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man we so affectionately knew as "Gumby" was truly a loving father to many, a loyal brother, a devoted brother/son-in-law, an unconditional uncle and an accepting father and friend to all. His warm smile and strong embrace welcomed you in and allowed you to feel the joy he carried in his heart for everyone. A man of integrity and hard work, Gumby only worked three jobs in his life - Wade Manufacturing Company, W.R. Bonsal and CSX Transportation (Railroad), where he retired after 37 reward-

In 1972 while dancing at a yard party, he met the love of his life and the woman who continued to put butterflies in his stomach, his "Toonk-Toonk" Vancine "Pookie" Sturdivant. Through this union nine kids were parented, Elissa M. Sturdivant of In-Trails, William dian Lafayette "Bugga" Sturdivant Jr., Barbara Ann Thomas, Priscilla Little and Timothy Ratliff, both of Lilesville, Ycaza Rosario "Poon" Robinson, Evadne Kay Smith of Monroe, Kendra Wilson of Brooklyn, NY and Robert Colf (Aimee) of Rockingham.

Goddaughters and Godsons are Brittany M. Bennett, Jasmine Ford, Shaneta Little, Sharecka Sturdivant, Denise Cannon, Jennifer Tarlton, Be-Linda (Bobby) and MeLinda Allen, Kimberly Leak, Alfreda Green, Ivory Ingram, Subrina Hough, Stacey Huntley, Kishia Dunlap, Kam McDonald, NaTasha DeBerry, Von Willoughby Lindsey, Sherika Staton, Sharon Diggs-Ingram, Katrina Diggs-Ross, Melaine Bennett, Tori Williams, Jennifer Norris, Meaghan Baker (April), Saquanica Brown (and her Pizza pie, which you called a Taco pie), Pastor Johnny Ray Pastor Steve (Denise), Brian Bennett Adams, (Danielle), Evan Carvelle, Mike (with the right hand

# Obituaries ... continued from page 2

Sheriff James E. Clemmons, Jasper "Kissey" Robinson (Crystal), Pierre Kirby, Darryl Little, Cedric Hartley Sr., Gerald Cannon, Matt Norris, Robert Mims, Bernard Edgesworth and Jonathan Peguese. The list goes on and on, male and female. William and Vancine are the Honorable "Mom and Dad" of the Playerz Elite Motorcycle

His unconditional love for his wife, family, extended family and everyone he came in contact with was obvious in his daily walk with the Lord.

Preceeding him in death were his mother and father; two sisters, Jewel Sturdivant and Avon Downer; brother Clarence "Foots" Sturdivant; and special friend Nathan Leon "Nate' Robinson. He leaves to cherish his

fond memories and celebrate his homegoing, wife Vancine Robinson Sturdivant; daughters, Elissa M. Sturdivant, Barbara A. Thomas, Ycaza R. Robinson, Evadne K. Smith and Wilson; Kendra sons. William "Bugga" Sturdivant (Stacy) and Timothy Ratliff; two brothers, Charles Sturdivant (Martha) of Raleigh and Min. James Bonanza Sturdivant (Shelia) of Memphis, TN; special brother and sister. Wavne Caswell. Spartanburg, SC and Winnie Brown of Lilesville; six brother-in-laws, Min. Jackie Robinson (Airzine), Carleton Williams (Vickie) of Wadesboro, Robert Lee Robinson, Johnathan "J.J." and Curtis Robinson, all of Lilesville, and Sugar Ray Robinson of Rockingham; two sister-inlaws, Patricia Robinson of Lilesville and Pauline Audrea Campbell of Wadesboro; 18 grandchildren; nine great grandchildren; three aunts. Cassie Coleman of New York, Montissa Johnson of Lilesville and Mary Lee Gaddy of Morven; and a host of nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews,

## Mr. J. B. Watson, Jr.

relatives and friends.

Mr. J. B. Watson, Jr., 88, went home to be with the Lord on Monday, September 21, 2015.

The family will receive friends at First Baptist Church on Wednesday. September 23, 2015, from 11:00 until 11:45 a.m. prior to the start of the funeral service at the First Baptist Church which begins at 12:00 noon. Interment will be private. J. B. was the son of the

late John Blake Watson, Sr. and Sarah Raye Birming-

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ham of Wadesboro. He was predeceased by his beloved wife of 57 years, Marjorie B. Watson, and his loving sister Margaret Watson Coble. He is survived by his son, John B. Watson, III and daughter and son-in-law. Mike and Mary Anne Seaman. He is also survived by three grandchildren, John Blake Watson, IV, Ashley Renee Seaman, Matthew Ireland Seaman, and two great

grandchildren, Blair Rhyne

Watson and Christian Reid

Watson. In addition, he is

survived by one sister,

Louise Watson Greene.

After graduating from Wadesboro High School J. B. immediately enrolled in Wake Forest University and volunteered for the army as soon as he turned 18 years of age. After induction in the U.S. Army he was sent to the University of Pennsylvania to study Japanese. After completing the Japanese course he was sent overseas as an interpreter during World War II, stationed on the outskirts of Tokyo. After serving his tour of duty he married and enrolled at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Upon graduating from UNC with a BS degree he and Marjorie returned to Anson County where he opened his accounting practice and remained the sole

owner until January 1999. Mr. Watson was active in his church and community. He was a member of the First Baptist Church and served in many capacities such as Deacon, Chairman of the Board of Deacons, Treasurer, Finance Committee and Chairman of the Finance Committee, and Sunday School Superintendent. He was one of two founders of Anson Tech that is now South Piedmont Community College, and served on the Board of Trustees for 27 years, as well as the state of N.C. Board of Community Colleges. In addition, he founded the Wadesboro Booster Club and served as President. He founded Southview Academy and served on the Board of Directors. He has done many things to help Anson County by giving his time, energy, and financial support for many buildings and projects, such as renovating the Allen Furniture Company building and the Jones residence and opening the Town House Restaurant, building the Carolina Power & Light

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the First Baptist Church, Lee Avenue, Wadesboro, NC 28170. Leavitt Funeral Home

is serving the Watson family. Online condolences may be made at leavittfuneralhomewadesboro.com.

### Mrs. Virginia **Ruth Pratt** Woodburn

Mrs. Virginia Ruth Pratt Woodburn, 83, died Wednesday, September 16, 2015, at Anson Health and Rehabilitation in Wadesboro. Funeral services were

held on Saturday, September 19, 2015, in the Chapel of Leavitt Funeral Home with Rev. Bill Whitlow officiating. Interment followed in Morven Cemetery. Virginia Ruth was

born November 1931, in Anson County, a daughter of the late Vincent Parson Pratt and the late Mildred Sheppard Pratt. She was a graduate of Morven High School and attended Pfeiffer College. She worked for a number of years with Anson County Schools as a Teacher's Assistant at Morven Elementary School. She was a former member of Morven Town Council.

Following her hus-Continued on page 5 THE EXPRESS • September 23, 2015 • Page 3

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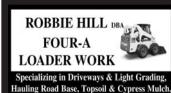
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