

*Pallbearers*

Family and Friends

*Floral Bearers*

Family and Friends

*When I'm Gone*

When I come to the end of my journey  
And I travel my last weary mile,  
Just forget if you can, that I ever frowned  
And remember only the smile.

Forget unkind words I have spoken;  
Remember some good I have done,  
Forget that I ever had heartache  
And remember I've had loads of fun.

Forget that I've stumbled and blundered  
And sometimes fell by the way,  
Remember I have fought some hard battles  
And won, ere the close of the day,

Then forget to grieve for my going,  
I would not have you sad for a day,  
But in summer just gather some flowers  
And remember the place where I lay.

And come in the shade of evening  
When the sun paints the sky in the west,  
Stand for a few moments beside me  
And remember only my best.

**Services Entrusted To:**

**Taylor Street Chapel**

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

I. S. Leevy Johnson  
-Owner & Director-

**Leevy's**

F U N E R A L H O M E

Chris Leevy Johnson  
-President & Managing Director-

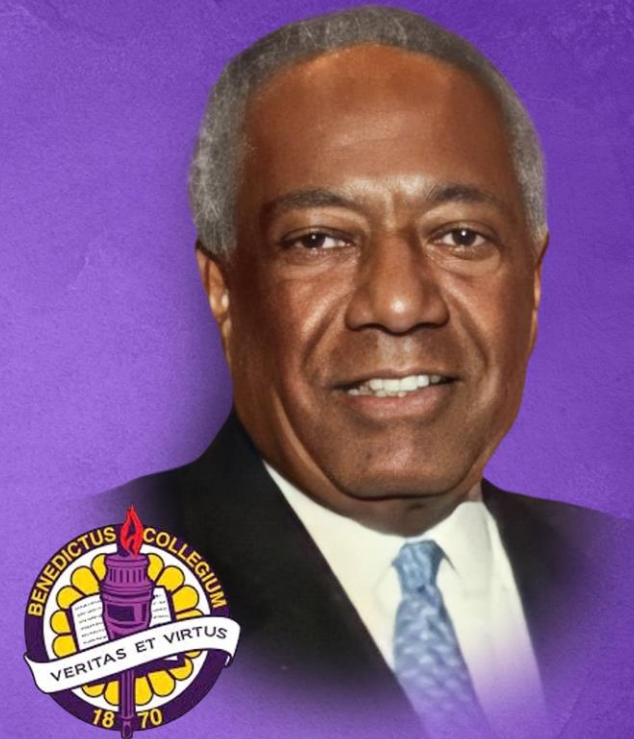
**Lower Richland Chapel**

9120 Garners Ferry Road  
Hopkins, SC 29061  
(803) 776-6922

Leverette A. Williams, II  
-General Manager-

*Celebration of Life  
for*

**MR. WILLIAM BILL BENJAMIN WHITNEY**



**TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2022  
11:00 A.M.**

**ANTISDEL CHAPEL  
1600 HARDEN STREET  
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**REVEREND CHRIS LEEVY JOHNSON  
-OFFICIATING-**



## Obituary

William *Bill* Benjamin Whitney, 82, of Greenville, SC, passed away on Tuesday, May 31, 2022, at Open Arms McCall Hospice House, where he was surrounded by family and friends in his final days.

Born in Maybinton, SC, he was the son of Tinsley and Gracie Henderson Whitney. He was the third of six children and the firstborn son. He was a member of Seekwell Baptist Church in Maybinton, SC. Bill was a man for all seasons. He was a selfless, courageous, and gentle giant, who loved to promote others' advancement.

At age 13, he left his parents' home to live with his Uncle Bill and Aunt Laura Whitney, who promised to finance his college education and transfer ownership of their funeral home to him upon their deaths. By the age of 14, *Bill* was driving cars, digging graves, and supervising staff.

*Bill* attended Sims High School, in Union, SC, and graduated in 1957. His education continued at Benedict College, where he graduated in 1962, with a major/minor in Biology and Chemistry. After Uncle Bill's untimely death and a change in the funeral home's ownership, Bill enlisted in the U.S. Army, where he attained the rank of Sergeant and honorably served from 1962–1965.

He also attended classes at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and the University of Southern California. Bill always had an entrepreneurial spirit. Thus, he transformed the funeral home building into Whitney Place, a 24-bed residential care facility, in Union, SC. Thirty-two years later, the facility is still thriving and providing hands-on care to people in need.

*Bill* became the Executive Director of the Greenville Urban League from 1973–1979. He left that post to serve as the Executive Assistant for CETA/JTPA, under Governor Richard W. Riley from 1979–1986. In 1991, Bill proudly returned to the Upstate as the President/CEO of the Urban League of the Upstate and led until 2006. During his second tenure, he accomplished what he considered his true legacy, sending 5,432 young people to college, and the development of Greenville's Viola Street Community.

He was honored to serve on many boards, including the Board of Trustees for Benedict College; Board of Directors for the Peace Center for the Performing Arts; Advisory Board for Greenville Symphony; Board of Directors for Chautauqua; Clemson University Board of Visitors; Board of Directors for Greater Greenville Chamber of Commerce; Board of Directors of Greenville Metropolitan Arts Council; Board of Trustees of Heathwood Hall Episcopal School; Board of Directors of United Way of the Midlands; and Board Chairman of Wilkinson Home for Girls. He was also a proud recipient of The Order of the Palmetto (the highest award given by the State of South Carolina).

On July 19, 1997, Bill married the love of his life, Yolande. They planned on celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. The couple enjoyed many years of traveling the globe, and being surrounded by family.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Tinsley *Gene* Whitney and Albert Whitney, and a sister, Robbie Whitney.

William *Bill* Whitney is survived by his loving wife, Yolande Owens Whitney; two children, William *Bill* (Deloris) Whitney, of Columbia, SC and James (Tiffany) Whitney, of Greer, SC; step-daughter, Nicole Creecy, of Capitol Heights, MD; two grandchildren, George Whitney and Olivia Whitney, both of Greer, SC; one step-granddaughter, Ava Creecy, of Capitol Heights, MD; two siblings, Thelma Whitney and Tom Whitney, both of Columbia, SC; four nephews, Albert Whitney, of Brunswick, GA, Tinsley *TJ* (Shalom) Whitney, of Queens, New York, Dr. Kofi Whitney, and Zachary Whitney, both of Columbia, SC; two nieces, Dr. Kianta (KC) Mack, of Simpsonville, SC and Martha Newton, of Tampa, FL; special cousins, Bessie (Glymph) Caldwell, James (Billy) Glymph, George Glymph, Walter Glymph, and Essie Glymph. Finally, he is survived by many loving and wonderful extended family and friends, especially W. Charles Harris, of Simpsonville, SC.

## Order of Service

Prelude

Processional

Scriptures Reading.....Reverend William E. Rice  
Old Testament – Ecclesiastes 3:1-4  
New Testament – Matthew 5:4

Prayer of Comfort.....Reverend Chris Leevy Johnson

Musical Selection.....“Mighty Spirit”  
Recording by: Ms. Larnelle Harris

Remarks.....Dr. Roslyn Clark Artis  
Mr. W. Charles Harris  
Mr. George and Miss Olvia Whitney

Musical Selection.....“It Is Well”  
Recording by: Mr. Horatio Spafford and Mr. Phillip Bliss

Special Presentation.....Dr. Gail Wilson-Awan

Words of Comfort .....Reverend Chris Leevy Johnson

Prayer of Benediction.....Reverend Chris Leevy Johnson

Recessional

Postlude



*Committal, Benediction and Interment*

Reverend William V. Guy, Officiating  
12:00 Noon, Wednesday, June 8, 2022  
Westview Cemetery  
1680 Westview Drive SW  
Atlanta, Georgia

*Acknowledgement*

We, the family of the late William *Bill* Benjamin Whitney, would like to thank each of you for the many expressions of love and kindness extended to us, during the passing of our loved one. It is our prayer that God richly blesses each of you in a very special way.