

*To Those I Love and  
To Those Who Love Me*

When I am gone release me; let me go.  
I have so many things to see and do.  
You must not tie yourself to me with tears,  
Be happy that we had so many years.  
I gave you my love – you can only guess  
How much you gave me in happiness.  
I thank you for the love you each have shown.  
But now it is time I traveled on alone.  
So, grieve awhile for me, if grieve you must;  
Then let your grief be comforted by trust.  
It's only for a while that we must part,  
So, bless the memories within your heart.  
I won't be far away, for life goes on.  
So, if you need me, call, I will come.  
Though you can't see me or touch me, I'll be near;  
And if you listen with your heart you will hear  
All of my love around you, soft and clear.  
And then, when you must come this way alone,  
I'll greet you with a smile and say  
"Welcome Home."

*Pallbearers*

Family and Friends

*Floral Bearers*

Family and Friends

*Acknowledgements*

We, the family of the Reverend Willie Benjamin Ellis, Jr., wish to express our heartfelt appreciation for the many acts of kindness and encouraging words shown to us, during our time of bereavement. May God continue to bless each of you.

**Services Entrusted To:**

<b>Taylor Street Chapel</b> 1831 Taylor Street Columbia, SC 29201 (803)771-7799 I. S. Leevy Johnson -Owner & Director-	<b>Leevy's</b> FUNERAL HOME Chris Leevy Johnson -President & Managing Director-	<b>Lower Richland Chapel</b> 9120 Garners Ferry Road Hopkins, SC 29061 (803) 776-6922 Leverette A. Williams, II -General Manager-
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*In  
Honor  
of your  
Memory*

*Reverend Willie Benjamin Ellis, Jr.*



*Monday, April 18, 2022*

*2:00p.m.*

*Haskell Heights First Baptist Church*

*1231 Blue Ridge Terrace*

*Columbia, South Carolina*

*Reverend Glenn Wigfall*

*-Officiating-*

## Obituary

Reverend Mr. Willie Benjamin Ellis, Jr., was a man of God who was loved, is missed, and will always be cherished.

He was born on February 20, 1946, in Columbia, South Carolina, to Reverend Willie Benjamin Ellis, Sr. and Luvenia Thompson Ellis Barber. He transitioned to be with his heavenly father on Sunday, April 10, 2022.

Reverend Ellis was educated in the public schools of Richland County, SC, and graduated from C. A. Johnson High School in 1964. He attended Columbia Commercial College, where he earned a degree in Business Management. In 1968, Reverend Ellis entered the United States Army, and was a Vietnam Veteran. He was a member of the South Carolina Combat Veteran Group, and served as the chaplain.

Reverend Ellis was also employed at Fairmont Tamper, Inc. in West Columbia, and retired after serving 35 years.

Reverend Ellis continued his grasp of Holy doctrine by attending Theological Seminary classes at Benedict College and Southern Baptist Extension.

Reverend Ellis was formerly affiliated with Haskell Heights First Baptist Church, where he was the son of the house, and his father, Reverend Ellis, Sr., was the founding pastor. He also served as a Trustee, Deacon, and he was a member of the Musical and Male Choirs.

In September of 1974, Reverend Ellis was ordained as a deacon in which he served faithfully until his was called into the ministry. He received his ordination as a minister in January of 1979, by the Mount Hebron Association. In April of 1979, Reverend Ellis became the Pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church, in Newberry, South Carolina. He was the pastor for 43 years. Reverend Ellis was a member and served on the Executive Board of the New Enoree Baptist Association for many years.

Affectionately known to various communities as **Willie, Jr.** and **Rev.**, he nourished everyone around him with words of wisdom, love, faith, and laughter. Reverend Ellis was a powerful man of God, and touched everyone with his teachings and preaching. He is well known for this quote: *"If God can see a black ant, on a black rock, on a black (dark) night, He can see you."*

He was preceded in death by: his parents, Reverend Willie Benjamin Ellis, Sr. and Luvenia Thompson Ellis Barber; his stepfather, Deacon Charlie Barber; his sisters, Ms. Wilhemenia Delores Ellis Guider, Ms. Emily Gantt, Ms. Annie Lee Barbara Ellis Baxter, Ms. Cherry Ellis Christie, Ms. Libby Jean Ellis, and Ms. Doretta Barber Williams; two brothers, Mr. Charles Barber and Mr. Louis Ellis; two sisters-in-law, two brothers-in-law, and a great-nephew.

Reverend Willie Benjamin Ellis, Jr. leaves an amazing legacy with his lovely and faithful wife of 53 years, Ms. Earnestine Young Ellis; his four daughters, Mrs. Chauntai Smith (Timothy) Canzater, Ms. Theresa Ellis (Albert) Butler, Mrs. Letitia Ellis (Alcindor) Lindsay, and Ms. Chudney Ellis, all of Columbia, SC; his son, Mr. Willie Benjamin Ellis III, of Columbia, SC; his sister and brother, Ms. Elnora Ellis Mack and Mr. Stanley Barber, both of Columbia, SC; two sisters-in-law, Ms. Daisy Young and Ms. Mary Young, both of Blythewood, SC; one brother-in-law, Mr. Jimmy Williams, of Columbia, SC; three granddaughters, Ms. Brittany Canzater, Ms., Kiera Butler, and Little Miss Makayla Ellis, all of Columbia, SC; two grandsons, Mr. Timothy Canzater and Mr. Albert Butler, Jr., both of Columbia, SC; a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephew, other relatives, community members, and friends, all of whom will miss him dearly.

## Memories



## A Service of Remembrance

Processional  
 Opening Hymn....."Oh I Want To See Him"  
 Old Testament.....Reverend Dr. L. Michelle Dennis  
 Trinity House of Prayer and Mercy Church  
 New Testament  
 Prayer.....Minister  
 Solo.....Mr. Stanley Barber, Brother  
 Remarks.....The Combat Veterans Group  
 The New Enoree Association  
 Ms. Jameka Young, Family  
 Selection.....Reverend Rondell Martin  
 Words of Comfort.....Pastor Glenn Wigfall  
 Recessional  
 Postlude



## Committal, Benediction, and Interment

11:00 a.m., Wednesday April 20, 2022  
 Fort Jackson National Cemetery  
 4170 Percival Road  
 Columbia, South Carolina