



## Mr. Bobby Eugene Strong

April 8, 1935 - November 23, 2023

Bobby Eugene Strong, a man of intellect, dedication, and unwavering faith, passed away peacefully at his home in Stockbridge, GA on November 23, 2023. Born to Annie Lavonia and Woodrow Strong in Covington, GA, Bobby's journey through life was marked by a curiosity for knowledge, a passion for learning, and a commitment to serving others.

Bobby's spiritual journey began at an early age when he joined St. Paul AME Church in Covington where his mother was a member. He had an inquisitive nature manifested by his love for reading, a trait that defined his character from childhood. As a young student, he amazed those around him by reading the entire encyclopedia series at his school, setting the stage for a lifetime of intellectual pursuits.

Graduating from Washington Street High School in 1953, Bobby's commitment to service led him to serve as a U. S. Air Force reservist during his junior and senior years. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology from Fort Valley State College in 1958 where he became a lifelong member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He also enlisted in the U. S. Army and served as an Artillery Surveyor from 1958-60. His educational journey continued at Atlanta University, where he pursued graduate studies while working as a Distribution Clerk at the United States Postal Service.

In 1964, Bobby embarked on a distinguished forty-year career in the federal government, joining the Center for Disease Control (CDC) as a Public Health Laboratory Technologist. While working at the CDC, he earned a Master of Science degree in Microbiology from Georgia State University in 1973, becoming one of the first African Americans to graduate from GA State's evening graduate program.

At the CDC, Bobby's area of focus was tuberculosis research. His work took him across the United States and to various foreign countries, where he taught medical microbiology. He also authored two training manuals, "Isolation and Identification of Mycobacterium Tuberculosis" and "Laboratory Methods in Medical Mycobacteriology."

His intellectual pursuits continued as he engaged in advanced post-graduate microbiology studies at Howard University and Atlanta University. Bobby also embraced the technological era, taking computer technology courses, obtaining an amateur radio operator license, and utilizing his knowledge to join the Information Technology staff at the CDC in later years.

In 1964, Bobby married Dr. Velma G. Strong, Ed. D at Liberty Baptist Church, and from this union they had one daughter, Barbara. After Velma's passing in 1992, Bobby became a member of Liberty Baptist Church, later serving as a Deacon and Treasurer. In 1997, he married Dr. Versie Slay, MD and became stepfather to her son, Robert. As a family, they continued to enjoy the worship services and events at Liberty Baptist Church.

In his retirement, Bobby found solace at his Stockbridge home, relishing the joys of family, church, Western movies, and Bible studies. His legacy lives on through the lives he touched, the knowledge he shared, and the example of a life well-lived.

Bobby E. Strong is survived by his loving wife, Dr. Versie Slay, MD, daughter Barbara E. Strong, Augusta, GA, stepson Robert Solomon, II, two sisters Anita Louise Strong, San Francisco, CA and Davidlyn P. Strong, Covington, GA, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, family and friends who will forever cherish his memory. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Alzheimer's Association in Bobby's honor.

<https://vimeo.com/event/3917142>

# Cemetery Details

## New Covington Cemetery

9197 Highway 278 Northeast  
Covington, GA 30014

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 1. 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Gregory B. Levett and Sons Funeral Home - Rockdale Location  
1999 Highway 138 Southeast  
Conyers, GA 30013

## Family Visitation

DEC 1. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Gregory B. Levett and Sons Funeral Home - Rockdale Location  
1999 Highway 138 Southeast  
Conyers, GA 30013

## Celebration of Life

DEC 2. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (ET)

Liberty Baptist Church Atlanta, GA  
395 Chamberlain Street Southeast  
Atlanta, GA 30312-1802



# Tribute Wall



“ *Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Mr. Bobby Eugene Strong*



---

**Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes & Crematory, Inc.** - November 30, 2023 at 09:50 AM



“ *Deacon Strong will be Truly missed! To Barbara be strong my sister! You were Blessed with two wonderful parents!!! I loved me some Mrs. Velma Strong & Deacon Strong. My Sincere Condolences! Love You Pam Jones*

---

**Pamela Jones** - December 01, 2023 at 05:09 PM



*Thank you Pamela Jones!!!*

---

**B Strong** - February 15, 2024 at 03:39 PM

DN

“ I vividly remember Mr. Strong for helping establish a black professional organization chapter, the Black Data Processing Associates (BDPA), comprised of blacks who worked as data processing professionals at the Savannah River Site (SRS) in South Carolina. His beloved daughter, Barbara and I were co-workers and friends. He not only helped us establish the local chapter, but helped us to organize a convention at which Philip Emeagwali, the Father of the Internet, was the keynote speaker! Not only was he a professional beacon, but he was a gracious host. He and Barbara, on several occasions, invited other SRS employees and me to his home for social gatherings. We were always in the best of company among their family and friends. As an only child also, having lost my father years ago, I say to Barbara, you not only took care of your father excellently, but I know in my heart, it was a labor of love ❤️. You have a "Strong" legacy of which to be proud!

Dorothy H Naylor - December 01, 2023 at 10:47 AM

BS

Thank you Dorothy Naylor!!!

B Strong - February 15, 2024 at 03:39 PM

HR

“ Bobby was a friend of mine. I met Bobby about 50 years ago at the Centers for Disease (CDC) in Atlanta, GA. Bobby and I were scientists in different fields of endeavor but became friends due to mutual interest. I shall never forget Bobby because he was such a great help to me in the field of computer science. Whenever I needed to know anything about computers, Bobby was there for me. Bobby made a difficult subject, at that time, appear so easy and he was always eager to help me. I enjoyed his intellect and his wit. May he rest in peace. Harold Russell

Harold Russell - November 30, 2023 at 02:32 PM

BS

*Thank you Mr. Russell!!!*

**B Strong** - February 15, 2024 at 03:40 PM

CD

“ *Carmen Duncan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mr. Bobby Eugene Strong.*

**Carmen Duncan** - November 29, 2023 at 10:22 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mr. Bobby Eugene Strong.*



November 29, 2023 at 10:22 AM

RH

“ *Bobby was my friend for over 40 years I will cherish his memories forever his sense of humor his great love for food he exposed me to French and Italian restaurants. He loved cooking and I was fortunate to taste some of his homemade dishes during lunchtime at CDC Thanks Barbara and Verse for allowing our friendship to continue during his illness. Ruby Hardy*

**Ruby Hardy** - November 28, 2023 at 02:18 PM

BS

*Thank you Ruby Hardy!!!*

**B Strong** - February 15, 2024 at 03:40 PM