

*Honorary Pallbearers*

Omicron Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

*Pallbearers*

Harry Hunter  
Warren Berry

Curtis Hopkins  
Reginald Lawton

Lamont Lloyd  
Charles Marshall

*Floral Bearers*

Kimberly South  
Kimberly Willis  
Eva Wilson

Rachael Phelps  
Rashanda Abrams  
Traci Cooper  
Jacinda McDuffie

Talarria Jackson  
Earlene Scott  
Joyce Lawton

*Acknowledgement*

We, the family of the late Henry "Vince" Vincent Ford, would like to thank each of you for the many acts of kindness shown to us during our time of bereavement. May God continue to bless each of you with His love, grace, and mercy.

**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-

*A Celebration of Life  
In Loving Memory  
of*

**MR. HENRY "VINCE" VINCENT FORD**



**MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2022  
12:00 NOON**

**BROOKLAND BAPTIST CHURCH  
1066 SUNSET BOULEVARD  
WEST COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA**

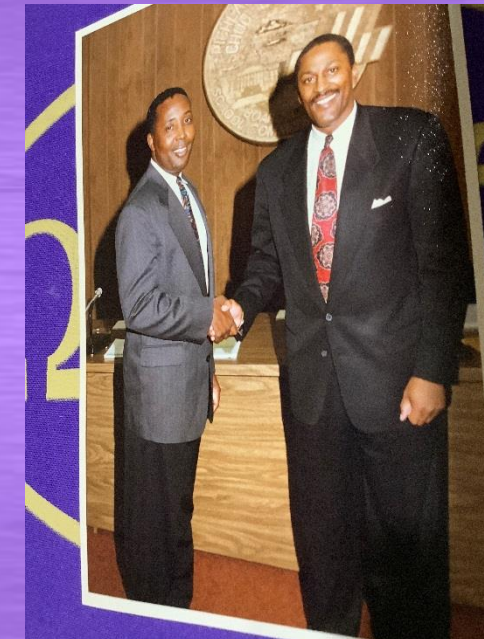
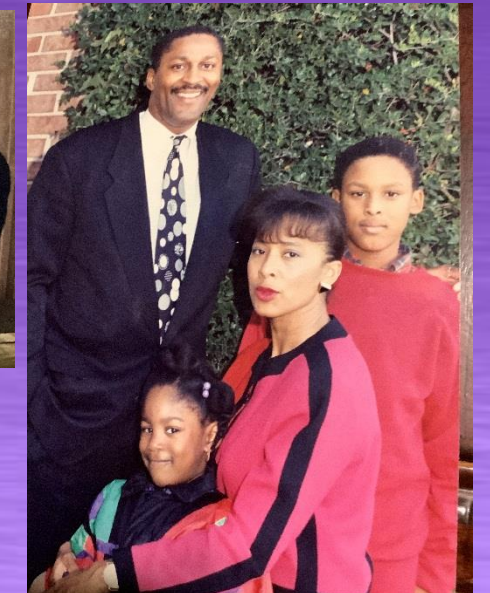
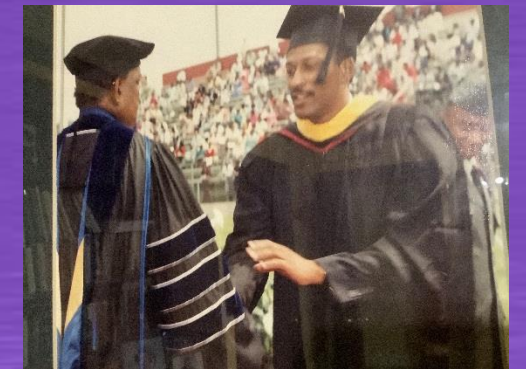
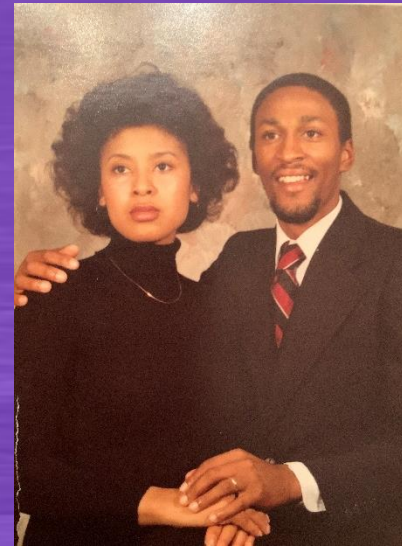
**REVEREND DR. CHARLES B. JACKSON, SR.  
-PASTOR-**



# I'm Free

Don't grieve for me, for now I am free  
I'm following the path God has laid you see.  
I took His hand when I heard His call  
I turned my back and left it all.  
I could not stay another day  
To laugh, to love, to work, or play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way  
I found the peace at the close of the day.  
If my parting has left a void  
Then fill it with remembered joys  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss  
Oh yes, these things I too will miss.  
Be not burdened with times of sorrow,  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life's been full, I savored much,  
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.  
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.  
Lift up your heart, and peace to thee-  
God wanted me now; He set me free.

# Memories





*Memories*



*Order of Service*

*Reverend Charles B. Jackson, Jr. Presiding*

Prelude

Processional

Opening Selection.....Brookland Baptist Church Benevolent Choir

Old Testament.....Minister Jestine Goodwin

New Testament.....Reverend Jonathan Davis

Prayer of Comfort.....Reverend Dr. James Jamison

Musical Selection.....Brookland Baptist Church Benevolent Choir

Remarks.....*Two Minutes, Please*.....Mr. Bernard McKie

Representative Leon Howard

Senator Darrell Jackson, Sr.

Mr. Charles Beaman, Sr.

Mr. Charles *Chuck* Marshall, III

Dr. Ronald Epps

Special Tribute.....Ms. Robyn Ford, Daughter

Mr. Marques Ford, Son

Musical Selection.....Elder Angela Bishop Hammonds

Words of Comfort.....Reverend Dr. Charles B. Jackson, Sr.

Recessional

Postlude



*Committal, Benediction, and Interment*

Lincoln Cemetery

4900 Farrow Road

Columbia, South Carolina



# Legacy of Henry “Vince” Vincent Ford

Vince “Butch” Ford, son of the late Essie Mae Ford and Ernest Bernard Ford, Jr., was born in Columbia, South Carolina on March 18, 1958. Vince grew up on Read Street in the Allen Benedict Court community in downtown Columbia. Vince attended the Richland County Public Schools, graduating from A.C. Flora High School in 1975.

*“For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”  
Romans 10:10*

Vince gave his life to Christ at an early age when he joined Jehovah Baptist Church in Columbia, SC. As an adult, he and his family joined Greater St. Luke Baptist Church, where he served as a Trustee. In his recent years, Vince and his family faithfully attended the Brookland Baptist Church in West Columbia, SC, under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Charles B. Jackson, Sr.

*“We love because he first loved us.” 1 John 4:19*

Vince attended Benedict College where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Sociology (1979) and Master of Science in Individual and Family Development (1988) from South Carolina State University. It was there, on the campus of Benedict College, that he met Patricia Davis; and in 1980, they were wed. He often joked that he was the best thing to ever happen to Pat, but we all knew who kept him anchored. Of this loving union, two children were born – Marques and Robyn; and three grandchildren – Marques, Amani, and Jhenavi'. If Pat was his sun, his children and grandchildren were indeed his stars. Post-retirement, it was his goal to start a leadership development consultancy, MARROB Consulting, affectionately named after his children.

He was a devoted husband and father committed to showing his family a world that he did not have access to as a child. That commitment also extended to his friends, co-workers, and community at large.

*“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters...”  
Colossians 3:23*

In 1997, South Carolina’s largest health system – Prisma Health (formerly Palmetto Health) – invited Vince to establish and lead a new, groundbreaking initiative intended to meet the unmet health needs of the community’s uninsured and medically underserved populations. Starting from ground zero, Vince engaged hospital leaders and the community to establish the system’s inaugural Office of Community Health Services with the goal of improving community health through preventive, early intervention, and educational services.

For 25 years under Vince’s guidance, the Office of Community Health offered innovative, national award-winning programs that annually delivered low to no-cost cancer, dental, maternal-child health, teen health, and vision services to thousands of people in the Midlands of South Carolina. Palmetto Health was twice recognized as a finalist (2011, 2013) and finally awarded (2014) the Foster G. McGaw Award by the American Hospital Association – the highest national award for community health.

Prior to joining Palmetto Health, Vince served as the Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Midlands and the James R. Clark Memorial Sickle Cell Foundation. He has also coordinated and managed alcohol and drug abuse programs for the SC Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse. In fact, his drug and alcohol school intervention program received the Outstanding Student Assistance Program Award from the National Association of Student Assistance Programs and Professions.

In addition to healthcare, education was Vince’s personal passion, and he gave generously of his time to schools, students, and families. Starting in 1992, he served on the Richland School District One School Board holding a variety of positions, including Board Chair. He was named Outstanding School Board Member for the Sixth Congressional District and All-State School Board Member by the South Carolina School Boards Association. After 24 years, his tenure ended in November 2016. Vince also served on the Benedict College Board of Trustees, the University of South Carolina African American Community Advisory Board, the Township Auditorium Board, the Federal Reserve Bank Advisory Council, and the South State Bank Advisory Board.

*“...therefore, we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure.” 2 Thess. 1:4*

Because of his character, work, and distinguished community service, Vince received numerous awards and recognition. There are far too many to list, but those that gave him greatest pride were the Council of Urban Education’s Benjamin E. Mays Lifetime Achievement Award (2017) for his longstanding commitment to the educational needs of urban school children as a school board member; the March of Dimes’ Elaine Whitelaw Volunteer Service Award, a national recognition of significant contributions to improving the health of babies; South Carolina Vision Magazine’s Top 25 Influencers, a statewide tribute to improving the quality of life in the community; Richland One’s Hall of Fame, recognizing former Richland One students for major contributions to the school district, and his addition to The Columbia Housing Authority’s Wall of Fame. This honor highlights community role models that once lived in public housing, yet have sustained success in their chosen career field and continue to give back to their community. It reinforces a message to children living in public housing that the success is not only possible, but expected; and mirrors Vince’s vision for all children.

*“With upright heart he shepherded them and guided them with his skillful hand.” Psalm 78:72*

Vince was a mentor to so many. It would not be strange to hear of him forgoing his own interests to provide opportunities and counsel for his cherished employees and mentees. He went over and beyond as a leader without restricting his guidance to professional goals. He wanted to know you – your background, your family, your dreams and discover ways he could help you succeed at it all. He was an avid reader and routinely had a bible verse, book or quote to offer for every circumstance. He was a master at words knowing how to touch your heart, your head, and your feet.

As if his time was not already shared with many, he was also a proud member and leader within the local chapters of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, and the 100 Black Men of Greater Columbia. He was a lifetime member of the National Association of the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

*“For everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven. A time to be born and a time to die.” Eccl. 3:1-2*

Vince departed his earthly life at Prisma Health Richland Hospital (former Palmetto Health Richland Hospital) on Tuesday, December 6, 2022. He was still serving as Senior Vice President of Community Affairs for Prisma Health with anticipation of retirement on December 31.

*“So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.” John 16:22*

Vince was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Yvonne Ford; three special aunts, Louisiana Moody, Lena Lawton, and Mary Ellen Bogan.

He leaves to cherish his memory: his wife, Patricia Davis Ford; his children, Marques Ford, of Tampa, Florida and Robyn Ford, of Memphis, Tennessee; his grandchildren, Marques, Amani, and Jhenavi'; his mentor, Dr. Lonnie Randolph; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and other relatives who will miss him dearly.