

## *A Service of Remembrance*

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.  
My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.  
Psalm 121:1-2

Prelude.....Elder Anthony Stubbs

Processional

Musical Medley...Mr. Issac McClinton and Mr. Byron Counts  
“Jesus Is Love” and “Amazing Grace”

Scripture - 2 Timothy 4:7-8.....Reverend Faye Ruff Houston  
Presiding Elder, Winston Salem Greenville District  
Pastor of Sidney Park CME Church

Prayer.....Reverend Faye Ruff Houston

Solo.....“My Soul Is Anchored” .....Elder Anthony Stubbs

Remarks.....The Honorable Joshua W. Martin  
Ms. Dari Kristen Ruff  
Attorney I. S. Leevy Johnson

Solo.....Elder Anthony Stubbs

Words of Comfort.....Reverend Dr. Blakely N. Scott  
Pastor First Nazareth Baptist Church

Recessional

Postlude



### *Interment*

12:00 Noon  
Fort Jackson National Cemetery  
4170 Percival Road  
Columbia, South Carolina

The Family Request Donations be made in the name of James O. Ruff  
to National Brain Tumor Society (<https://braintumor.org/our-mission/#menu>)

### *Honorary Pallbearers*

Mr. Marlon Blanding  
Mr. Ernie Glymph  
Mr. Weldon Hammond  
Mr. Marshall S. James  
Mr. Larry Nazry  
Mr. Theodore Parker, IV  
Mr. Murray Smith  
Dr. Walter Tobin

Mr. Joshua Brailey  
Mr. Kevin Hare  
Mr. John Hudson  
Mr. Melvin McKie  
Mr. Theodore Parker, III  
Dr. Trace Rutherford  
Mr. Lenny Springs  
Mr. Andre Vereen

### *Floral Bearers*

Ms. Ja'Shaun Brailey Blanding  
Ms. Melissa Brailey  
Ms. Karen Rutherford  
Ms. Gloria James

Ms. Angela Vereen  
Ms. Rhyan Vereen  
Ms. Bernice Tobin  
Ms. Betty Hudson

Ms. Loretta Hammond

Dear Jim,

The joy of the memories of our lives together will remain in my heart  
forever!

I'll "See Ya When I Get There"! (~Lou Rawls~)

All my love,  
Gar



### *Acknowledgement*

Our sincerest gratitude and thanks to everyone for calls, cards, texts, flowers, meals  
and all other expression of love and comfort during our beloved Jimmy's illness and  
his passing

Special Thanks To Jimmy's Wonderful Caregivers:

Laura  
Myrthis and Prisma Home Health/Hospice Team.

### **Services Entrusted To:**

**Taylor Street Chapel**  
1831 Taylor Street  
Columbia, SC 29201  
(803)771-7799

**Leevy's**  
FUNERAL HOME

**Lower Richland Chapel**  
9120 Garners Ferry Road  
Hopkins, SC 29061  
(803) 776-6922

I. S. Leevy Johnson  
-Owner & Director-

Chris Leevy Johnson  
-President & Managing Director-

Leverette A. Williams, II  
-General Manager-

*In Loving Memory,  
Celebrating A Life Well Lived*

**MR. JAMES "JIMMY" OLANDA RUFF**



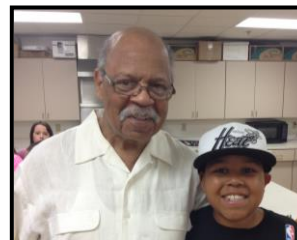
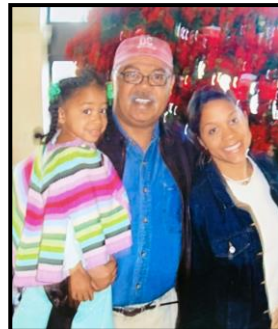
**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2021  
10:00 A.M.**

**LEEVY'S FUNERAL HOME CHAPEL  
1831 TAYLOR STREET  
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**REVEREND DR. BLAKELY N. SCOTT  
-OFFICIATING-**



## Memories



## Obituary

Mr. James **Jimmy** Olanda Ruff was born on October 15, 1946 in Columbia, South Carolina. He was the oldest child of the late James Ruff, Sr. and Norma Bates Ruff. He departed this life and joined them for eternal rest on Saturday, October 9, 2021.

He was educated in the public schools of Richland County, South Carolina, and graduated from Booker T. Washington High School, Class of 1964. He attended Tennessee State University, Nashville, prior to being drafted into the United States Army at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. His tours of duty included Fort Carson, Colorado, and Bamberg, Germany, and he was a Veteran of the Vietnam War. Upon completing his tour of service, he returned to Columbia, SC, and received his Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Benedict College, in 1971.

He was baptized at an early age at Sidney Park CME Church. As an adult, he faithfully attended First Nazareth Baptist Church, with his wife and children.

**Jimmy** was a strong but gentle people person. His deep baritone voice conveyed a commanding presence, and, when coupled with his kindness, caring, and *can do* attitude, provided a perfect balance in the relationships he had with others. He was an accomplished trumpet player, beginning as a band member at Booker T. Washington High School. This led to his being awarded several prestigious scholarships, ultimately choosing to become a member of the World-Renowned Aristocrat of Bands at Tennessee State University. With his vast musical talent and knowledge, he was often asked to sit in on music recordings and served on several committees to promote the music performing arts in the community. This cultivated his love of Jazz, which was one of his most impassioned hobbies.

In addition to Jazz, he was an avid reader. He also loved water, whether it be boating, swimming, or traveling to water destinations. Above all that he enjoyed, his greatest pleasure was being with his family, especially his four grandchildren, and friends.

**Jimmy's** career encompassed both the private and public sectors, to include IBM and The Columbia Urban League, and state government. Some of his more notable positions included analyst for the State Budget and Control Board, Human Resource Director for South Carolina State University, and for Central Carolina Technical College. He was appointed by Governor James Hodges as State Director of Veteran Affairs, where he was instrumental in advancing various types of care aid services for Veterans in South Carolina. He was a former board member of the Dorn Research Institute, where he had the opportunity to continue his focus in aiding the Veterans Administration in research and education.

Mr. James **Jimmy** Olanda Ruff leaves to cherish his wonderful memory: his beloved wife of 55 years, Gardenia Brailey Ruff; two daughters, Stacy (Theodore, III) Parker, of Las Vegas, Nevada and Dari Kristen Ruff, of Washington, DC; a son, Deron James Ruff, of Columbia, South Carolina; a sister, Reverend Faye Ruff Houston, of Columbia, South Carolina; three granddaughters, Megan Kennedy Parker, Brailey Lauren Parker, and Kayla Andrea Parker; one grandson, Theodore Parker, IV; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other loving relatives and caring friends, all of whom will miss him dearly.

## Memories

