

Mr. Jesse Preston Short

On Thursday, August 7, 2025, Mr. Jesse Preston Short, 92, passed away peacefully in the comfort of his home with his family at his bedside.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday, August 13, 2025, at Morven United Methodist Church with Rev. Amy Lambert and Rev. Earl Bradshaw officiating. Interment followed in Morven Cemetery.

The family greeted friends on Tuesday, August 12, 2025, at Leavitt Funeral Home in Wadesboro and other times at the home.

Preston was born in Morven, NC on January 7, 1933, and was a son of Ellison Ross Short and Barnice Williams Short. He was a graduate of Morven High School, where he fell in love with classmate Barbara Dawkins. They married on June 7, 1952, and in the following years welcomed four children.

He was a life-long farmer, beginning in his teenage years growing crops of cotton. Throughout his life, Preston was happiest when he was outside in nature and working on his farm.

Preston was a longtime member of Morven United Methodist Church. Throughout the years he served the church as a Sunday School teacher, choir member, Church Superintendent and Trustee of the church. He was instrumental in the building of the church's fellowship hall.

He was a member of Kilwinning Mason Lodge No.64 in Wadesboro.

His love of community service led Preston to serve the town of Morven over forty years in various capacities as a volunteer fireman, town councilman and mayor. He served on the Board of Directors of Anson County Farm Bureau and the Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Program.

Those who are left to cherish his memory are his beloved wife of 73 years, Barbara Dawkins Short; his children, Kate Walton (Greg) of Pinehurst, Terri Hardison (Bill) of Chesterfield, Lindy Lenz (Henry) of Morven and Jeff Short (Salena) of Burnsville; his grandchildren, Nikki Phillips (Tony) of Chesterfield, Shane Flake (Cindy) of Concord, Pagan Curry (Matthew), Athens, OH; Cody Short, Matt Pitino of Burnsville, Lacy Pitino of Orange County, CA, and Chance Hardin (Audrey) of Freeland, MI; his great-grandchildren, Trevor Flake, Trevor Brewer, Ava Phillips, Kiersten Flake, Preston Phillips, Colton Hardin, Ryker Hardin, and Grayson Hardin; his sisters, Margaret James of Seneca, SC, and Martha Burns (Collier) of Wadesboro; a special nephew George Short (Melanie) of Morven; and many other nieces and nephews and their families.

In addition to his parents, Preston was preceded in death by his brothers, Harold Short, Vero Short, George Short and Ben Short.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Masonic Home for Children, Oxford, NC and Gentiva Hospice of Chesterfield, SC.

The arrangements were in care of Leavitt Funeral Home and online condolences may be made at www.leavittfh.com.

Discounted Advance Tickets Are on Sale Now for the 2025 N.C. State Fair

Save big on admission and rides!

Discounted tickets are available through Oct. 16:

- Adults (ages 13–64) – \$10
- Youth (ages 6–12) and senior adults – \$5
- Children 5 and younger are free
- Group tickets (for groups of 40 people or more) – \$8 for adults, \$4 for youth

Advance vouchers for ride ticket cards, ride wristbands, the State Fair Flyer, and the State Fair SkyGazer are also available at discounted rates:

- 18 ride tickets – \$11
- Unlimited ride wristbands – \$31
- State Fair Flyer – \$6 (one-way), \$9 (round-trip)
- State Fair SkyGazer – \$6

Find a deal that is perfect for you!

The State Fair also offers online-only, special-themed ticket packages, including two new packages:

- (NEW) Bright Lights and Boots Package – One gate admission and one ticket to the NCHSRA Rodeo Event held on Monday, Oct. 20, or Tuesday, Oct. 21, for \$18 (\$2 savings)
- (NEW) Sippin’ Spirits Package – One gate admission ticket and one Still House Cocktail ticket for \$23 (\$2 savings)
- Dizzy Pass – One gate admission ticket and one unlimited ride wristband for \$39 (\$2 savings)
- Kegs & Cork Pass – One gate admission ticket, one N.C. Public House Beer + Wine ticket for \$18 (\$2 savings)
- State Fair Flyer Package – Two gate admission tickets and two round-trip State Fair Flyer tickets for \$34 (\$4 savings)
- State Fair SkyGazer – One gate admission ticket and one State Fair SkyGazer ticket for \$14 (\$2 savings)

Get your tickets online at ncstatefair.org.

The 2025 N.C. State Fair will pay special tribute to all active and retired military on Duke Energy Military Appreciation Day on Wednesday, Oct. 22. Thanks to Duke Energy’s partnership, military personnel, with proof of identification, plus one guest will gain free entry into the fair on that day.

Learn more about Duke Energy Military Appreciation Day and other special event days at ncstatefair.org.

Consider taking the train to the fair! Make this year’s trip to the fair smooth and memorable by hitching a ride on the state’s passenger rail service, ncbytrain.org. The train will make special stops near the N.C. State Fairgrounds during the fair.

More details, including this year’s stop schedule, are expected to be released by the N.C. Department of Transportation in the coming weeks. Seats are limited, so be sure to book your trip early!

Educational State Forest Field Trips:

Where Students Learn About Forests Among the Trees

School is back in session! That doesn’t mean you have to say goodbye to the great outdoors. Schedule a field trip or group outing to an educational state forest this semester. Take in the ranger-led classes, trails, and exhibits. Experience forestry education while learning under the trees. Investigate nature while in a natural setting. Large picnic shelters are available for a class picnic lunch.

What classes are taught at an educational state forest, you ask? A short video highlighting classes offered at the various educational state forests is available on the N.C. Forest Service Facebook page.

Call your local educational state forest office and make your no-cost reservation today. For more information, visit ncesf.org.

Note: Amenities and availability for ranger-led classes vary by forest. Please contact your local educational state forest to make reservations and for more information.

North Carolina's July Employment Figures Released

The state’s seasonally adjusted July 2025 unemployment rate was 3.7 percent, unchanged from June’s revised rate. The national rate increased 0.1 of a percentage point to 4.2 percent.

North Carolina’s unemployment rate increased 0.1 of a percentage point from a year ago. The number of people employed increased 664 over the month to 5,090,536 and decreased 3,550 over the year. The number of people unemployed decreased 1,844 over the month to 195,068 and increased 2,157 over the year.

Seasonally adjusted Total Nonfarm employment, as gathered through the monthly establishment survey, decreased 1,500 to 5,094,600 in July. Major industries experiencing increases were Private Education & Health Services, 2,500; Government, 1,100; Information, 500; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 500; Construction, 200; and Financial Activities, 200. Major industries experiencing decreases were Professional & Business Services, 3,000; Manufacturing, 2,900; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 400; and Other Services, 200. Mining & Logging employment remained unchanged.

Since July 2024, Total Nonfarm jobs increased 83,100 with the Total Private sector increasing by 70,300 and Government increasing by 12,800. Major industries experiencing increases were Private Education & Health Services, 24,900; Professional & Business Services, 21,800; Government, 12,800; Construction, 10,000; Leisure & Hospitality Services, 8,300; Trade, Transportation & Utilities, 6,900; Other Services, 4,500; Financial Activities, 2,700; and Mining & Logging, 100. The only major industry experiencing a decrease over the year was Manufacturing, 8,900. Information employment remained unchanged over the year.

Following Rash of Car Break-Ins, Commissioner Causey Shares Tips to Keep Your Vehicle Safe and Secure

After a rash of break-ins has struck several communities across North Carolina this summer, North Carolina Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey is urging residents to take extra precautions to protect their vehicles following a recent wave of break-ins reported in multiple communities, including Lexington, Asheboro, Raleigh and Chapel Hill.

“Whether you live in a big city or a small town, vehicle break-ins can happen anywhere,” Commissioner Causey said. “Thieves are often looking for quick opportunities, so a few simple precautions can go a long way toward protecting your property.”

Local law enforcement agencies have reported numerous incidents in recent weeks, many involving unlocked vehicles and valuables left in plain sight. Recently, Commissioner Causey visited the towns of Lexington and Asheboro, which have reported a rash of break-ins this summer.

Commissioner Causey has offered the following safety tips to consumers to help protect themselves:

- Always lock your vehicle – Even if you are only leaving it unattended for a few minutes.
- Remove valuables – Take purses, wallets, electronics, and other items with you, or lock them in the trunk out of sight.
- Park in well-lit areas – Light and visibility deter would-be thieves.
- Use anti-theft devices – Steering wheel locks, alarms, and tracking systems can help prevent theft and aid recovery if your car is stolen.
- Be alert and report suspicious activity – If you see something unusual, contact your local law enforcement agency immediately.

Commissioner Causey also reminds vehicle owners to review their auto insurance policy to understand what is covered in the event of theft or vandalism. Comprehensive coverage typically protects against such losses, but policyholders should confirm with their insurance company or agent.

“Prevention is always better than dealing with the aftermath of a theft,” Commissioner Causey added. “By taking a few extra steps, you can greatly reduce your risk and help keep your community safe.”

For more information about protecting your property and understanding your insurance coverage, visit the North Carolina Department of Insurance website at www.ncdoi.gov.

New ID Card for People Aged 60+ Provides Free or Reduced Admission to High School Sporting Events

The Senior Tar Heel Athletic Card is a FREE discount card meant for individuals aged 60 years and older to gain reduced admission or free admission to many regular-season high school sporting events. The Senior Tar Heel Athletic Cards are now available at Grace Senior Center. Come and get yours today!

Grace Senior Center is located at 199 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, on the left just past IGA. For information call 704-694-6616. The hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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