods arms he will comfort you through this hard time. RIH MY LOVE SAM

Tia Arrington - February 19, 2020 at 08:47 AM

RC

“ I was so saddened to hear this. Sam was a pleasure to work with, such a sweet and caring man. His dedication and devotion to the individual's at SEVTC was always evident and commendable. I will miss his smile and his sense of humor. Prayers of peace to his family and friends.



Renee Cobb - February 19, 2020 at 08:39 AM

RA

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Sam was an excellent example of kindness and love. I will miss him. He was so good to the people he supported at SEVTC. I will miss that big smile and happy voice.



God bless you all,

Rachelle Bowser

Rachelle - February 19, 2020 at 08:12 AM

KN

“ Sam was one of the kindest and vibrant people I have ever met. What a gift he was to this world! He leaves the world better because he was in it. Hugs, love and deep condolences to his family.

Kyle Newton - February 19, 2020 at 07:53 AM

RB

“ Sam was a devoted a friend to many who loved him beyond words. I am so blessed to of had the privilege of knowing Sam and becoming one of his dear friends. My memories of him will forever be in my heart. He will be so truly missed. RIP Sam!

Robin Bridgmon - February 19, 2020 at 07:46 AM



“ RIP one of the nicest and coolest person in the world. You never be forfotten

Brishen Green - February 19, 2020 at 07:02 AM

CR

“ You will be truly missed. My condolences to the family.

Cynthia Ricks - February 19, 2020 at 02:43 AM

TC

A sweet and caring soul he had you will never be forgotten prayers to the family 🙏

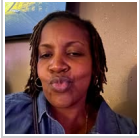
Tonya Cooper - February 19, 2020 at 07:55 AM

SD

*I knew Sam from all the good that he did every single day at SEVTC. He was a great leader by example, quick to help or offer an idea, and always striving to make things better and get things done right. Quite a loss.*

*Sherwin Davis*

sherwin davis - February 19, 2020 at 03:02 PM



“ You will truly be missed by the team!



Kema Dildy - February 19, 2020 at 01:25 AM

WJ

“ Wallace & Susan Jordan lit a candle in memory of Samuel Joseph Holley



Wallace & Susan Jordan - February 18, 2020 at 11:33 PM



“ 54 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Hertford County Undertakers** - February 18, 2020 at 11:07 PM



“ *Charles And Chiquita Moore lit a candle in memory of Samuel Joseph Holley*



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**Charles and Chiquita Moore** - February 18, 2020 at 09:35 PM