



**Mr. Charles Randall Stephens**

Mr. Charles Randall Stephens, 79, of Charlotte, NC and Wadesboro passed away on Thursday, February 7, 2019 at Monroe Rehabilitation Center.

A service to celebrate his life will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 16, 2019, in The Historic Morehead Street Chapel of Ellington Funeral Services.

The family will greet friends immediately following the service at the funeral home.

A reception will also be held from 5:00 until 8:00 p.m. at West Wade Venue and Events in Wadesboro.

“Chuck,” as he was affectionately known, was born on August 14, 1939, in Lumberton, NC, one of four children to the late John McDaniel Stephens and Viola Kinlaw Stephens. He served faithfully in the United States Air Force. After his service, he was an entrepreneur with retail shops throughout Charlotte. He was mostly known for his shop Earth Angel on Independence Boulevard.

If you knew Chuck, he loved to Shag and rarely missed a SOS at the beach.

He is survived by his children, Charles R. Stephens, Jr. and wife Lisa, Taunya Stephens and Wanda Smith; one sister and two brothers: Patsy White and husband Virgil, David Stephens and wife Donna and John Stephens; five grandchildren, Brittnee Jeter, MaryAnna Jeter, Victoria Godfrey, Randi Abernathy and Jenn Smith; and twelve great grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Harvest Ministries, PO Box 1254, Wadesboro, NC 28170.

Notes of encouragement and condolences may be sent by visiting [ellingtonfuneralservices.com](http://ellingtonfuneralservices.com).

**Inmates Win Cash Settlements After Suing About Violence at Lanesboro Correctional**

Three former inmates at Lanesboro Correctional Institution have been awarded \$62,500 as a settlement to their lawsuits that claimed that they were terrorized by gangs. The inmates' cases were based on the allegation that the former superintendent, Lawrence Parsons, and supervisors would not “clamp down” on the murderous gangs.

The three inmates were among five prisoners who sued after being stabbed by men they claimed were gang members. Their suits claimed that gang members from Bloods and MS-13 were allowed out of their cells by prison guards to carry out the attacks. The five prisoners who were stabbed and sued the prison are Orlando Harshaw, Taveolis Hunt, Benjamin White, Sean Smith and Stacy Wynn. The prison wing involved was overseen by Jeffrey Wall who was fired in 2013.

Four of the inmates who were attacked were represented by the Southern Coalition for Social Justice. “We hope that the settlements illustrate that people who are in the custody of the state have a right to safety, that administrators have a responsibility to know what’s going on in their prisons,” said Ian Mance from the Southern Coalition for Social Justice. “The violence in Lanesboro was pervasive, and it should have triggered an intervention and investigation from the state much earlier than occurred. That didn’t happen, so these plaintiffs filed a lawsuit in part to get people to pay attention to what was happening there.”

Of the five men attacked, Hunt, 39, agreed to drop his lawsuit for \$35,000. He is serving nearly 31 years in prison for statutory sexual offense. White, 35, who last year completed a nearly nine-year prison term for being a habitual felon, received \$14,000. Smith, 38, who is serving nearly 10 years as a habitual felon, will get \$13,500. It has been reported that none of the felons will receive the money directly, instead their attorneys will control the funds in separate accounts. Henshaw, 45, who is serving a life sentence for first degree murder, had sued in hopes of improving conditions at Lanesboro, but dropped his case when it was announced that Lanesboro was being converted to a women’s prison.

Wynn’s lawsuit accused Parsons of being indifferent to the dangerous conditions at the prison which put inmates’ lives at risk. The suit claimed that Wynn’s life was “endangered because the warden didn’t rein in Wall, who seemed to favor Bloods gang members, allowed the criminals to attack others, and hid a collection of bloody stabbing weapons in the ceiling of his office,” Wynn’s attorneys said. He lost the lawsuit in July 2018.

The settlements protect Parsons, who retired in 2016, and several correctional officers. Wall was left out of the settlements to allow inmates to continue legal claims against him, settlement documents said. Wall is negotiating settlements with the inmates which he is paying himself.

Lawyers for the inmates reportedly said Lanesboro was plagued with violence and staff corruption since it opened 15 years ago.

The five inmates were stabbed over a 10-month period in 2011 and 2012 that culminated in inmate Wesley Turner’s death. It was reported that Turner was killed by gang members who prison officers allowed to his cell to “hit” his cellmate. Only after Turner’s killing did Parsons and state prison officials address the corruption and violence, Hunt’s lawsuit said.

State criminal investigators said later that minutes before Turner was killed, two of the three attackers visited the office of an assistant unit manager. Soon afterward, a corrections officer allowed the inmates into the pod where the killing took place. The Charlotte Observer reported in 2014. State Bureau of Investigation agents said they don’t know if corrections officers were trying to help the assailants. Bloody homemade weapons were later found hidden in the drop ceiling above Wall’s office.

After Wall was fired he was barred from the Lanesboro prison. He tried to force his way back in to retrieve the weapons and videos of his unit hidden in his office ceiling, according to his dismissal letter. Wall also displayed a gun in his vehicle and threatened that he could “get anyone” from outside the prison, his dismissal letter said.



**Mr. Millard Eugene (Gene) Russell**

On January 21, 2019, Gene Russell left his earthly family, who will miss him dearly, to join his loving family in Heaven. Having struggled with pancreatic cancer, he now enjoys complete healing.

Funeral Services were held on Monday, January 28, 2019, at Red Hill Baptist Church with Rev. Rodney Clements officiating. Interment followed in the church cemetery.

Born on August 10, 1942, to the late Raymond Jesse and Gracie Kimrey Russell, Gene was raised in the Aquadale community of Stanly County. He graduated from Aquadale School in 1960, and still maintained close relationships with classmates through frequent reunions. Also active in 4H and FFA, he received numerous awards and recognition for projects. He continued his education at North Carolina State University with a degree in Food Technology which took him to Ross Labs in Columbus, Ohio where he worked with Similac Infant Formulas. From there he went to Decatur, Illinois with AE Staley Company and then to Cecil Sikes Farms and Cuddy Farms.

Always interested in everything and wanting to be involved, he spent his life volunteering in services to better his community. He retired after 30 years as a volunteer firefighter and EMT for the Ansonville Fire Department. He served 42 and a half years on the Board of Directors of Pee Dee Electric, served a term on the Anson County Board of Commissioners as well as on the board of Feed My Lambs Ministries. He was also a dedicated member of Red Hill Baptist Church where he served in many areas and especially with Red Hill Brotherhood projects. He also loved to cook and many got to enjoy his BBQ.

There to meet him in Heaven in addition to his parents are his infant daughter Tara Leigh, sister Mazelle Speight, brother Carrol Russell, brothers-in-law Steve Sasser and Bill Hatley, as well as many aunts and uncles.

Left to join him later are his wife of almost 54 years, Betty Sikes Russell; son Phillip (Jada) Russell; daughters, Leah (Jon) Lynch and Paige (Micah) Tyson; beautiful granddaughters, Brooke Russell and Makenna, Kaela and Amelia Tyson; his brother Ronald (Debbie) Russell and sisters, Patricia Sasser and Kay Hatley; as well as brother-in-law CJ Speight. He also had a close and loving relationship with his wife’s family, Bobby (Lina) Sikes, Joe (Barbara) Sikes, Cecil Sikes, Jr., Mary Alice (Steve) Dixon and many nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, please continue his support of community projects such as Red Hill Baptist Church, Red Hill Baptist Church Brotherhood c/o Tiffany Randall, 4747 Red Hill-Mt. Vernon Rd, Polkton, NC, 28135; Feed My Lambs Ministries PO Box 91, Wadesboro, NC 28170; or Ansonville Fire Department, PO Box 337, Ansonville, NC 28007.

**Free Groceries Available to Eligible Families at BRLC this Saturday and Next Wednesday**

Free USDA foods will be distributed this Saturday, February 16 at 2 p.m. or as long as supplies last, and Wednesday, February 20 at 10 a.m. if there are products left at Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center (BRLC). Please note that neighbors will only be served once monthly with these items as long as they last.

All participants who plan to pick up food are asked to bring someone to help them if they need help, as BRLC will no longer be able to provide this support.

The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Food Distribution Division provide these food items through the Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina in Charlotte.

The US federal income guidelines will be a determining factor for individual’s eligibility. The food items will only be available to Ansonians. Individuals who have not registered or received food before from the BRLC Emergency Food Pantry must have financial documentation as proof of income to be served. Those families who receive food stamp assistance will automatically qualify. Parents are asked not to bring children due to limited seating space. Neighbors are asked to please park in the parking lot behind the center.

The USDA prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees and applicants on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political belief, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or if all or part of an individual’s income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. Not all prohibited bases will apply to all program and activities.

You can contact BRLC at 704-826-8737 for information, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday. BRLC is located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department.

**Anson County Tax Collector TAX REMINDER**



**DELINQUENT ANSON COUNTY TAXES WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE EXPRESS NEWSPAPER ON OR ABOUT MARCH 6, 2019.**

**A \$20 FEE WILL BE ADDED TO ALL DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS THAT ARE PUBLISHED.**

**ACCOUNTS MUST BE PAID IN FULL TO AVOID THIS FEE. PLEASE MAKE PAYMENTS ON UNPAID TAX ACCOUNTS IMMEDIATELY.**

**Call 704-994-3220 with questions.**

Remit payments to:

**Anson County Tax Collector  
101 South Greene Street  
Wadesboro, NC 28170**

**Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

**Credit & Debit cards are accepted.**

**An after hours drop box is available too. Thank you.**

Founded in 2017, William H. Josey CPA is based in Wadesboro and serves the southern Piedmont of NC and SC. As a third generation accountant, Mr Josey follows his father and grandfather who provided accounting services in the Piedmont area of NC and SC for over 65 years.

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