

## Obituary

Major Cecil Lathaniel Hicks, Sr., USAF (Ret) was born on September 10, 1944, to the late Juanita Hicks Walton. He was the oldest of three children. Cecil attended Sumter High School, Americus, Georgia, where he was a 1962 graduate. He was baptized at an early age at Lebanon Baptist Church in Plains, Georgia. Cecil attended Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Alabama, where he earned a bachelor of science degree in Industrial Technology, on May 27, 1968.

While attending Tuskegee, he was enrolled in the ROTC program, and was commissioned as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the USAF on June 1, 1968. He earned a master of science in Management from Troy University in 1977. He served 20 years as a military officer, and was awarded the Bronze Star for his meritorious service. While serving his country, he, along with his family, was afforded the opportunity to see the world.

Cecil was a lifetime member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Lamda Epsilon Chapter, where he was initiated at Tuskegee Institute on April 22, 1966.

He married his college sweetheart, LaDella Maria Matthews on November 24, 1967. They were blessed with one child, Cecil Hicks, Jr.

Following his retirement from the USAF, he worked as the Director of Human Resources for KMTV-Channel 3, in Omaha, Nebraska. He was instrumental in establishing the station's very first Human Resources Department. During his tenure in Omaha, he was very active in the community, serving on the Girl Scouts Board of Directors and holding several positions with Omega Psi Phi Beta Upsilon Chapter, where he exemplified the four cardinal principles of manhood, scholarship, perseverance, and uplift.

Cecil loved fishing, grilling, and spoiling his grandchildren. He was masterful at storytelling and adding humor to almost any situation.

Major Cecil Lathaniel Hicks, Sr., USAF (Ret) is survived by his wife of 55 years, LaDella Matthews Hicks; his only child, Cecil L. Hicks, Jr. (Nicole); grandchildren, Norah and Emerson, both of Omaha, Nebraska; two siblings, Sylvia Hart (Errol), of Albany, Georgia and Costell Walton II, of Fort Lauderdale, Florida; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other loving relatives, and caring friends, all of whom will miss him dearly.

*Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints...  
Psalm 116:15 ESV*

## Memories



## Order of Service

Prelude

Processional

Viewing.....Funeral Directors

Presentation.....Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.  
Omicron Phi Chapter

Old Testament.....Mr. David Matthews

New Testament.....Dr. Teri Williams

Prayer.....Deacon Joan Phipps

Musical Selection.....“Amazing Grace”

Words of Comfort.....Reverend Diane Champaign

Special Solo.....Reverend William Champaign

Committal and Benediction

Recessional

Postlude



## *The Mansion of Heaven*

*This world, however beautiful,  
was never meant to be  
The place that we would call our home  
for all eternity.  
And though we would not choose to leave,  
a loving God knows best,  
And in His time,  
He lifts us to a place of peace and rest.  
For He has built a mansion  
where His children will abide,  
Free from pain and sorrow,  
forever at His side.  
He said He'd never leave us  
to face our trials alone,  
And though sometimes we fail Him,  
He never fails His own.  
And even when our choices  
are less than He would ask,  
He knows when human courage  
is unequal to the task.  
We cannot judge what happens,  
though tears and questions start--  
We only see what's visible--  
God sees into the heart...  
And though there may be many things  
that we cannot explain,  
We can be sure it breaks His heart  
to see His children's pain.  
In loving arms,  
He bears us to a quiet place apart  
Where He mends the wounded spirit  
and heals the broken heart.  
And though these ones we love so much  
have left our present sight  
And passed into a better world  
of majesty and light,  
Someday we'll be together  
in our Father's home above,  
Where we'll thank Him for His mercy  
and praise Him for His love.*

## *Tribute*

*I can't seem to stop crying, O' God.  
The hurt is so deep.  
What am I going to do without my husband?  
He was my life.  
He took care of me, and he brought me so much  
happiness.  
He was my soulmate for 55 years.  
We truly became one.  
I was proud of him.  
More than ever, Lord, I need your love to get  
through my time of grief.  
Please Lord, hold my hand and comfort my heart.*

*Your Loving Wife,  
Tobi*

## *Acknowledgement*

We, the family of Major Cecil Lathaniel Hicks, Sr. USAF (Ret), wish to express our heartfelt appreciation to everyone for their prayers, telephone calls, texts, cards, and support, during their time of bereavement. Special thank you to Leevy's Funeral Home, Daniel Circle Chapel, Fort Jackson, SC, Sandy Run neighbors, friends and family, and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. for all their support and encouragement.

## *Services Entrusted To:*

<b>Taylor Street Chapel</b> 1831 Taylor Street Columbia, SC 29201 (803)771-7799	<b>Leevy's</b> FUNERAL HOME	<b>Lower Richland Chapel</b> 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-

## *Homegoing Service In Loving Memory of*

MAJOR CECIL LATHANIEL HICKS, SR. USAF (RET)



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2023  
1:00 P.M.

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

REVEREND DIANE CHAMPAIGN  
-OFFICIATING-