

I'M FREE

*Don't grieve for me for now I'm free,
I'm following the path God laid for me
I took his hand when I heard him 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've found that peace at the close of day
If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah yes, these things I too will miss
Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
I wish for you the sunshine of tomorrow
My life's been full, I've savored much,
Good friends, good times, my loved one's
touch
If my time seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief
Lift up your heart, rejoice with me,
God wanted me now, He set me free.*

By: Anne Lindgren Davison

Pallbearers

Grandsons and Nephews

Floral Bearers

C. A. Johnson Class of 1966

The Limb Fallen

A limb has fallen from the family tree. I keep hearing a voice that says, "Grieve not for me." Remember the best times, the laughter, the song. The good life I lived while I was strong. Continue my heritage, I'm counting on you. Keep smiling and surely the sun will shine through. My mind is at ease, my soul is at rest. Remembering all, how I truly was blessed. Continue traditions, no matter how small. Go on with your life, don't worry about falls

I miss you all dearly, so keep up your chin. Until the day comes we're together again.

—Author Unknown

Acknowledgement

We, the family of Herbert "Leo" McKie, would like to express our gratitude for all the prayers, calls, cards, texts, flowers, food, and many other acts of kindness during this difficult time. Please accept our sincere "Thank You." We also want to thank Briana Bryant, Nicole Hampton and Keith Kennedy for all of your genuine care prior to his transition. May God Bless each of you and shower you with His most precious blessings.

Home Going Services In Loving Memory of SFC (Ret) Herbert Leo McKie



Friday, February 21, 2025
12:00 Noon

First Nazareth Baptist Church
2351 Gervais Street
Columbia, South Carolina

Reverend Dr. Blakely N. Scott
-Pastor-

CONTACT US:
Taylor Street Chapel
803-771-7799
Lower Richland Chapel
803-776-6922
WWW.LEEVY.COM

Services Entrusted To:

Leevy's
Chris Leevy Johnson
-Managing Director-

SIGN THE ONLINE REGISTRY:



Leverette A. Williams, II
-General Manager-

Obituary

SFC (Ret) Herbert Leo McKie was born in Columbia, South Carolina, on July 3, 1948. Leo was the fourth child of his parents, James and Maggie Holloway McKie. He departed this earthly journey on Thursday, February 13, 2025.

Leo gave his life to Christ at an early age when he joined Friendship Baptist Church in Columbia, South Carolina, where he served as a Trustee. In recent years, Leo faithfully joined and attended the First Nazareth Baptist Church in Columbia, South Carolina, under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Blakely N. Scott.

As a learner, he attended the Richland County Public Schools and graduated from C.A. Johnson High School, Class of 1966. He was a star basketball and football athlete. As an alumnus and the President of the Men's Breakfast Club, he was committed to supporting C.A. Johnson High School students and helping many of them receive college scholarships.

In 1970, he attended St. Augustine College in Raleigh, North Carolina, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education. While at St. Augustine, he became a member of the Kappa Epsilon chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Leo also played basketball for the mighty Falcons, where he was an outstanding point guard. In 2009, he was selected by the university to be inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame. He served as the Columbia and the National Alumni Association President for St. Augustine. Leo was a dedicated alumnus of his alma mater. He received his Master of Education in Rehabilitation Counseling, 1982 from South Carolina State College.

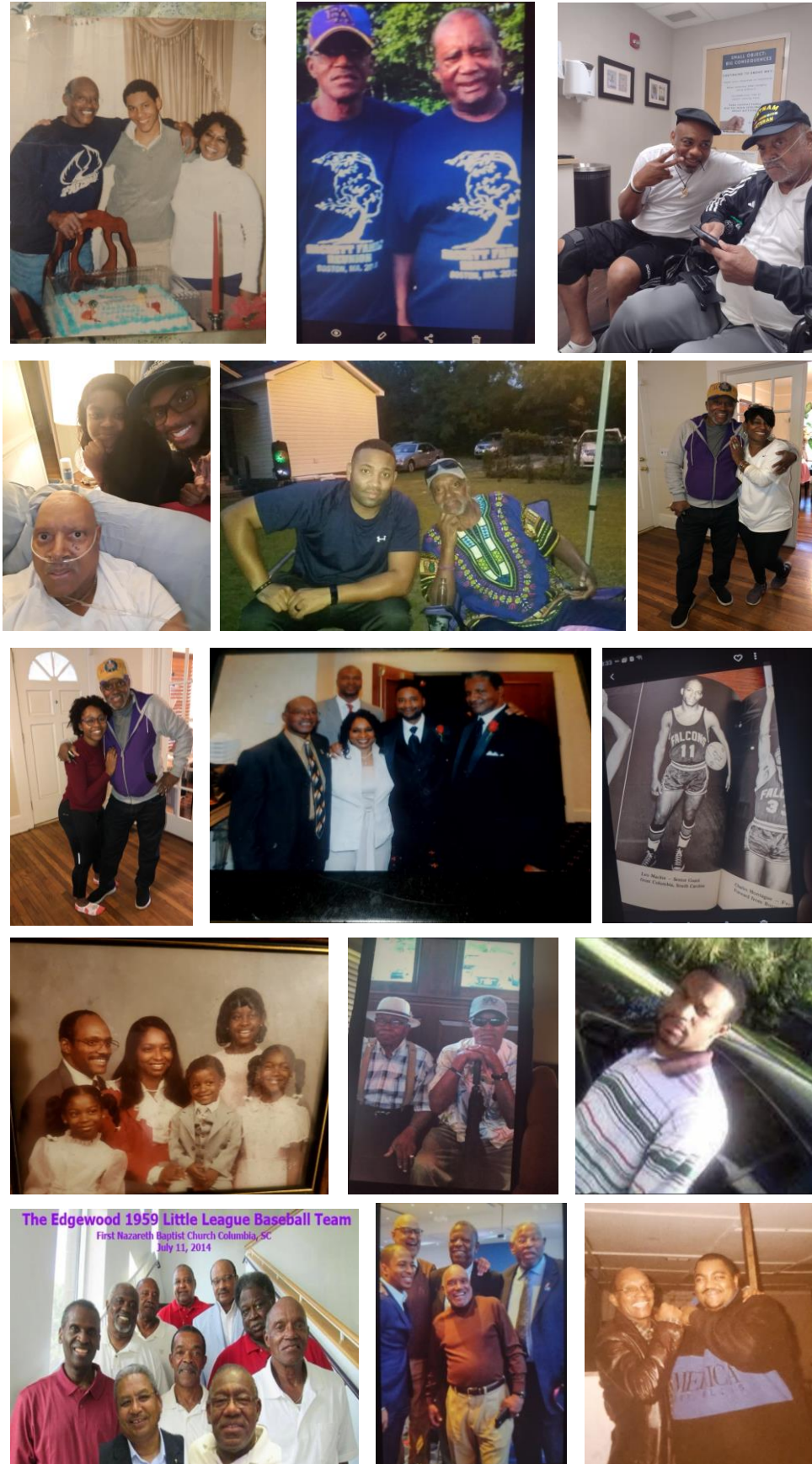
As a leader, in 1970, Leo was drafted into the U.S. Army and served in the Vietnam War. During his service, he received the following military honors: the Vietnam Service Medal, the National Defense Medal, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal. In 1980, he re-enlisted to continue serving in the Army Reserve as a senior instructor and a trainer evaluator, where he received numerous medals and badges for his exceptional qualities as a leader, trainer, and a senior Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) Advanced Camp Instructor. After he returned home from the Vietnam War, he continued working for the South Carolina Department of Mental Health as a Recreational Therapist. In 2004, he received his honorable discharge as a Sergeant First Class for 24 dedicated years of service to his country in the U.S. Army Reserve.

Leo, a devoted soldier, beloved husband, cherished father, grandfather, and pillar of his community, will be sorely missed and will always hold a special place in the hearts of everyone who was blessed to know and love him. He was a man of deep integrity, unwavering commitment, and boundless generosity. His early years were shaped by a strong sense of duty and perseverance, values that carried him through a life of remarkable achievement and service.

He was preceded in death by his parents, James and Maggie H. McKie; brother, James A. McKie; sister, Christine Hackett; and his in-laws, Michael and Anna Mae Barnett.

He leaves to cherish his memory: his loving wife, Mrs. Karon B. McKie; three daughters, Mrs. Kameka (Greg) Perry, Mrs. Chante (Rick) Rogers and Ms. Aketa Lemard all of Columbia, South Carolina; two sons Mr. Herbert L. McKie Jr., of Columbia, South Carolina and Mr. Vincent James of Hampton, Virginia; three grandchildren, Mr. Christopher Clark, Mr. Katriyon McKie, and Ms. Wynter Lemard all of Columbia, South Carolina; one sister, Mrs. Julia M. Lewis; one brother Mr. Samuel McKie both of Columbia, South Carolina; one brother-in-law, Mr. Ronald (Brenda) Barnett of Gastonia, North Carolina; two sisters-in-law, Mrs. Barbara (Al) Bullock, of Durham, North Carolina and Ms. Yolanda Robinson of Raleigh, North Carolina; and one uncle Bishop Emmanuel Spearman of Hodges, South Carolina a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and other relatives who cared for him dearly. His memory and legacy of service and kindness will endure for generations. Rest in power, Sergeant First Class. Your watch is complete.

Memories



A Service of Remembrance

Prelude
 Processional.....“Total Praise”
 Viewing.....Funeral Directors
 Medley of Hymns.....“How Great Thou Art”/ “Great Is The Faithfulness”
 Old Testament.....Psalm 103:11-19
 New Testament.....II Timothy 4:6-8
 Prayer.....Reverend Michael H. Baker, Greater St. Luke Baptist Church
 Musical Selection.....Ms. Theandrea L. Burgess
 Reflections.....Mr. Carl Fredrick, Best Friend
 Mr. George Hart, C.A. Johnson High School Men’s Breakfast Club
 Mrs. Sarah Ford, National Alumni Association of St. Augustine College
 Mr. Michael C. Thomas, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.
 Musical Selection.....Bishop Emmanuel Spearman
 Words of Comfort.....Reverend Dr. Blakely N. Scott
 Recessional.....“Well Done”
 Recording by: Detrick Hadden
 Postlude



Committal, Benediction and Interment

12:00 Noon, Monday, February 21, 2025
 Fort Jackson National Cemetery
 4170 Percival Road
 Columbia, South Carolina