



## Bennie Austin Jr.

December 5, 1958 - September 28, 2025

### A Time To Be Born

On December 5, 1958, in Greenwood, MS; Mr. Bennie “Sonny” Austin was born to the union of the late Bennie and Lillian Austin.

### A Time To Worship

Bennie knew and loved the Lord at an early age. He followed the Lord, and he glorified His name. He was a member of The Cross Church under the leadership of Rev. Michael Prince, where he served as a trustee. Bennie knew the power of prayer, and when it was time to pray, he did not want to be disturbed. He prayed for a mind free of worry, a life full of gladness, a body free of illness, and a day full of blessings.

### A Time To Learn and Labor

Bennie attended Leflore County High School in Itta Bena, MS. Bennie worked 31 and a half years at the Ford Motor Company, retiring in 2009. He later went on to be a bus driver for the Epilepsy Center of Northwest Ohio.

### A Time To Love

For 48 years, Bennie was blessed with his loving and devoted wife, Dollie Austin. Upon this union, he and Dollie had a loving family of four children, twelve grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter.

### A Time To Be Remembered

Bennie had an anointed spirit that was filled with love, compassion, forgiveness, and understanding. He had a spirit with his presence that would light up any room and would do anything for anyone. He believed that falling is an accident, but staying down was a choice. He knew the Lord and was not afraid because he knew that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. Bennie enjoyed traveling, spending time with his family. He was a master chef on the grill with his infamous “all off the bone” ribs and BBQ sauce that only he could master. He enjoyed football, grooming his yard, and washing his truck, which he called “The Hog.” He also enjoyed listening to the blues, especially on Saturdays, and watching softball, and he was a cheater in spades.

### A Time To Rest

Bennie went on to be with the Lord on September 28th, 2025. He was preceded in death by his father, Bennie Austin, and mother, Lillian Austin, sister, Martha Ann Hill, brothers, Charlie and Willie Brown, sisters-in-law, Clara Brown and Marie Brown, brother-in-law Willie Howard, grandson Karon, and cousin Eddie Jackson.

Bennie leaves to cherish his memories, his loving wife, Dollie, four brothers: Robert Brown, Walter (Vera) Brown, Anthony (Patty) Austin, and William (Crystal) Austin, five sisters: Olivia Coleman, Daisy (Ivory) Payne of Itta Bena, MS., Ruth Howard, Lillian Leflore of Itta Bena, MS., and Ola Austin, four children: Greg, Nicholas, Gerald, and Kendra, all of Toledo, Ohio, twelve grandchildren: Mallory, Imani, Gianni, Shyanne, Amia, Kaliyah, Zedy, Giovanni, Orlando, Angelo, Domo, and Jayce, great-granddaughter: Leilani Coleman, Godchildren: Keyshawn, Shirlisa, and London. Special friends: Darnell Stephen, Russell Miller, and Tim Campbell, honorary children, Devin and Tanya Brooks, and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He will definitely be missed.

# Cemetery Details

## Historic Woodlawn Cemetery

1502 West Central Avenue  
Toledo, OH 43606

# Previous Events

## Wake Service

OCT 11. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Friendship Baptist Church  
5301 Nebraska Ave  
Toledo, OH 43615  
(419) 531-3242

## Funeral Service

OCT 11. 11:00 AM (ET)

Friendship Baptist Church  
5301 Nebraska Ave  
Toledo, OH 43615  
(419) 531-3242

# Tribute Wall

SF

“ So sorry for your loss in our prayers .



Sherer family - October 12, 2025 at 09:36 AM

SF

“ So sorry for your loss in our thoughts and prayers 🙏. Sherer Family

Sherer family - October 11, 2025 at 03:35 PM

SF

“ Sherer family lit a candle in memory of Bennie Austin



Sherer family - October 11, 2025 at 03:33 PM

SY

“ My condolences to you and the family, he looks like he had a beautiful soul! Praying for your family during this difficult time 🙏 - Symphonee

Symphonee - October 10, 2025 at 03:02 PM

JS

“ Sending condolences to the family. Bennie always lended me a helping hand when I needed him. A couple of months ago he helped me move some stuff from my mother’s garage. He will be missed.  
Christopher R Ross and family 🙏



Jewel Strahan - October 09, 2025 at 07:15 PM

SG

“ SHARON GRAHAM lit a candle in memory of Bennie Austin



SHARON GRAHAM - October 09, 2025 at 12:12 PM

TC

“ The Gillard family, Sumter S. C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bennie Austin Jr..

The Gillard family, Sumter S. C. - October 09, 2025 at 10:17 AM

TC

“ The Gillard family, Sumter S. C. purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Bennie Austin Jr..



The Gillard family, Sumter S. C. - October 09, 2025 at 10:17 AM

JS

“ Dear family, I really don't know we're to begin or say about losing Bennie. He was beloved by so many of us outside of his natural family that I took him to be my family. I have so many fond memories of working with him during and outside of work. He was truly one of a kind. Shay and Dollie you both have my sincerest condolences and I will continue to keep you in my thoughts and prayers. God Bless You 🙏🙏🙏



Jewel Strahan - October 08, 2025 at 07:59 PM

DS

“ To Sonny's Family: We are blessed to have had the privilege of meeting and knowing Benny. Although our time together was brief, it was always a joy to see him and that infectious smile from the very first time we met. Sonny will be missed. A part of me is gone but never forgotten. Your brother David, wife Lesidia, and daughters Sabrina and Ambrosia.

David Scott - October 07, 2025 at 08:12 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Bennie Austin Jr..



October 07, 2025 at 06:17 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Bennie Austin Jr..

October 07, 2025 at 06:17 PM

LW

“ To the Austin, and Brown Family! Sending Heartfelt Sympathy in the loss of your love one. May you forever hold on to the memories that you will hold in your hearts of Sonny. He will be missed greatly! I will always remember That BIG SMILE, and talking SMACK from my BRO. May the the healing gifts of time, and the timeless love of GOD carry you through the loss you're feeling now. May GOD'S loving presence comfort you, HIS perfect peace restore you, and HIS promise of ETERNAL LIFE sustain you all, knowing that you will see your love one again. IN SYMPATHY and LOVE! Lorene and Carlos Robinson



Lorene Watts - October 07, 2025 at 03:28 PM

LW

“ To the Austin, and Brown family! Sending Heartfelt Sympathy in the loss of your love on. May you forever hold on to the memories that you will cherish in your hearts of Sonny. He will be missed greatly! I will always remember That BIG SMILE, and talking SMACK. May the healing gifts of time, and the timeless love of GOD carry you through the loss you're feeling now. May GOD'S loving presence comfort you, HIS perfect peace restore you, and the promise of eternal life sustain you you all, knowing that you will see your love one again..... In Sympathy and Love! Lorene Watts and Carlos Robinson



Lorene Watts - October 07, 2025 at 02:52 PM

ML

To the Austin & Brown Family! Sending health sympathy in the loss of Bennie. Prayers going up from the Lee Family And the Bey Family. Love Marilyn Lee & Niesha Bey and kids.

Marilyn Lee - October 10, 2025 at 10:47 PM



*Bennie has always been a first class guy, he will be missed(LEE HOWELL)*

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**Lee Howell** - November 11, 2025 at 12:23 PM