



## Jesse Thomas Copelan Jr.

July 29, 1941 - November 9, 2025

Jesse Thomas Copelan, Jr., 84, of Eatonton, passed away at home with his beloved wife of forty years, on November 9, 2025. Jesse was born July 29, 1941 in Greensboro, Georgia to the late Jesse Thomas Copelan, Sr. and Cornelia Poss Copelan. He is survived by his wife, Kaye McLeroy Copelan, his brother, Ray Copelan (Martha); his nephew, Josh Copelan (Adrienne), and their children, Ellie, Jasper and Brock; niece, Stacey Copelan Richardson (Travis), and their children, Copelan and Will; nephew, Johnny Holt (Laura), his children, Erika Stoley, daughter Colbie; Emily Holt, Tad Holt (Kaitlyn), their children, Copelan (Jesse's namesake) and Ellie Jo; niece, Lori Holt, children Aubrey and Marlee, daughter Addison; nephews, Bill McLeroy, his children Jillian McLeroy and Stella Palmer; Chad McLeroy (Breezy) and daughter, Piper. Jesse attended Greensboro High School and Georgia Military College. He was a University of Georgia Double Dawg with an undergraduate degree in Forestry and received his Juris

Doctorate in 1970.

He served as Assistant District Attorney and Putnam County Attorney for 18 years. Jesse served

two terms as State Representative; three terms as Putnam County State Court Judge and was

appointed by Governor Sonny Perdue as Senior Judge. He practiced law for fifty years and was

an Adjunct Professor at Georgia Military College for three years.

Jesse was widely known for his humble nature, compassion and sweet spirit.

His love of family

and overwhelming generosity were attributes that were beyond compare. He was a lover of the

land, farming, horses and his hunting dogs. He adored Kaye along with his nieces and nephews,

his close friends, and the Georgia Bulldogs! His prize possession was a picture of Kaye when she

was in the first grade, carrying it in his wallet for forty years.

Funeral services will be held at the Historic Sanctuary of Eatonton First Methodist Church,

where he was a long-standing member, at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 12, 2025, with

graveside services to follow at Greensboro City Cemetery, Greensboro, Georgia. The family will

receive friends for visitation in the Great Hall of the Eatonton First Methodist Church from 5:00

– 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 11, 2025.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Eatonton First Methodist Church, Bible Fellowship

Church, Gatewood Schools or <https://www.imb.org/> (Give Now); Missionary

Team: Trey Lancaster; Country:

Zimbabwe



# Cemetery Details

## Greensboro City Cemetery

Memorial Dr.  
Greensboro, GA 30642

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 11. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Eatonton First Methodist Church  
103 W. Magnolia St.  
Eatonton, GA 31024

## Funeral Service

NOV 12. 2:00 PM (ET)

Eatonton First Methodist Church  
103 W. Magnolia St.  
Eatonton, GA 31024

# Tribute Wall

JA

“ Just came across this!! Kaye I'm so sorry for your loss doll!! I love you and praying for healing!

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**Jessica Adams** - April 17 at 09:38 AM

VM

“ Prayers for Kaye and family

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**Veronica Mcleroy** - December 05, 2025 at 02:51 AM

LL

“ I am totally lost for words! Jesse was the sweetest man on earth. When you think of someone who loved God, Jesse would be top on the list. Jesse was so much of a blessing to me and my family. This really hurts! I love you!

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**Lee Lynwood** - November 14, 2025 at 06:40 PM

PH

“ Ray, we are saddened by the loss of Jesse. We had some pretty intense pickup basketball games in the old gym in downtown Greensboro. And I remember the football game when he bit through his lower lip. Just know Ann and I are thinking about you during this time of sorrow.

*Philip and Ann Horning*

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**Philip Horning** - November 14, 2025 at 03:34 PM

MM

“ Jesse Copelan was truly one of the greatest of Putnam county. He was a source of personal blessing to myself, my wife Patty and my children. He was an "Ace in the Hole", just outside of the public view but ready to weigh his considerable intellect and experience when needed. Many of us needed him and he was there for us. I'm sure the stories go on and on of his great Christian charity; and yet we don't hear of them due to his great sense of humility; he kept word of his alms private. He was of particular help as I deployed to DS/DS in 1990. My condolences to his wife and family. Heaven is enriched and earth is poorer for his passing. God bless and keep Jesse Copelan and his family.

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**Mark Daniel Monroe** - November 13, 2025 at 03:29 AM

CS

“ Moving here from New Jersey in 1982, Jesse was the first true Southern gentleman I ever met, and no one else ever came close to meeting the bar that he set- not because he tried, but that was just who he was. Wise, kind, funny, sincere, caring and loving. He loved nothing more in life than helping people, his family, and especially the love of his life, Kaye. They were a truly special and blessed couple. Our prayers and sympathies go out to Kaye and all of his family, he will truly be missed.

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**Cheryl Stringfield** - November 12, 2025 at 09:47 PM

HK

“ Mr. Jesse was a very sweet man. We enjoyed his visits with us at Embry Farm Service. He was always a welcome visitor. He will be missed by all - Heather Kelley

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**Heather Kelley** - November 12, 2025 at 12:10 PM

KF

“ Karen Batson Frischkorn lit a candle in memory of Jesse Copelan



Karen Batson Frischkorn - November 12, 2025 at 10:57 AM

PP

“ Jesse will be missed in the salon! We all looked forward to seeing his smile! sending our condolences from PJ Salon Essentials!



Paula Kinchen. ( PJ) - November 11, 2025 at 03:44 PM

EC

“ There's not enough space or words to describe what a wonderful man Jesse was. Having known him as a child and having him as a neighbor, there's so many stories to tell. He was always so sweet and kind to my sister Janice and me. I always looked up to him , admired him.and loved him. He was a true Southern Gentleman. Kaye, the two of you were very blessed to have each other. You built a beautiful life together and complimented each other so well.Jesse loved you so much and you loved him fiercely. What a true blessing! The days ahead won't be easy, but just know that Steve & I are praying for you and are here for you. We love you, Elaine Campbell Carnes



Elaine C Carnes - November 11, 2025 at 02:20 PM

NK

“ Jesse was so kind and good. He always made my family feel so welcome when we visited and I loved and respected him very much. My girls loved “Kaye and Jesse Camp”!!

Nancy Kurkowski - November 11, 2025 at 12:08 PM

CO

“ Jesse was a true gentleman, a strong man of faith, and a wonderful cousin-in-law! He was family from the moment we met, genuine and kind and so much fun. I'm so glad that he was able to enjoy 40 incredible years with Kaye - they made each other so happy and that was always beautiful to see. Jesse made a difference in my life. I trusted him, admired him, and loved him. I will miss him, but I know that his faith has been made complete in God's eternal kingdom. I will look forward to our next chat about Civil War history when we meet again! I'm praying for you, Kaye, and sending you all my love. Carolyn

Carolyn Osoinach - November 11, 2025 at 09:42 AM

DC

“ Sorry to hear the news. Praying for ya'll.

Dwayne Caneega - November 11, 2025 at 09:34 AM

WJ

“ Sorry for your loss! Prayers!

Wayne Jackson - November 11, 2025 at 09:27 AM

HH

“ My heart is broken for Kaye and the Copelan family ☐ Moving to Georgia he welcomed us with open arms and was always there for Warren and me! We loved you! RIP

Harriet Henner - November 11, 2025 at 08:49 AM

LB

“ *Kaye my prayers are with you! I remember the first time Jesse and David sent me to obtain information for a case. Had to go to Milledgeville. Scared half to death. Jesse talked me through and made it easy. Remember the times coming to Eatonton to bring paperwork on a case that he and David were working on. Always a hug from Jesse and such a warm welcome from you! Love both of you so much. Laura*

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**Laura Burden** - November 11, 2025 at 07:44 AM

ES

“ *Mr Jesse was the most Godly man I ever knew. His kindness and love was amazing. The room lit up when he walked in. God made wonderful man when he made him. The help and encouragement he gave my family through out the years was unbelievable. There will be another like him. I know he is with My Lord and Savior today. Just waiting on all his friends to join him!!! Special prayers to Kaye. I a can't imagine what she is going through. Kay God is with you every step of the way and he is in control. He will never, never leave you, He is right by your side. Ridley and I have always loved y'all. Special kind of people you don't run across often.*

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**Elizabeth C Stanford** - November 11, 2025 at 05:55 AM

BH

“ *Mrs Kaye and family so sorry for your loss. Mr Jessie was such a respected , man , attorney , and Judge. He will be missed.*

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**Brian and Dana Hicks** - November 10, 2025 at 11:32 PM

AM

*I am so sorry to hear about Jesse. He was a great man, praying for you and family. God Bless*

**Alice Maddox** - November 11, 2025 at 10:50 AM

GU

*Brother Jesse was everything anyone would want a believer in Christ to be. He was a strong believer in Christ, a generous giver to the cause of Christ, a Board member of and legal counsellor to the Word of Faith Ministries, Inc. for many years and our personal friend for over 30 years. Enobong, I, and the ministry are going to miss him so much. We're thankful that he is resting peacefully in the Lord's arm now. We look forward to seeing him again sometime when we will never part. Sister Kaye, we are praying for you. The Lord will see us through this trying time.*

*Brother George Utuk*

**George Utuk** - November 12, 2025 at 10:11 AM

CC

“ Thoughts and Prayers for the Family 🙏🙏🙏

**Carolyn Collins** - November 10, 2025 at 10:31 PM

RJ

“ *I am sorry and sad to hear this. Jesse was such a wonderful man!! I loved working with him for many years through the bank. He was a great man!! I am sending my prayers for comfort, peace and strength during this time. He will be missed by so many.*

**Rosemary Jackson** - November 10, 2025 at 09:02 PM

SW

“ *Stacie Waters lit a candle in memory of Jesse Copelan*



**Stacie Waters** - November 10, 2025 at 09:00 PM

SH

“ Jesse taught me in Sunday School at Eatonton First Methodist back in the late 70's, early 80's. He was a a great help to me personally when my mother passed away and I will always be thankful for his guidance. What a southern gentleman and a true Christian friend! He will be deeply missed but I am so thankful I had the opportunity to know him. Rest in peace Jesse!

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**Sandra Hudson** - November 10, 2025 at 07:28 PM

BC

“ We had many great times riding and driving our mules.

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**Billy copelan** - November 10, 2025 at 05:31 PM