Celebrating A Wonderful Life

William Davis “Bubba” Dunn

Sunrise: October 1, 1969
Sunset: December 1, 2012

Thursday,
December 6, 2012
12:00 Noon

First Baptist Church
290 E. Winchester Street
Gallatin, Tennessee 37066

Pastor Derrick L. Jackson
Officiant & Eulogist
Obituary

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
John 3:16

On October 1, 1969, in Gallatin, Tennessee, Charlie and Shirley Brannham Dunn celebrated the joyous arrival of William Davis Dunn. For the past forty-three (43) years, along with his three (3) daunting sisters, each of us has shared in their joy. Today, December 6, 2012, we join them to celebrate the home going of their only son.

William wasted no time preparing himself for a vigorous venture on this earth. At an early age, he professed a hope in Christ and decided to become a member of First Baptist Church, 250 East Winchester Street.

Lovingly nicknamed “Bubba,” he began his educational journey in the Gallatin Summer County School System and quickly weaved his way into the hearts of everyone he came in contact with. He graduated from Gallatin Senior High School in 1988. While there, he was an outstanding student and a standout football and baseball player.

William was such an outstanding student, that he received an offer for a scholarship from both Middle Tennessee State University and Volunteer State Community College. He chose VSCC where he attended for one year. Continuing to be the standout baseball player that he was, in 1989, he was drafted to the Major League Baseball’s, Kansas City Royals. He made it to the class-A level in the Royal’s organization before arm problems forced him to an abrupt end of his professional career.

Bubba returned to Gallatin, became gainfully employed, soon thereafter, met and married the love of his life, Teresa A. Gifford. To this union their only daughter, Ariana was born. He also became a devoted daddy to both Brandon and Jacques.

As if all of these accomplishments were not enough, Bubba continued his education for one more year at Tennessee State University. During this time, he became involved with the youth athletics department, and was later hired as a non-faculty assistant football and baseball coach at Gallatin Senior High School. Bubba realized that he could not be the example he wanted to be in his mentoring of the youth in the city, without fully completing his education, so he returned to VSCC where in 2007 he earned an Associate of Science Degree.

In his spare time, Bubba was employed at the Gallatin Civic Center where he coached and officiated youth leagues. He also sponsored baseball camps and gave private lessons to young players. Bubba seemed to have time for everyone and was able to establish personal relationships with ease, while continuing to love and nurture his own family.

William Davis “Bubba” Dunn ended his latest work endeavor, as a clerk in the Sumner County Clerk’s Office.

Bubba’s course in life is complete, he can now rest from his labours, and his works will forever more follow him.

Those left to cherish his memories are his loving and devoted wife and best friend, Teresa A. Dunn; daughter, Ariana Dunn; stepson, Brandon Brannham; cousin/son, Jacques Williams; mother, Shirley (Isaac) Middleton; father, Charlie Dunn; mother-in-law, Lillie (James) Crenshaw; father-in-law, Roy (Dottie) Gifford; sisters, Jackie (Richard) Grant, Elaine Dunn, Charlene Dunn; brother, Nathaniel Link; sister-in-law, Erica Gifford; aunts, Louise Banks, uncles, Floyd (Donna) Gifford of Cincinnati, Ohio, Curtis Gifford, Robert L. Mason and Robert A. Mason; aunt, Louise Banks; uncles, Floyd (Donna) Dunn, Harry Dunn, Barry (Patricia) Dunn, and Aaron Brannham; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, many other family connections and close friends.

Pastor Derrick L. Jackson, Officiant & Eulogist

Order of Service

PROCESSIONAL
The Family

MUSICAL SELECTION
First Baptist Church Mass Choir

SCRIPTURE
Minister Steve Oldham

PRAYER
Minister Arlesta Smith

MUSICAL SELECTION
First Baptist Church Mass Choir

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
Mrs. Mary H. Malone

TRIBUTES
Coach Jerry Joslin
Mr. Troy Martin
Coach Robert Lassiter
Mr. Jacques Williams
Mr. David Boone, Jr.

MUSICAL SELECTION
Mr. Jovan Bender

WORDS OF COMFORT
Minister Umiko Jones

EULOGY
Mr. Tony Shaw

BENEDICTION
Pastor Derrick L. Jackson

The Service of Committal & Interment
Summer Memorial Gardens
420 Albert Gallatin Road
Gallatin, Tennessee
"Loving Tributes"

You never said, “I’m leaving,”
Yet still found a way to say goodbye,
You were gone before I knew it,
And only God could fathom why.

Forever I will need you;
It seems forever I will cry,
If love alone could have saved you,
Your time to go would never have slipped by.

In life, I loved you dearly,
In death, I love you still,
In my heart, you hold a place,
That no one else can ever fill.

It broke my heart to lose you,
But you didn’t go alone.
For part of me went with you,
The day God took you home
I love you, Bubba.

Teresa

"Dear Dad in Heaven"
I sit here and ponder how very much I’d like to talk with you today.
There are so many things that we didn’t get to say.
I know how much you cared for me, and how much I cared for you,
And each time that I think of you I know you’ll miss me too.

An angel came and took you by the hand, and said,
Your place was ready in Heaven, far above…
And you had to leave behind, all those you dearly loved
You had so much to live for, and you had so much to do…
It still seems impossible that God has taken you.

And though your life on earth is past, in Heaven it starts anew,
You’ll live for all eternity, just as God has promised you.
And though you’ve walked through Heaven’s gate,
We are never far apart, for every time I think of you,
You’re right here, deep with my heart.

I Love You Daddy
Ariana

None can adequately put into words the life of William “Bubba” Dunn. He was a man who touched the lives of thousands. Anyone who had the privilege of meeting him met a living legend.

We celebrate the life of a man who exemplified greatness through his actions, kindness, smile, character, and the life he lived for 43 years.

We are thankful to God for allowing each of us to share a small piece of this father, mentor, coach, and friend.

The legacy of William “Bubba” Dunn will continue in the lives of others for many years to come……..

Message to our young people that William would want you to know…

“Never let your circumstances or situations that you grow up in define who you will become as an adult.”

Bubba Dunn

Dear Bubba,
It’s been a while since we last talked and if I had one last thing that I wanted to say to you, it would be, “Thank you.”
Thank you for teaching me how to be a good man, even though we didn’t always agree on things. I still loved and respected the man that you were. I learned so much from you, and I will never forget the things that you taught me.
Thanks for having faith in me and never giving up on me. Thanks for being a father. I Love You… Always have… And Always Will.
You will live on through me.

Your Son, Brandon

My Hero

They say that a father is supposed to be his son’s Hero. However, in this case, I must say that YOU are my hero.
I am so proud of you and the man that you became. So many people truly loved and cared for you.
You will truly be missed, but I know that God had other plans for you.
Although I will miss you daily, I know that I am safe because my son, "My HERO," is watching over me.
I love you.

Your Father, Charlie Dunn
The Family of the late William “Bubba” Dunn wishes to express our sincere appreciation for your inspirational tweets and Facebook messages, expressions of love, and support during our sudden loss. We are so thankful to know how many lives Bubba touched, and to know that his legacy will continue to carry on through the Gallatin community. Please continue to pray for us as we prayerfully attempt to keep Bubba’s loving and caring spirit alive.

- The Family of the late William “Bubba” Dunn