



Mr. Joseph Bates

October 21, 1935 - November 25, 2025

Joseph Bates was born on Monday, October 21, 1935, in Denmark, Tennessee. His care and upbringing were entrusted to his parents, the late Remus and Virgie Bates. Joe, as he was fondly called, received his early education attending school in the Jackson, Tennessee public school system. Joe completed

his education while working many odd jobs. .

After completing his education Joe enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1956. In the Air Force Joe served as an Aircraft Mechanic. For his exemplary service and hard work Joe received a Medal of Service Award for which he was proud of.

In 1960 after 4 years of service he was Honorably Discharged but continued in the Reserves.

Upon his discharge in 1960 Joe moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Here he not only found good employment he also met and found the love of his life, Geneva. Though they were never married they would remain soulmates for 52 years.

Having strong discipline and work ethic, from his time in the military Joe found employment at a small company and later moved on to work at Eaton Corporation where he retired after 30 years of service on the job. Joe was dependable!

Joe was also a very private person who came from a large family. Many of his values, work ethic and discipline were formed growing up in his family. Joe

was preceded in death by his parents Remus and Virgie Bates; six Sisters, Elnora Bates Douglas, Louise Short, Lottie Hopgood, Bessie Carroll, Naomi Long, and Bertha Chism; two brothers, Remus Bates, Jr. and Laymon Bates and Soul Mate Geneva Webb.

On Tuesday, November 25, 2025, Joseph Bates was summoned to report to his commanding officer for duty and reward on a higher level. He leaves to mourn his loss and cherish his memory a devoted stepdaughter, Linda (Arthur) Griffin, stepdaughter, Anna Webb, stepson, Michael (Debbie) Webb, several grand and great grandchildren, a host of nieces and nephews, friends and special friend Cleamerteen Smith.

Cemetery Details

Graceland Cemetery

6401 N. 43rd Street
Milwaukee, WI

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 13. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Mt. Horeb Baptist Church
534 W. Center Street
Milwaukee, WI

Funeral Service

DEC 13. 11:00 AM (CT)

Mt. Horeb Baptist Church
534 W. Center Street
Milwaukee, WI

Tribute Wall

DP

“ *Joseph Bates , my uncle, gave me away at my wedding. He was such a kind, loving, and soft spoken man. I have so many memories of him and all of his visits to Tennessee to visit family. You fought a good fight, you lived a good life, and now you can take your rest. We love you. Dorsey*

Dorsey L Kendrick PhD - December 07, 2025 at 10:36 AM