

Expressions of Gratitude

Deacon Weldon Hammond was blessed to have been loved and respected by so many. Words are inadequate to capture the immense gratitude we feel for the outpouring of love and support we have received. From the countless texts, cards, calls, visits, meals, monetary contributions and other acts of kindness, we are truly overwhelmed. Mostly, thank you for your prayers. As a family, we've been profoundly uplifted by the generosity of those who, in their own way, made sure we were not alone during this difficult time. We are truly blessed to have had each of you in our lives, and your presence meant more to us than we can ever express. You were there when we needed you the most, and for that, we will forever be grateful.

Additionally, we would be remiss not to extend our heartfelt thanks to the exceptional nurses, doctors, and medical professionals who cared for our beloved. Their dedication, compassion, and kindness brought comfort during an incredibly challenging time, and we are deeply appreciative of their efforts.

To God Be the Glory!

Repast

We invite you to repast immediately following the interment in the Maxie Gordon Fellowship Hall back at First Calvary.

Memorial donations may be made to First Calvary Baptist Church Building Fund in memory of Deacon L. Weldon Hammond.



Deacon Louis Weldon Hammond, Esquire


CONTACT US:
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WWW.LEEVY.COM
I. S. Leevy Johnson
-Owner-

Services Entrusted To:

Leevy's

Chris Leevy Johnson
-Managing Director-

SIGN THE ONLINE REGISTRY:



Leverette A. Williams, II
-General Manager-

Friday, April 18, 2025
11:00 a.m.

First Calvary Baptist Church
1401 Pine Street
Columbia, South Carolina

Reverend Dr. Samuel K. Lewis, Pastor



Prelude
Processional.....“Let The Church Say Amen”.....Madrigals
Viewing.....Funeral Directors
Hymn of Praise.....“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”.....Congregation
Old Testament.....Proverbs 3:1-10 (KJV).....Deacon James A. Baker
New Testament.....James 1:2-18 (NLT).....Trustee Dr. Clarence Hill
Prayer of Comfort.....Minister Eukenyia Lewis
Musical Selection.....“I Love the Lord”.....Madrigals
Presentation of Resolutions.....Ms. Erianna S. Hammond

Reflections:
The Honorable James E. Clyburn- U.S. Congressman
Deacon Dr. Noble Cooper, First Calvary Baptist Church

Family Remarks:
Dr. Robert L. Stevenson – Brother-In-Love
Mrs. Kartika Gibson and Mr. L. Weldon Hammond II, Children

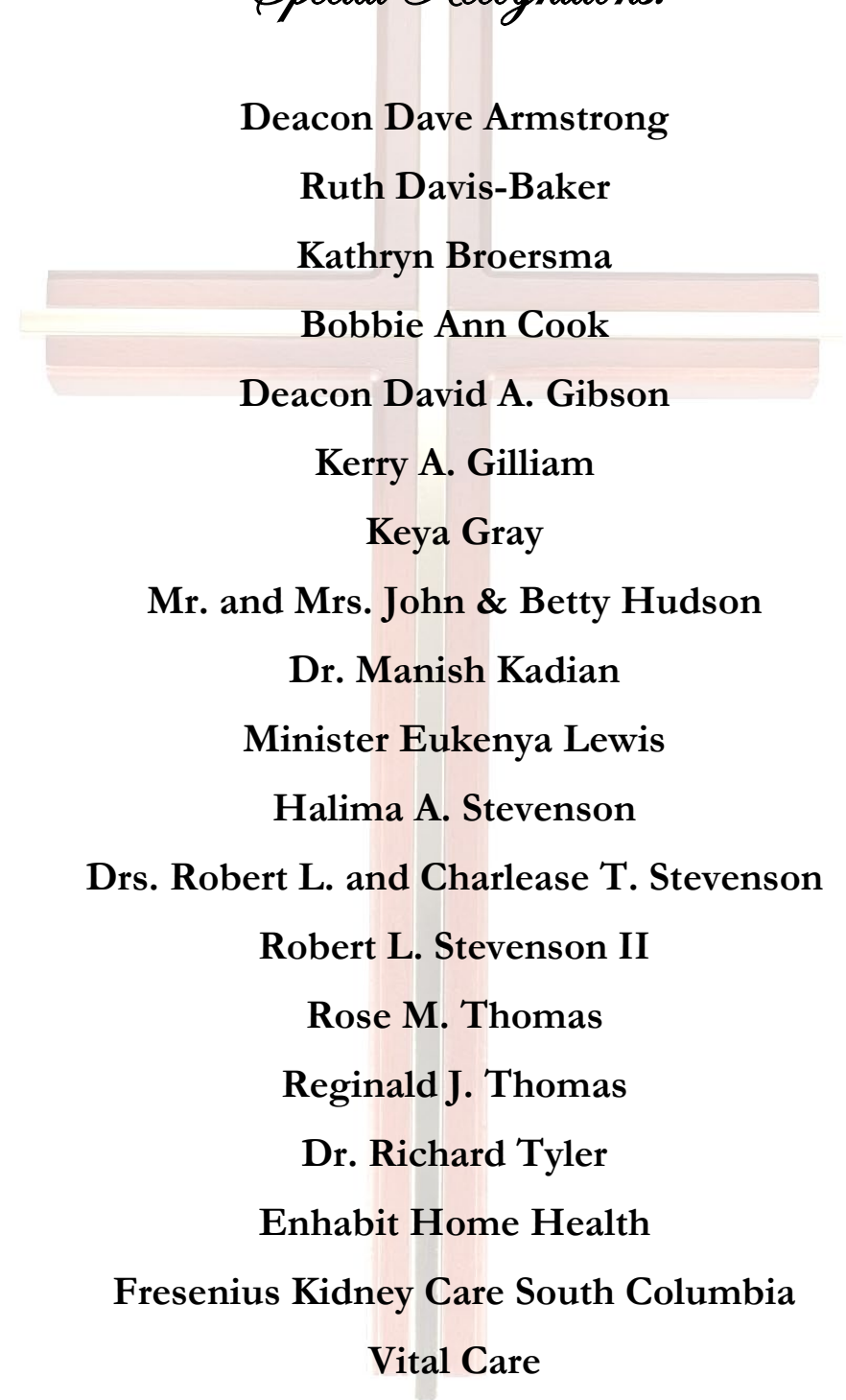
Musical Selection.....“Jordan River”.....Madrigals
Eulogy.....Reverend Dr. Samuel K. Lewis
Recessional.....“Going Up Yonder”.....Congregation
Postlude



Committal, Benediction and Interment

Greenlawn Memorial Park
7100 Garners Ferry Road
Columbia, South Carolina

Special Recognitions:



Deacon Dave Armstrong
Ruth Davis-Baker
Kathryn Broersma
Bobbie Ann Cook
Deacon David A. Gibson
Kerry A. Gilliam
Keya Gray
Mr. and Mrs. John & Betty Hudson
Dr. Manish Kadian
Minister Eukenyia Lewis
Halima A. Stevenson
Drs. Robert L. and Charlease T. Stevenson
Robert L. Stevenson II
Rose M. Thomas
Reginald J. Thomas
Dr. Richard Tyler
Enhabit Home Health
Fresenius Kidney Care South Columbia
Vital Care

Obituary

Loved Eternally; Eternally Loved

Honorary Pallbearers

Attorney George Anderson, Family Friend
John C. Hudson, Family Friend
Thomas A. Hammond, Esq., Brother
Thomas A. Hammond, Jr., Nephew
I.S. Leevy Johnson, Esq., Family Friend
Alan Roberson, Nephew
Deacons of First Calvary Baptist Church
First Calvary Baptist Church Trustees
Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated

Active Pallbearers

Deacon Dave Armstrong
Kenneth M. Bush
Deacon David A. Gibson
Deacon Harold C. Riley II
Anthony T. Rayford
Robert L. Stevenson II
Charles H. Thomas III
Reginald J. Thomas II

Floral Bearers

Deacons Wives and Minister Spouses

In the quiet moments of reflection, we give thanks for a life well lived in service to God, guided by faith, love, and unwavering devotion. Louis Weldon Hammond walked in the light of the Lord, embracing each day with grace and purpose, spreading kindness and compassion in everything he did. L. Weldon Hammond, aged 86, passed away peacefully on April 11, 2025, surrounded by the love of his wife and family in Columbia, South Carolina. Born on January 5, 1939, in Ridge Spring, South Carolina, Weldon was the cherished son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Alphonso and Flossie Mae Gomillion Hammond, both of whom preceded him in death. He was the devoted husband of Loretta Thomas Hammond, his cherished partner of over 60 years, and the proud father of two children, Kartika H. Gibson and Louis Weldon Hammond II.

Weldon began his education at Aiken Graded School and Martha Schofield High School in Aiken, South Carolina, before earning an early entrance as a student at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. While at Morehouse, he proudly lettered in baseball, showcasing his athletic talent with his academics. He then transferred to South Carolina State College (University) School of Law, where he pursued legal studies and earned his law degree, further solidifying his commitment to justice and advocacy. Weldon obtained funding for his higher education by teaching swimming to many individuals in Aiken, SC, South Carolina State University and surrounding communities. Faced with significant limitations for Black students in South Carolina at the time, he made the courageous decision to continue his training at Tennessee State University, where he earned his Red Cross Lifeguard certification to teach swimming. His dedication to teaching reflected his passion for equipping others with essential lifesaving skills and fostering confidence in the water.

A distinguished veteran, Weldon dedicated two years of service to his country in the U.S. Army and an additional year in the U.S. Army Reserve, where he ultimately attained the rank of Staff Sergeant E6. During his career, he served as Military Police, Personnel Management Specialist, and Court-Martial Coordinator in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. He was honorably discharged, leaving behind a legacy of leadership and discipline.

Weldon forged an exceptional career with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), serving in numerous capacities, including his selection to the prestigious U.S. Veterans Affairs Leadership Academy. He also held the roles of the Adjudication Officer and the Service Center Manager for the VA Regional Office before retiring

after thirty-seven and half years of dedicated public service. Beyond his official role, Weldon played a pivotal part in recruiting and hiring numerous Black and female federal employees within the VA. He was a steadfast advocate for equity and representation, championing these efforts during a time when such actions were often met with resistance. One of Weldon's significant achievements was the establishment of the Black History Month Program at the South Carolina Veteran's Affairs, creating a lasting space to honor and celebrate the contributions, heritage, and achievements of Black Americans within the organization and beyond. He was also the EEO Officer. Even after retirement, VA leadership recognized his expertise and invited him to continue serving the department for an additional four years as a consultant, training VA employees throughout the U.S.

Weldon's impact extended far beyond his professional life. He was a founding member of Blacks United for Action, tirelessly working to increase the number of Black individuals elected to office and ensuring voting access during the segregated era. His efforts left an enduring legacy of empowerment and progress. Weldon also served as chairman of the board of directors for the Kitani Foundation, Inc., an organization dedicated to bringing cultural enrichment to the Midlands area. Additionally, he was a member of the board of directors for athletics at South Carolina State University, where he contributed to the advancement of sports programs and student-athlete development.

Among his many accolades, Weldon was honored with the Outstanding Freedom Fighter Citation (NAACP) for his service in Orangeburg, SC, during the 1960s. He was recognized as Top Law School Student in Administrative Law, named Soldier of the Encampment, and nominated as Federal Employee of the Year in 1978. He was also honored to receive the Order of the Silver Crescent, awarded in 2000 by the Governor of South Carolina. The Silver Crescent is South Carolina's highest civilian honor for significant contributions and achievements.

Weldon exemplified the ideals of achievement, brotherhood and service. He was a member of the Capital City Lodge, Prince Hall Affiliated, and a Life Member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. A committed leader, he was affiliated with numerous other organizations, including People United to Save Humanity (PUSH). His faith and dedication were constant in his life, and he devoted his time and talents to causes that uplifted those around him.

Weldon's foundation was his faith which guided his dedicated service to First Calvary Baptist Church for over five decades. He served as trustee, church clerk, chair of the "Legacy for a New Generation," which funded and erected the existing church edifice, and served as a Deacon for more than 30 years. A devoted and founding member of the Madrigals Choir and co-chair for the couple's ministry, Weldon found joy in worship alongside his beloved wife, Loretta. He strengthened the church's spiritual foundation by helping to write its bylaws and teaching Sunday school, Bible study, and vacation Bible school. Additionally, he served as an administrative assistant to First Calvary's former pastor, Rev. Dr. Maxie S. Gordon, offering his leadership and unwavering support.

Weldon held a deep and unconditional love for his wife Loretta, whom he affectionately referred to as "Cherokee." Their love was steadfast, rooted in a shared devotion to family, friendship, and faith. They found joy in traveling together, exploring new places while deepening their connection with history and culture. Sports remained a vibrant part of their lives as they passionately supported their alma mater, the South Carolina State Bulldogs, cheering for their team and embracing the camaraderie of fellow alumni. Their social circles were enriched by their involvement in organizations such as The Columbia Chapter of THE MOLES and The Sophisticates, Inc. where they cultivated enduring friendships and created cherished memories. Yet, at the heart of their shared journey was an unwavering commitment to justice and equality. As lifetime members of the NAACP, Weldon and Loretta stood side by side, advocating for civil rights, uplifting their community, and ensuring that progress remained within reach for future generations. Their partnership was a testament to love's strength, a beautiful fusion of devotion, laughter, and purpose.

Weldon is lovingly remembered by his devoted wife, Loretta Thomas Hammond; his cherished children, Kartika H. Gibson (David) and Louis Weldon Hammond II (Carole, deceased); and his beloved grandchildren, Erianna S. Hammond, Davion M. Gibson, and Divine M. Gibson. He is also survived by his dear siblings, Thomas Alphonso Hammond, Esq. (Dr. Brenda) and F. Alexis Roberson, along with his treasured in-loves, Hattie T. Bell (Harold), Drs. Charlease T. Stevenson (Steve), Reginald J. Thomas (Rose), Ann M. Riley (Harold), and Charles H. Thomas III; his special aunt, Catherine Drake, held a profound place in his heart, as did his nieces and nephews, who shared an enduring bond with their uncle. Weldon's legacy continues through a host of cousins and numerous long-time family friends who were touched by his life and love.

To God Be the Glory!