

How Do I Say "Thank You?"

On Thursday, March 9 while trying to help others, I, Commissioner Vancine Sturdivant was in a head on collision that resulted in a fatality. At 8:37 a.m. I was on Exit 306 off U.S. Highway 74 East just outside Rockingham when a driver on the wrong side of the road hit me head on. Mr. and Mrs. Robert and Rose Little of Pawleys Island, South Carolina were going the wrong way on the exit and collided with me. No, this man was not drinking. He was just lost.

Rescue personnel in Anson and Richmond counties were formally thanked on Tuesday, April 4 for helping to save my life and Mrs. Rose Little.

During the April county commissioner meeting, with the approval of Chairwoman Anna Baucom, I was allowed to take a break from the regular meeting to play a slideshow about the fatal wreck. The slideshow was created and produced by Randy Gulleddge.

On April 4 I wanted to thank those who helped save not only my life, but the life of Mrs. Little. Mr. Robert Little was pronounced dead at the scene, while Rose Little and I were air-lifted to CMS, Charlotte and Chapel Hill for medical care.

The slideshow was opened with the saying, "Heaven can Wait! My work is not Done!" The slideshow included images of our Cadillac Escalade, "Sara," before and after the collision, resting on its roof. (Named after my grandmother, one powerful lady. Never had a driver's license and went anywhere she wanted. She was known for her missionary work.)

At an early age my parents, grandmother and neighbors taught me there is a God and Guardian Angels. To see this vehicle coming directly at me and no place to go. All I began to do is call out to my Savior, "OH God, Oh God, OH God!" Three times I cried out to God. Everything began to look like it was in slow motion. This is when I knew God and my husband Gumby was with me. While I was crying out to God, Gumby said, "Turn loose of the wheel. Toonk-Toonk, let go of the wheel, let go. I got you. Let go, I got you." I could feel the presence of my late husband who God took home in September 2015. The most calming feeling came all over me.

My next memory was hanging upside down in Sara. The OnStar, an emergency service feature of my vehicle with an automatic crash detector, summoned a representative who told me that emergency responders had been notified and were on the way. Unable to move due to hanging upside down, and with the seatbelt choking me, I still was at peace.

I could hear people outside the vehicle saying "Momma V, we got you. We are praying for you." To Mr. Theodore Horne, Jr., Ella Webster, Melaine Bennett Streater, Regina Marshall, and all the other citizens who witnessed the wreck and stayed with me until emergency responders arrived, THANK YOU.

My husband and I have always believed in certain numbers repeated throughout the Holy Bible, especially one, three, seven and twelve. On this day everything that happened was in three, trinity or seven, completion. The collision happened at 8:37 a.m., State Troopers were the first responders to arrive at 8:40 a.m., in three minutes. While at Chapel Hill Hospital the physicians informed me that I had a hole in my right lung and three fractured ribs and that they were kissing each other. I stated, "I told Gumby about acting out in public." My number had shown up again. Three days from the wreck I was told I could go home, no surgery required. My lung and ribs were healing on their own.



A dear friend, Vickie Daniel, Clerk of Superior Court of Richmond County, three days later sent me a picture she had taken at the wreck scene of the "Thank You Jesus" sign I had in our vehicle resting outside our car - that had no broken windows on that side. Everyone continues to question me as to how the sign got outside the car. I know there is a God and Guardian Angels and they truly came through for me.

I often ask God why he took away one of the best things that ever happened to me, my husband William Lafayette "Mr. Gumby" Sturdivant, Sr. My daughter Elissa Michelle said after the wreck, "Momma, if

Daddy had been here in the flesh, he could have never made it to you. That he told God, I am going to try my wings today. My dear friend Carol Gibson, Anson County School Board member, sent me a text that stated, "Gumby wasn't ready for me since I was still needed on earth, and that the two of us would have eternity to catch up in Heaven." To be initially thought dead and that I would not make it to Chapel Hill, but to recover in such a way that even the physicians are amazed is nothing but the work of God.

I give all credit to God, My Guardian Angel Gumby and the first responders from Cordova Fire and Rescue, Richmond County Sheriff James Clemmons, Lilesville Emergency Medical Services and Fire Department Chief Marty Morton, Jr., Anson County Sheriff Landric Reid and State Highway Trooper, 1st Sargent Wilson and Erick Johnson, who headed the investigation.

"I've always been taught that there's a God and Guardian Angels watching over us, but to finally experience it is awesome. God anointed and filled my hands with a purpose years ago."

Finally, I want to thank all the citizens near and far for their cards, gifts, flowers and especially prayers. The Bible states, "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16

The prayers were truly answered. In three weeks, I started cooking for the elderly, visiting our kids at schools and attending community events. "I AM BACK !!!"

Thank you, Mrs. Vancine Sturdivant

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