

Memories of my G-Pop

I first want to apologize to my family and those of you who gathered here today. I want nothing more than to be there for my grandfather's homegoing, but I cannot and for that I sincerely apologize. I would like to share with you my three favorite memories of him. Many of you here knew him by different names, but to me he was and always will be my G-Pop. The first memory is that of Christmas Day. He had a sense of style when it came to buying me clothes. Every Christmas, when I went to his house I knew I had a nice outfit. Once I took it out of the box I went and changed clothes. This became a Gist family tradition, even as I got older. My next memory of him also took place on Christmas, because it was my son, Ryan's first Christmas. I placed him on his lap and saw how proud he was to be holding his great grandson. The last memory I would like to share with you all of my G-Pop is hearing him preach on the radio. He knew the Word better than anyone I've ever known. I could ask him a random verse and in an instant he knew it. He told me that he knew the scriptures so well because he read them and studied them everyday. He read the Bible from Genesis and Revelation several times in a year. If you want to know the Word as he did, you must study it on a daily basis. This is what he would want for each of us here today, to accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and to know and live His Word.

I love you G-Pop and I'll see you again.

-Tristan

Pallbearers

Deacons of Zion Baptist Church

Floral Bearers

Deaconesses of Zion Baptist Church

Acknowledgement

We, the family of Reverend Israel Gist, would like to thank each of you for your prayers and support shown to us during the passing of our loved one. It is our prayer that the Lord will bless each of you in a very special way.

Special thanks to: Prisma Home Health, Palliative Care, and Hospice Team; Amy Longshore, Tara Meredith, Eva Lyles; M & C Home Care - LaKendra Tucker and Dominique Otts; and Parkridge Hospice Medical Team (Red Oaks).



Services Entrusted To:

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Taylor Street Chapel 1831 Taylor Street Columbia, SC 29201 (803)771-7799 I. S. Leevy Johnson -Owner & Director- | Leevy's FUNERAL HOME 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 In Loving Memory of Reverend Israel Gist



Wednesday, October 11, 2023

12:00 Noon

Zion Baptist Church

**801 Washington Street
Columbia, South Carolina**

Reverend M. Andrew Davis

-Pastor-



Life Reflections of Reverend Israel Gist

Reverend Israel Gist was born in Pauline, South Carolina. He was one of 10 children born to the late Reverend Avant Gist and Mrs. Fannie Moore Gist.

He was baptized at an early age at New Trinity Baptist Church in Wellford, South Carolina. Reverend Gist attended the public school of Spartanburg County. He graduated from Florence Chapel High School in Wellford, South Carolina. In high school, the sport Reverend Gist enjoyed the most was basketball (Upper State MVP Class A Colored Schools) during his senior year. After graduating high school, he served in the United States Navy and was honorably discharged in 1955.

He later received a full baseball scholarship to attend Allen University in Columbia, South Carolina. Reverend Gist was the starting first baseman for four straight years and was a member of the only two Allen University's baseball teams that won the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) Championship. He was also a member of the Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society, Who's Who in American Universities and Colleges, and served as the student body president. In November 2010, Reverend Gist was inducted into the Allen University Athletic Hall of Fame for his outstanding performance in baseball and as a student leader. He was the proud life member #796 of the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity. After graduating with honors, Reverend Gist worked for the University for a year and then relocated to New York where he was employed by the United States Postal Service and the U. S. Department of Customs. He was recognized as one of the oldest Kappa's in 2021.

After returning to South Carolina he was employed by the Internal Revenue Service and then the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs, where he retired from in 1994 as Chief of the Field Section for the Columbia Regional Office. He was employed by the Federal Government for 32 years, nine months, and two days. After retirement, Reverend Gist worked for the South Carolina State Retirement Systems as a counselor and worked for the Richland/Lexington School District 5 as a substitute teacher for many years. He was licensed to preach the gospel in 2010. Reverend Gist was ordained on January 12, 2013 by the Gethsemane Baptist Association of South Carolina. He served as one of the associate ministers at Zion Baptist Church in Columbia, South Carolina. He also served as the minister of seniors. He enjoyed playing golf and over the years he has won more than 55 trophies and awards playing competitively. During his golfing career, his handicap was less than two. Reverend Gist spent most of his leisure time studying the Bible, visit family, watching TV, and shopping.

Reverend Gist was predeceased by his parents, sisters, Grace Gist Williams, Fannie Gist Pearson, Betty Jean Gist, and Annie Lee Gist; brothers, Reverend J.C Gist, Romie Gist and Avant Gist; and son, Sidney Gist.

Reverend Gist is survived by his wife of 38 years, Cynthia Owens Gist, of Irmo, SC; daughters, Yvette Gist, of Columbia, SC and Brittney NiChole Gist, of Columbia; son, Yul Gist, of Columbia, SC; sister, Laura Gist Cates, of Wellford, SC; brother, J'vant Gist (Penny), of Wellford, SC; a grandson, Tristan Ryan Adrian Xaviar Gist, Sr.; a great-grandson, Tristan Ryan Adrian Xaviar Gist, Jr.; and a host of nieces, nephews, many other loving, and caring friends, all of whom will miss you dearly.

Memories



A Service of Remembrance

Prelude.....Zion Baptist Church Musical Choir
 Processional
 Viewing.....Funeral Directors
 Opening Selection.....“Jesus Keep Me Near The Cross”
 (Reverend Gist’s Favorite Hymn)
 Old Testament.....Reverend Donnell Gist, *Nephew*
 New Testament.....Reverend Dr. Cynthia Walters
 Prayer..... Reverend Dr. Benjamin Snoddy
 Selection.....Deacon Herbert Barnette
 “I’m Free”
 Remarks.....Mr. James Melvin, *Kappa Alpha Psi*
 Mr. Thomas Rakes, *Veterans Administration*
 Reverend Earnest Hare, *Associate Minister, Zion Baptist Church*
 Reverend Dr. Benjamin Snoddy, *Former Pastor of Mt. Moriah Baptist Church,*
Spartanburg, SC
 Ms. LeVonda Gist, *Niece*
 Mr. Romeo Pearson, *Nephew*
 Deacon Herbert Barnette, *Zion Baptist Church*
 Selection.....Mr. Joe Gist, *Nephew*
 “Through The Years I Keep On Toiling”
 Words of Comfort.....Reverend Kevin E. Donaldson, Sr.
 Selection.....Zion Baptist Church Musical Choir
 “I’ll Fly Away”
 Recessional
 Postlude



Committal, Benediction, and Interment

Greenlawn Memorial Park
 845 Leesburg Road
 Columbia, South Carolina