

Obituary

Mr. Eli Richardson was born September 26, 1930, in Lee County, South Carolina. He was the son of the late Elias and Lizzie Dora Felder Richardson. He departed this life Wednesday, April 9, 2025. Preceding his death was his wife of 54 years Mrs. Viola Richardson and his siblings, Ethel Tillman, Almata Watts, Samuel Richardson, Sylvester Richardson, Elese Moses, Margaret Williams, Dora Willis, and Randolph Richardson.

Mr. Eli Richardson received his formal education at Mather Academy in Camden, SC. He attended Allen University, in Columbia, SC, until he was drafted to serve in the U.S. Armed Forces (the Korean War). He served with pride and dedication within the Leadership Academy of the Army.

Mr. Richardson's unwavering commitment to education led him to complete his college degree. He graduated from Benedict College in 1958, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology. After college, his passion for education inspired him to become a middle school science teacher in the Lee County School District. He never stopped learning and challenging himself and others. He successfully passed the Civil Service Exam and commenced his employment with the U.S. Postal Service. Mr. Richardson dedicated 30 years of service to the U.S. Postal Service, retiring in 1990.

Mr. Richardson frequently emphasized that the civil rights issue was the foremost challenge of his time. He became a member of NAACP and subsequently dedicated his time and energy to the movement advocating change.

Through his involvement with the NAACP and the Voting Rights initiative, Mr. Richardson met his wife to be Mrs. Viola P. Byrd, who shared his commitment to these causes. They were married on February 6, 1969. They remained actively engaged in Civil Rights activities throughout their lives, advocating for equal rights, and the importance of voting and voicing one's opinions until their passing. He was a community organizer for the Byrneswood Community, the Felder family reunion, and director of the Richardson family reunion. Most importantly he was a husband, a father, grandfather, uncle, cousin, neighbor, and son of God.

Mr. Eli Richardson leaves to cherish his memories five children, Tracy Dean Richardson of Columbia, SC; Linda Snead of Columbia, SC; James Peter Byrd, Jr (Lenzena) of Columbia, SC; Paula Barnette (Rufus) of Charlotte, NC; and Marty Byrd of Atlanta, GA; fourteen grandchildren, twelve great-grandchildren, a host of nieces, nephews, other family members, and friends.

Memories



Order of Service

Tuesday, April 15, 2025 – 11:30 a.m.
Clement Road Church of God
3701 Clement Road, Columbia, South Carolina
Pastor Dennis T. Smart, Presiding

Prelude

Processional

Viewing.....Funeral Directors

Opening Hymn.....Clement Road Church of God

Old Testament.....Deacon Derrick Williams
Psalm 23

New Testament.....Minister Dakarta Richardson
John 14:1-6

Prayer.....Minister Rosa Patterson

Selection.....Clement Road Church of God

Remarks.....(Two Minutes, Please).....Family and Friends

Reading of the Obituary.....Mrs. Kristen Barnette-Fetty

Selection.....Clement Road Church of God

Words of Comfort.....Reverend Rufus Barnette

Recessional

Postlude



Committal, Benediction and Interment

2:00 p.m.

Fort Jackson National Cemetery
4170 Percival Road
Columbia, South Carolina

From his memoir he wrote:

“... the highlights succeeded by far and I'm grateful to the Almighty, my dear father and mother, sisters and brothers and all who wish me well. So, for the remainder of my time, I will endeavor to pay my indebtedness to being the best I can be to my dear wife and children, my relations with my neighbors and friends, and all that come in contact with. If my future days are many or few, I hope they are demonstrated to the extent that someone's life is patterned and shaped from the life I've lived”.

With that he did.

Pallbearers

Grandsons

Floral Bearers

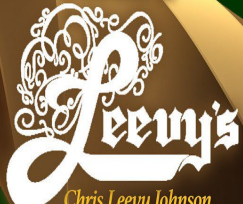
Granddaughters

Acknowledgement

We, the family of Mr. Eli Richardson, wish to extend heartfelt thanks for your condolences, expressions of sympathy, and acts of kindness in our time of mourning. Please know that your great and small gestures have touched our hearts deeply and are warmly received. Each act of kindness, every supportive word, reaffirms the impact Mr. Richardson has had on those around him and comforts us in our loss. Thank you!


CONTACT US:
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Services Entrusted To:



Chris Leevy Johnson
-Managing Director-

SIGN THE ONLINE REGISTRY:



Leverette A. Williams, II
-General Manager-

