

# The Grace Beacon

Because He Lives, We Have A Future! Happy Easter, Grace.

## Congratulations to Reverend Brian R. Wallace

On Sunday, March 21, 2021, Grace Baptist Church celebrated the ordination of Brian Wallace to the Gospel Ministry.

Many members and friends of Grace turned to the Grace website to support the virtual Ordination Service. Rev. Dr. J. Henry Buck, Jr., Senior Pastor, was joined in the Sanctuary by Minister Wallace, the Ordinand, and Rev. Carmen Watson, Ordination Co-Chair, and Associate Minister. Rev. Watson assisted Rev. Buck in conducting the service.

Prior to the Vows of Ordination, Grace's former Assistant Pastor and now Senior Pastor of Antioch Baptist Church, Bedford Hills, New York, the Rev. Merle D. McJunkin brought a dynamic Ordination Message entitled "A Call and Profile of a Prophet" based on 1 Samuel 2:35. Speaking from the pulpit of Antioch Baptist Church, Rev. McJunkin drew powerful connections between God's call and commissioning of Samuel and His call and commissioning of Minister Wallace.

Rev. Dr. Wayne Weathers, Moderator of the Pennsylvania Eastern Keystone Baptist Association, issued the Vows of Ordination, after which Rev. Watson gave the Ordination Prayer, and later, the Charge to the Ordinand.

Both Rev. Watson and Rev. Dr. James E. McJunkin, Jr., Regional Executive Pastor of the Philadelphia Baptist Association, presented Certificates of Ordination. The traditional

presentations of the Bible, Hymnal and Robe will take place at a later date.

After all presentations were concluded, the newly ordained Rev. Brian R. Wallace shared his response. Rev. Buck brought remarks on behalf of the church and Ms. Marilyn P. George, Musical Coordinator/Video Producer, provided beautiful music for the occasion. Service closed with the Benediction given by Rev. Brian R. Wallace.

Thanks to the Ordination Committee, chaired by Rev. Watson and Deacon Tyrone Beach, Sr., to Trustee Scott Fields and Mr. Peter Custis of our Audio/Social Media Ministry and to Ms. Marilyn George for a beautiful virtual service.

Serving   
from the  
Heart

Happy  
Resurrection  
Day!



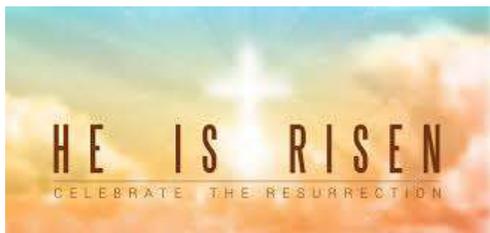
The Lilacs are budding. It must be Spring!



Are  
You Graduating  
this Year?

Let The Scholarship Committee know so you can be included in our "Salute To Graduates, 2021" Send email to : se j 2 4 4 2 0 0 0 @hotmail.com by May 1, 2021.

## And Now, A Word From Our Senior Pastor ...



Before we do anything at this moment, it is so important to take this time to recognize that the pinnacle of our faith hangs on the truth of the resurrection moment. We are so thankful to be able to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The prophet Isaiah states it in that 53<sup>rd</sup> chapter and 5<sup>th</sup> verse – “But he was wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of peace was upon him and by his stripes we are healed”. Praise the Lord. So, with that being said, on behalf of Jennifer, Jaida and James, III and myself, we wish you all a HAPPY EASTER.

This issue of the Beacon takes a moment to recognize the Associate Ministers/Pastors that are serving at Grace Baptist Church of Germantown. It is such a pleasure to have such a grand group of truly called preachers that are able and capable of preaching God’s word. Living in a society that has drastically changed and will continue to change, it is certainly encouraging to see their continuous journey of learning, listening, loving and leading in the congregation. Often many of the assistant ministers at other places rarely have the opportunity to lead as the Grace ministers do. Consequently, they are a well-prepared group of leaders. To be truly honest, many of them serve more in the capacity of an associate pastor. I truly believe it is past time to recognize the contributions of these preachers. We must realize and recognize the diversity of gifts and encourage them in their endeavors.

There are three things that I have noticed about our Associate Ministers: (1) They are dependable, (2) they are caring and (3) they want to be used in the service of God. They are dependable because they are always ready to share and shed light on the scriptures. There is a biblical statement that

says we should always be ready to give an answer to the scriptures. They have studied and continue to study to show themselves approved unto God. They are a caring group of preachers. IF you are not a caring preacher, it is difficult to preach the compassion of Jesus Christ. Whether one comes from the lowest or the highest ends of their social experience, these preachers demonstrate a Christ caring attitude and ethic towards all they meet. And they want to be used in the service of God. Having observed their ability to be used by God, individually and collectively, I have witnessed a wonderful example of grace.

There are many assistant ministers who only want to preach, sit and be seen, but these ministers are on the battlefield for the Lord. They really demonstrate a level of integrity and compassion for the congregation and community. We are very blessed to have these preachers – and I will say that there are a few that **NEED TO BE ORDAINED** because they have demonstrated the capacity to move beyond the norms.

Congratulations to all those who have received the vaccinations from the Chestnut Hill hospital. We will be establishing another experience. We are also grateful to God for the 13 people from our community hired by the Grocery Outlet Store and the wonderful staff of Mr. Aaron Hollingworth.

We certainly cannot call ourselves “a church in the heart of the community ever seeking the community’s heart” – if there are no community commitments to learn, listen, love and lead them into a better way of life.

God Bless.



**Reverend Dr. J. Henry Buck, Jr.,  
Senior Pastor**

## A SPOTLIGHT ON OUR ASSOCIATE MINISTERS -

Did you know that Grace is blessed to have 12 Associate Ministers? This issue of the Beacon will share a little about some of them. Some of them, such as Reverend Brian Wallace, are “Home-Grown”. Others were nurtured in the faith in other congregations, but the Lord has ordered their steps to this branch of Zion. We are grateful for God's Will, God's Way!



### Reverend Brian Roy Wallace



*Reverend Brian Roy Wallace* was born and raised in Philadelphia and is a product of the School District of Philadelphia. Minister Wallace earned his Bachelor of Science in Elementary and Kindergarten Education from the Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania in May 2001. Minister Wallace attained his Master of Science in Educational Administration with a Principal Certificate from Gwynedd-Mercy College in May 2006. He is currently enrolled in the Arcadia University Educational Leadership Doctoral Program and Superintendent Certification Program.

He was licensed to preach the gospel by the Grace Baptist Church of Germantown in 2008, where he serves as an Associate Minister. He graduated with a Masters of Divinity from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 2015.

Minister Wallace was employed as a teacher in the School District of Philadelphia from 2001-2009 then Vice Principal of the Lawton School in the School District of Philadelphia from 2009-2012. He was appointed Principal of the Morton McMichael Elementary School from 2012-2019. He is currently the Principal of the Elkins Park Middle School in the Cheltenham School District.

Minister Wallace has actively served his own Boy Scout Troop 358, where he earned the rank of Eagle Scout, and was also the Scoutmaster from 2003-2014. Minister Wallace is a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and other fraternal organizations.

In 2008, Minister Wallace led his troop and became the only Boy Scout Troop to march in Barack Obama's Presidential Parade. The troop marched in Barack Obama's second parade in 2012. The troop also marched in the 2021 Virtual Inaugural Parade for President Joe Biden.

Minister Wallace is a Vigil Honor member of the Order of the Arrow and served as Lodge Chief of all the Scouts in the Philadelphia Area for Unami Lodge One of the Order of the Arrow in 1997. He was a proud staff member of the Treasure Island Camp Staff where he has served as Scout Craft Director, Aquatic Director and Assistant Program Director. He also received NYLT National Camp School and the prestigious Wood Badge training. He has served on the Board of the Cradle of Liberty Council Boy Scouts of America. Minister Wallace has received several awards from the Boy Scouts of America that includes the Silver Beaver, District Award of Merit, Founders Award and The Good Citizenship Award.

Minister Wallace has also served other organizations. Mr. Wallace was the Camp Director for the YMCA. In 2004, he was the Employee of the Year. He also serves his church as an Associate Minister and is the Vice Chair for the Board of Christian Education. During 2011-2013, he served as Intern Pastor at Miller Memorial Baptist Church. In 2019, he was the Grace Baptist Church of Germantown Man of the Year.

Minster Wallace lives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania with his wife, Sharice Cummings Wallace, and his daughter, Jasmine Reese Wallace. He is the son of LeRoy and Julia Wallace. He has one sister, Felicia Wallace-Benton, and brother-in-law, Michael Benton.

### The Reverend Dr. James E. McJunkin, Jr.



*Reverend Dr. James E. McJunkin, Jr.*, has been the Regional Executive Pastor of the Philadelphia Baptist Association (PBA) since December 2001. He has served as an Associate Minister of Grace Baptist Church of Germantown for all except three years since 1986. He looks forward to the day when we can get back to

gathering in person for worship and fellowship, and looks forward to learning of the new directions of the church since COVID-19. He continues to pray for the health and safety of the congregation.

Before coming to the Philadelphia Baptist Association as Executive Minister, Dr. McJunkin served as the Executive Director of the African American Interdenominational Ministries (AAIM) from 1993-2001. This ministry began as the Christian education, evangelism, and community outreach arm of the Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity. Dr. McJunkin led AAIM to grow to an annual budget of over \$700,000 and a staff of eight persons in the five years that he served as Executive Director.

Dr. McJunkin served the Philadelphia Baptist Association as Associate Executive Minister of Regional Outreach from 1986 to 1995. Under his leadership, the Region undertook many new programs including the Regional Outreach Awards and Recognition Banquet; an ecumenical program to house the homeless; a program to partner PBA churches with churches in South Africa; the development of the "Pastors In Partnership" program to help educate clergy and the PBA Board of Directors in cross-cultural communication; and a program to address pollution in South Philadelphia.

Dr. McJunkin served in pastoral ministry at the Affinity Baptist Church in Cleveland, OH from 1983 to 1986.

Dr. McJunkin received a Doctor of Ministry degree in May 1993 from New York Theological Seminary in New York, NY. His dissertation was based on a missiological analysis and plan for the outreach ministries of the Philadelphia Baptist Association. He received his Master of Divinity degree in May 1984 from Ashland Theological Seminary in Ashland, OH. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Livingston College in 1977 and graduated Cum Laude.



## Reverend Victoria T. Monts

*Reverend Victoria Monts* was born and raised in the Mount Airy section of Philadelphia. She accepted Christ into her life at the age of 25 and was baptized at the Enon

Tabernacle Baptist Church under Rev. Dr. Alyn E. Waller. After serving in several ministries and leadership roles, Victoria heard the call to ministry. She started her journey at Palmer Theological Seminary and finished her Master of Divinity (MDiv) at Lutheran Theological Seminary of Philadelphia with a concentration in Urban Theological Studies in 2017. During her studies, Victoria completed her field education and was licensed at Berean Baptist church under Rev. Dr. J Henry Buck, Jr. After her ordination at Enon, she served as the Associate Pastor of Missions and Evangelism for 2 years.

Victoria joined Grace Baptist Church of Germantown in August 2019 under Rev. J. Henry Buck, Jr. Victoria's passion is to serve God through missions and to help those who need both practical and spiritual support. Her life Scripture is Matthew 17:20, "...If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'move from here to there', and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

My hope is that Grace can be the beacon of light in our local community and city by serving our most vulnerable children, youth, and adults.

Victoria is a pediatric nurse practitioner and provides medical care to children at We Care Pediatrics in Bucks County. She has a Bachelor's and a Master's in Nursing and certification as a school nurse.

She is married to Raymond and has a bonus daughter Jasmine (17) and son Joshua (4).

## Minister Dr. Clifford L. Stanley

Minister Dr. Clifford L. Stanley currently serves as an advisor and assessor with the Worldwide Association of



Business Coaches, and as a core team member of Impact Business Coaches, a company dedicated to creating cultures where people look forward to coming to work on Monday.

While serving as an Associate Minister at Grace, he is also a full-time seminary student at United Lutheran Seminary. He also serves as a member on the External Diversity and Inclusion Council for Charter Communications (Spectrum), and as a Director on the Board of Seminars International, Inc.

Dr. Stanley brings a wealth of experience to his ministerial focus at Grace having served as the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness in President Obama's administration, as the CEO of the

EGA Group, CEO of Scholarship America, and Executive Vice President of the University of Pennsylvania.

He is a retired United States Marine Corps infantry officer, having served 33 years in uniform and retiring as a Major General.

Dr. Stanley is a graduate of South Carolina State University. He received his Master of Science degree from Johns Hopkins University, graduating with honors. His formal military education includes Amphibious Warfare School, the Naval War College, Honor Graduate of Marine Corps Command and Staff College, and National War College. Dr. Stanley earned his Doctorate Degree from the University of Pennsylvania and holds Honorary Doctor of Laws degrees from South Carolina State University and Spalding University. Additionally, he holds a Doctor of Science, Honoris Causa, from The Medical University of South Carolina and Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Stillman College.

His vision for Grace as an Associate Minister: "I envision a growing and thriving ministry achieved through preaching, teaching, and living the Word of the Lord. Ideally, Jesus' example will be engrafted into the hearts of our internal and external church family. Our commitment to missionary work will be the visible evidence of our willingness to following God's will while growing in His Word."

## Reverend Dr. Suzanne H. Walls Kershaw



As a woman of faith, *The Rev. Dr.*

*Suzanne Kershaw* was licensed to preach and began serving in October 2003 as an Associate Minister at the **Grace Baptist Church of Germantown**. She received her Master of Divinity (MDiv) in May 2006 from **Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (LTSP)** with a concentration in African American

Theology. Rev. Kershaw was ordained to the Christian Ministry on March 29, 2009. In May 2012, she was appointed to LTSP's Alumni Board for which she served until April 2016. In continuation of her faith journey, Rev. Kershaw returned to LTSP in June 2013 graduating with the degree of Doctor of Ministry (DMin) on May 17, 2016 focusing on "**Ministry to Women**".

In the Spring of 2019, Dr. Kershaw was selected to

participate in the American Baptist Home Mission Societies' (ABHMS) 2019 Co-Creators Incubator Cohort with her focus on ministry to women and girls relative to home and automotive repairs and maintenance. In June 2017, Dr. Kershaw began her 2nd term as the President of the American Baptist Women's Ministries (ABWM) - Philadelphia Baptist Association (PBA). **Due to COVID-19, Rev. Kershaw's ABWM-PBA presidency was extended for a period of not to exceed one (1) year to serve as Interim President. She is also a member of the PBA's Board of Directors.** In addition, she holds full membership on the National Board of American Baptist Women's Ministries. In October 2016, Suzanne completed a three (3) year volunteer staff position with the **PBA** as Transformation Consultant for PBA – ABWomen's Ministries and serving as a PBA representative to Young Adults Together in Ministry Action (YATMA) which was a partnering ministry between ABCNJ, PBA and ABCOPAD to Young Adults. Rev. Kershaw served as a member of PBA's Domestic Violence Action Learning Team. Presently, Rev. Kershaw is a volunteer with the American Red Cross' Spiritual Care Team.

In August 2013, Rev. Dr. Kershaw retired from the federal government after **39 years** of experience in the acquisition field serving in a variety of supervisory positions for military and civilian organizations. In November 2001, Reverend Kershaw was certified as an Acquisition Professional Level III in the acquisition career field of Contracting. She received further recognition and was admitted into the Defense Acquisition Corps in June 2011. She holds a B.S. in Accounting with a minor in Management from Cheyney University of Pennsylvania. In 1982, she earned her Masters of Business Administration (MBA) from LaSalle University with a concentration in Management. Rev. Kershaw was the recipient of The Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) Career Fellowship - one of five Navy Wide (Contracting) for the Academic Year of 1980-1981 which enabled her to pursue her MBA.

As a member of **Grace Baptist Church of Germantown located in Philadelphia**, she has served in many ministries including the Deacon's Auxiliary, Chancel Choir, Praise and Worship Team, Sunday School Teacher for 15 years, Chair for the Annual Children's Retreat and American Baptist Women of Grace (ABWOG) serving as its president for eight (8) years. Rev. Dr. Kershaw established and implemented new ministries such as the Evangelism Ministry; Women in the Bible Study sponsored by ABWOG and the quarterly Women's Forums under the auspices of Women's Ministries of Grace that hosted facilitators

from sister churches. Also, she was Co-Chair for “Grace’s” Annual Women in White Service from 1998 to 2010. Suzanne has served as a member of Grace’s Long Range/Strategic Planning Committee.

In addition, Rev. Kershaw served as Co-Chair for The Rev. Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright, Sr. African American Studies Commitment Campaign. She is a former member of the Baptist Minister’s Wives and Baptist Minister’s Widows Union. Rev. Dr. Kershaw served from 2011-2013 as a Member-At-Large on the American Baptist Women’s Ministries of Pennsylvania and Delaware’s Conference Planning Committee.

Rev. Dr. Suzanne H. Walls Kershaw is the widow of the Late Rev. Charles Edward Kershaw, who served faithfully as Assistant to the Pastor (The Late Rev. Dr. G. Daniel Jones) for ten (10) years and as an Associate Minister at the Grace Baptist Church of Germantown. She is the mother of Chrystal, Angela, Charles Ryan and Derrick, grandmother to Deja, Jordan, Josiah, Ellise, Caylen, Dallas, Amber and great-grandmother to Ace.

Her life verse is Romans 8:28, “*And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*”

## Reverend Carmen Watson

*Reverend Carmen Watson* is a minister doing the work of God in any venue possible, carrying Jesus to her job, to her neighborhood, to her family, to her church family, to the children and to anyone who does not know Jesus.

Reverend Watson began worshipping at the Grace Baptist Church of Germantown in 1990. Being an active member, she has served and is serving on a host of church organizations. She is an Adult Sunday School Teacher and

Director of Children’s Church. She has served in this capacity for twenty-five years. Reverend Watson also supports and encourages varying ministries of the church as she is known as an advocate and cheerleader. Reverend Watson continues to assist and support the Pastor and the administrative arm of the church.

Reverend Watson graduated from Palmer Theological Seminary in May of 2010 earning her



Masters of Divinity, ordained in May of 2014 and is now pursuing her Doctorate of Ministry at the Lutheran Theological Seminary.

In her forty-four-year professional career she is currently employed by the Temple Health System working as Campus Administrative Director of Pathology for Fox Chase Cancer Center and Jeanes Hospital. She works with thirteen Pathologists, eleven supervisors and one hundred and twenty employees. Her responsibilities are extended in many directions as she is a member of several committees for both hospitals e.g. Operations, Patient Safety, Joint Commission, Performance Improvement, Patient Satisfaction and many others.

Reverend Watson is married to Joe Watson and to this union they were blessed with two beautiful daughters, Minister Jeanine Watson and Sunday School Superintendent, Jennifer Watson.

With an infectious spirit of fun and joy serving the Lord, she continuously strives to utilize her teaching and preaching gifts with enthusiasm and real hands on experiences.

Reverend Watson’s life verse - Phil. 4:6, 7

<sup>6</sup> Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

## Minister Jeanine Watson

*Minister Jeanine Watson* was born in Philadelphia, PA on October 7, 1983 to

Joe and Carmen Watson. She attended Cecilian Academy up until the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. In 1991, she moved with her family to Elkins Park, PA and graduated from Cheltenham High School in 2001. After high school, she attended the University of Maryland Baltimore County and received a B.S. in Psychology. After graduation, Jeanine began to provide one on one behavioral support for children with autism.

Having a desire to enter medical school, Jeanine completed the Masters of Forensic Science program at Drexel University. After completing this program, she realized that her true calling was teaching children with autism and she went back to school to receive her Masters in Education from Holy Family University.



Jeanine currently works as an autistic support teacher within the Philadelphia School District and has served in that capacity for 12 years. Jeanine has also recently become a published author with the release of her first children's book entitled ***Good Night, Letter Town***. Jeanine's love for children is not just seen within her classroom. Jeanine also serves as the youth director at the Grace Baptist Church of Germantown.

At the age of 12, Jeanine was told that she had an exceptional gift with working with those younger than her and in 2009, she finally accepted the challenge of directing the youth programs at her church. She even went back to school yet again to enroll at the United Lutheran Seminary in 2016 and graduated with her Masters in Divinity in May 2020.

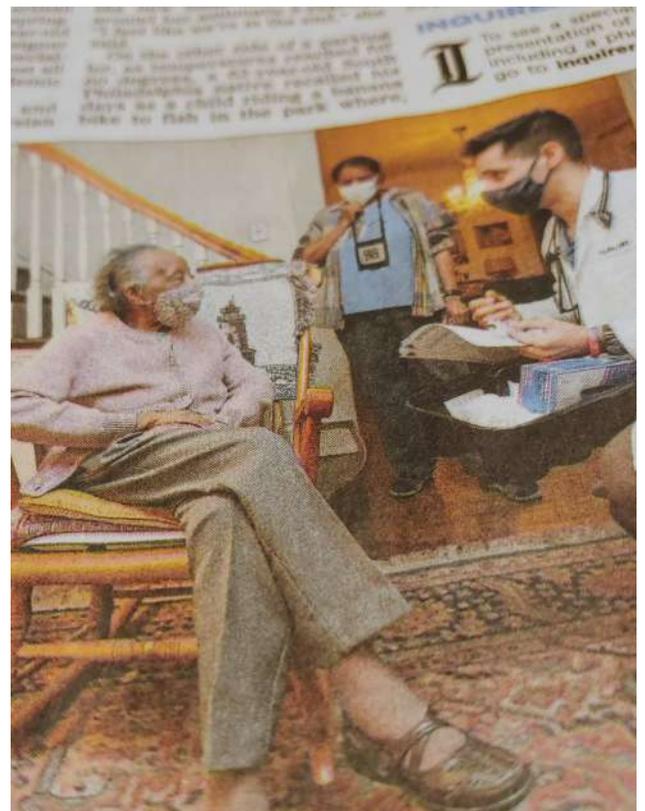
Jeanine has a desire to share the message of God's grace and His mercy with any teen that she comes into contact with. While she may not be able to save every teen in the city, she is determined to plant seeds of hope into this younger generation.

Our other Associates include Reverend L. Dianne Faust, who was one of the featured women in last month's **Beacon**; Minister Carolyn Blackson, who is in the midst of finishing the last requirements for the four courses she is taking to get her Master's this May; Minister Dr. Samuel Coleman, IV; Minister Karol Mason; Minister Arnold Storr and Minister John Jordan.



Have YOU received your Covid19 Vaccination?

Our own Mrs. Jessie BIRTHA was featured in the Inquirer on March 14 as she received her Covid Vaccination at age 101!



## SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

**Grace Scholarship Applications, both continuing and new, may be submitted during May. Use the on-line form on the church's website. Deliver or mail the print copy to the church. May 31<sup>st</sup> is the final date for submission.**

**Notice of awards will be sent by June 10<sup>th</sup>.**

**BELIEVE  
IN GOD**

**April Birthdays and Anniversaries**

- B 01 Romona Harris  
B 03 Jaden A. Fields  
B 04 Lorraine Massey  
B 04 Joycelyn E. Lee  
B 05 Burnestine Burrell  
B 05 Rev. Tamika Holder  
B 05 William Lucas  
B 15 Clara Edwards-Huggins  
B 15 Barbara A. James  
B 18 Jade Lynn Hickenbottom  
B 18 Charles S. Ryan Kershaw  
A 18 Warren & Fannie Russell  
B 21 Jo Anne Jones  
B 22 Kevin A. Barlow  
B 25 Evan Jacob Blake

**April Memorials**

- M 02 Eloise B. Freeman  
M 04 Rosiabell T. Muse  
M 05 Elizabeth C. Jones  
M 11 William J. Fisher  
M 15 Patricia E. Riley  
M 15 David E. Wimbush  
M 16 Deacon Harry H. Jones, Sr.  
M 23 Emmons M. Williams, Jr.  
M 26 Carl B. Dorsey  
M 28 Jerry Branch, Sr.