

Pray for Dolly Parton: Country Icon Suffers Family Tragedy

Dolly Parton and her family are once again walking through a season of profound loss.

Coy “Denver” Parton, one of the country music icon’s older brothers, died on July 23 at the age of 82, according to his obituary from Atchley Funeral Home. WBIR first reported his passing in Knoxville, and USA TODAY later confirmed it. Coy was the third oldest of the 12 children born to Robert Lee Parton Sr. and Avie Lee Parton in the hills of Sevier County, Tennessee.

While Dolly Parton became one of the most recognizable entertainers in the world, Coy lived a quieter life devoted to hard work and family.

According to his obituary, he worked as a bridge builder, crane operator and farmer, leaving behind a legacy marked not by fame but by faithful labor. He is survived by his wife, Kathryn Sue Parton, their children, Brian and Kim, as well as grandchildren, great-grandchildren and many extended family members.

For Dolly, this marks yet another heartbreaking chapter.

The legendary singer has endured multiple family losses in recent years, including the deaths of her brother Randy Parton in 2021 and her brother David Wilburn Parton in 2024. Earlier this year, she also mourned the passing of her beloved husband, Carl Dean, making Coy’s death another painful reminder of how grief can come in waves.



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Scripture reminds us to “Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep” (Rom. 12:15). There are moments when the most powerful ministry believers can offer is simply to pray—for God’s peace to guard grieving hearts, for His comfort to surround hurting families and for His presence to be especially near during seasons of mourning.

As the Parton family gathers privately to remember Coy’s life, this is an opportunity for Christians everywhere to lift them before the Lord. Pray that the God who is “the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort” (2 Cor. 1:3) would strengthen Dolly, Coy’s wife Kathryn, their children and every member of the Parton family in the days ahead.

Even for those whose lives seem larger than life, grief is deeply personal. May the church respond not merely with condolences, but with faithful prayer, asking the Lord to bring His comfort, His peace and His sustaining grace to the Parton family during this difficult season.

Prepared by Charisma Media Staff.