

Pallbearers

Deacons Ministry

Floral Bearers

Deaconess Ministry

Footprints

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the LORD. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; one belonged to him, and the other to the LORD.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest time in his life.

This really bothered him, and he questioned the LORD about it. "LORD, you said that once I decided to follow You, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed You most You would leave me."

The LORD replied: "My precious child, I love you and I would never leave you. During the times of trial and suffering, when you saw only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

Acknowledgement

We, the family of Mrs. Sandra Denise Riley Owens, would like to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to all who have shown comforting expressions of love, sympathy, and prayers, during the passing of our loved one. Our hearts will always be grateful for your kindness, as we pray for a special blessing to be bestowed upon each one of you.

A Celebration of Life In Loving Memory of Mrs. Sandra Denise Riley Owens



*Thursday, October 26, 2023
12:00 Noon*

*Greenview First Baptist Church
101 Isaac Street
Columbia, South Carolina*

*Reverend Johnny C. Owens, Jr.
-Pastor-*

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-
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Obituary of Mrs. Sandra Denise Riley Owens

Mrs. Sandra Denise Riley Owens, affectionately known as “Nese” by relatives and close friends, was born on September 16, 1955. She was the middle child of Mr. Dennie and Mrs. Flossie Riley. She accepted Christ at a young age and was affiliated with the Thankful Baptist Church, in Savannah, Georgia. She transitioned from time to eternity about 2 o’clock a.m. on Tuesday, October 17, 2023. Hours before this unanticipated moment, she uttered a sincere prayer to God about the complications that developed following a hospital surgical procedure.

From an early age, Sandra’s passion for music emerged. That energy became her life’s work and career pursuit that was expressed everywhere she went. Discovering this early led to her earning a Bachelor of Arts degree from Savannah State University, in 1978 and a Master of Arts Degree in Music Education from the California State University Los Angeles, in 1991. The drive for excellence in music influenced her to take additional courses in music education techniques.

On January 8, 1983 she married Johnny C. Owens, Jr. a United States Army Chaplain, and the two began their nationwide journey together that lasted 40 years and 7 months, until her departure from this earthly life. This union produced one son, Jaron C. Owens. While moving and living in Tacoma Washington, Arcadia California, Honolulu Hawaii, Lawton Oklahoma and Columbia, South Carolina, Sandra was able to maintain her teaching career by meeting each state’s certification requirements. Ultimately, she was able to retire in South Carolina, in 2018 after having taught in many school districts and states.

Sandra was involved in the military chapels in each location and expressed her music ministry in choirs and children’s church. Since arriving at Greenview in 1999, she served as the children’s choir director and a member of the Voices of Praise Choir. She was a Silver Star Life Member the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Mrs. Sandra Denise Riley Owens leaves to cherish her precious memory: her spouse of many years, Reverend Johnny C. Owens, Jr.; son, Jaron C. Owens; parents, Deacon Dennie and Mrs. Flossie Riley; brother, Calvin Riley (Minnie); sister, Wanda Reedy; mother-in-law, Mrs. Margaret Owens; a long list of close knit extended family members, relatives, friends, and associates, all who will miss her dearly.

Memories



A Service of Remembrance

Reverend Michael Addison, Presiding

- Musical Prelude
- Processional
- Viewing.....Funeral Directors
- Opening Selection.....Voices of Praise
- Old Testament.....Psalm 23
- New Testament.....John 14:1-6
- Prayer.....Deacon Calvin Riley
- Musical Selection.....Voices of Praise
- Remarks.....Dr. Sharon Cooper
Deacon Alan Suber
Reverend Johnny C. Owens, Jr.
Mr. Jaron Owens
- Solo.....Reverend Flavian Coleman
- Words of Comfort.....Bishop Eric Freeman
- Video Presentation
- Recessional
- Postlude



Committal, Benediction, and Interment

2:00 p.m.
Fort Jackson National Cemetery
4170 Percival Road
Columbia, South Carolina

