

A Hero's Welcome

By: Robert Longley

*Time to come home dear brother
Your tour of duty through
You've given as much as anyone
Could be expected to do.*

*Just a few steps further
The smoke will start to clear
Others here will guide you
You have no need to fear.*

*You have not failed your brothers
You dearly gave it all
And through your selfless actions
Others will hear the call.*

*So take your place of honor
Among those who have gone before
And know you will be remembered
For now and evermore.*

Pallbearers

Little Zion Baptist Church Men's Ministry and
United States Army Honor Guard

Floral Bearers

Little Zion Baptist Church Women's Ministry

Acknowledgement

We, the family of Major (Ret.) Willie James Grate, Jr., wish to thank each of you for the many loving and wonderful acts of love and kindness rendered during the passing of our loved one. May God bless each of you with His grace and mercy, we pray.

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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In Honor of your Memory

Major (Ret.) Willie James Grate, Jr.



Thursday, December 28, 2023

11:00 a.m.

Little Zion Baptist Church

*8229 Winnsboro Road
Blythewood, South Carolina*

Reverend Eddie Davis

- Officiating -

Obituary

Mr. Willie James Grate, Jr. was born in Orangeburg, South Carolina, on February 19, 1962. He was the only son of Mrs. Anna Jane Grate and the late Willie James Grate, Sr. He departed this life on Saturday, December 23, 2023.

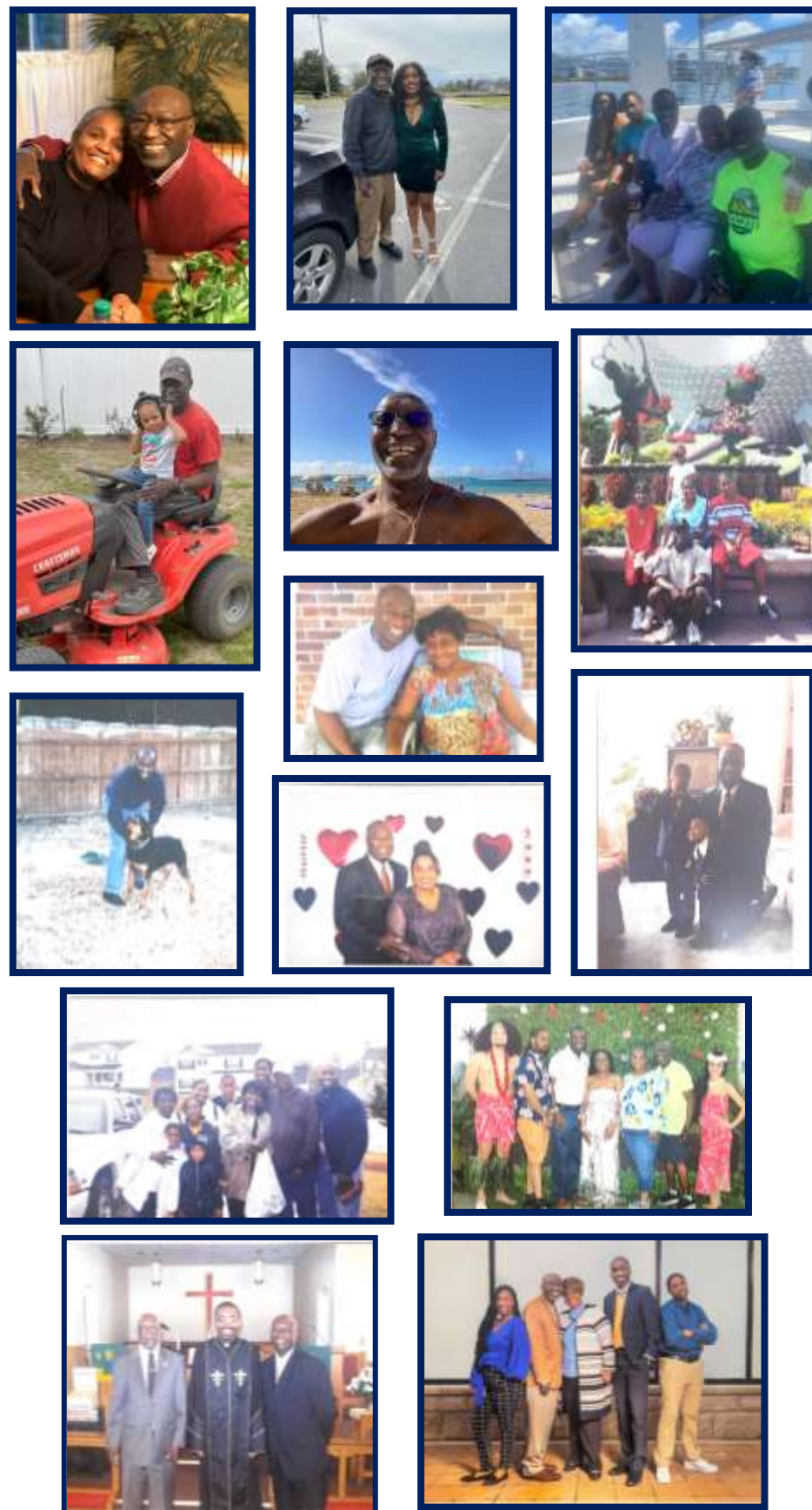
Mr. Grate was educated in public schools of Long Island, New York, graduating from Freeport High School, Class of 1980. He matriculated at the State University of New York at Brockport College, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics. He later obtain a Master of Business Administration from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

Willie enlisted in the United States Army in 1986. In 1988, he graduated from the United States Army Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, GA, receiving a commission in the Quartermaster Corps. His military decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Army Commendation Medal (1-OLC), the Army Achievement Medal, a Meritorious Unit Citation, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Southwest Asia Service Media (3-Bronze Campaign Stars), the Kuwait Liberation Medal, the Parachutist, and Air Assault Badges.

He was an active Spring Valley Rotary Club member. He was a member of Little Zion Baptist Church and served on the Men's Ministry and Male Chorus, Mr. Grate enjoyed tailgating with family, working in the yard, and playing with his grandchildren in his spare time.

Major (Ret.) Willie James Grate, Jr. leaves to mourn his passing: his wife of thirty four years, Felicia A. Grate, of Columbia, SC; two sons, Steven A. Johnson, Jr., of Nashville, TN and Dominique Grate, of Tyler, TX; a daughter, Shakayla J. Grate, of Charlotte, NC; his mother, Anna J. Grate, of Hemingway, SC; three sisters, Dorcella Grate, of Ruther Glen, VA, Phyllis Grate, of Florence, SC, and Kisa Grate, of Columbia, SC; three grandchildren, Steven A. Johnson, III., Madeline Barfield, and Myles Johnson; and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends, all of whom will miss him dearly.

Memories



A Service of Remembrance

Prelude
 Processional
 Viewing.....Funeral Directors
 Opening Selection.....Little Zion Baptist Church Ministry of Music
 "Oh, I Want to See Him"
 Old Testament-Psalm 23 Reverend Dr. Caesar R. Richburg
 New Testament-John 14: 1-12..... Reverend Kisler Williams
 Prayer Elder Alvah Lawson
 Musical Selection...
 Little Zion Baptist Church Ministry of Music
 Remarks..... Church – Deacon Larry Francis
 Community – Mr. BJ Blackmon
 Musical Selection.....Ms. Wanda Blackmon
 Remarks..... Cousins – Mr. Anthony Graham
 Siblings – Ms. Dorcella Grate
 Children – Reverend Dominique Isaac Grate
 Musical Selection Little Zion Baptist Church Ministry of Music
 Words of Comfort Reverend Eddie Davis
 Recessional..... Little Zion Baptist Church Ministry of Music
 Postlude



Committal, Benediction, and Interment

Friday, December 29, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

Florence National Cemetery
1001 Stockade Drive
Florence, South Carolina