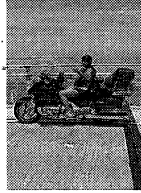


# Steven Benjamin, a light in leather

## Steven L. Benjamin

HOPE MILLS - Steven Lawrence Benjamin, 60, of Hope Mills, died Wednesday, May 4, 2016.

Born November 22, 1955 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, he was the son of the late Bernard and Patricia Benjamin.



Steven leaves to cherish his memory, his wife, Mary Benjamin; daughters, Angela Tuzzio

and Elizabeth Johnson and husband Antoine, all of Omaha, Nebraska; sons, Michael Benjamin and fiancée Kim of Rochester, Minnesota and John Tuzzio and wife Emma of Fayetteville; brother, Robert Benjamin of California; sister, Ellen Benjamin and husband Paul Termin of Pennsylvania; and seven grandchildren, Jeffery, Haley, Mariah, Troy, Israel, Eli, and Makena.

A memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday, May 15, 2016 at Freedom Biker Church in Fayetteville.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions be made to the Freedom Biker Church Building Fund, 455 Rock Hill Road, Fayetteville, NC 28312.

"His Lord said to him, well done you good and faithful servant ... enter you into the joy of your Lord."

Welcome home Benj. Until we meet again, we will miss you.

The Fayetteville Observer

Howard Smith had the perfect description for his friend Steven Benjamin, a larger than life person who truly was the definition of the word character.

"He was a bright light in a sea of black leather," Smith said, referring to Benjamin's fondness for riding motorcycles.



**Earl Vaughan Jr.**

Smith died in a motorcycle accident near Riegelwood on May 4.

While others he rode with would put on a macho exterior on their hulking Harley-Davidsons, Benjamin was an island of comedy and joy in their midst, sometimes wearing a tie-dyed shirt and pink and blue tennis shoes.

"He rode a Honda Gold Wing," Smith said. "He didn't have a Harley. Stuff like that was not important. Nothing of this world was important to him."

What was important was the gospel message of Jesus Christ and sharing it with others. Benjamin did it in his daily walk, and in his involvement with Smith in the 3N1 gospel group. As Smith put it, Benjamin put feet on the gospel of Christ, through his involvement with singing, his church and countless charitable motorcycle rides over



**Benjamin**

the years.

"He personified what a relationship with Jesus was," Smith said. "We talk about being humble, being obedient. He was someone you could

look at and see it."

One person who saw it was Benjamin's wife, Mary, who met her husband in 1997. A year later, he gave her a Bible, and the two of them began committing their lives to Christ.

When people came to her home to tell her that her husband did not survive the accident, she was overcome not with grief, but a sense of peace.

"We were both ready for that moment in life," she said. "Now my job's not finished. I'm here to serve Christ and honor my husband."

The one thing she will miss most is the physical contact with her husband, she said. Whenever they went somewhere together, they always held hands.

"I will miss that companionship, but he'll always be there in spirit," she said. "I look forward to the moment I can be with him again."

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