

Obituary

Mrs. Ethel Mae Humphrey of Columbia, South Carolina, passed away peacefully on Thursday, July 18, 2025.

Born on September 1, 1941, in Huntsville, Alabama, she was the youngest of eight children born to the late Benjamin “Booker” Langford and Mrs. Ethel “Miss Ethel” Langford. She was raised in a loving Christian home and was affectionately known for her natural leadership, sense of order, and quiet strength. She gave her life to Christ at an early age and was baptized at Saint James Primitive Baptist Church in Huntsville, Alabama.

Ethel received her early education in the public schools of Madison County and graduated from William Hooper Council High School in the Class of 1959, where she proudly served as a majorette. She briefly attended Alabama A&M University, where she studied economics.

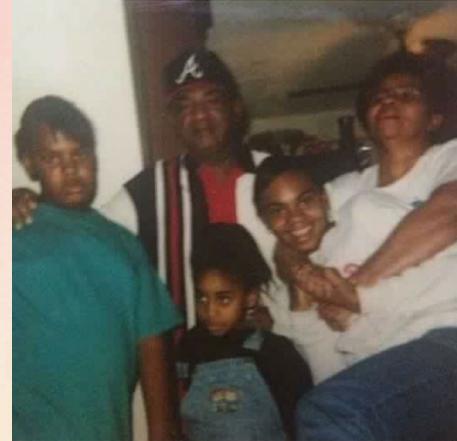
On June 9, 1960, she married Erbie Humphrey, and from their union came two treasured children: Jacqueline Vernae Humphrey and James Patrick Humphrey. Ethel received her calling of excellence not just as a Christian, but as a daughter, sister, wife, mother, and grandmother. Her husband praised her, and her children called her blessed. As a military wife, she traveled the world and managed both home and work life with grace. She worked with American Express in Frankfurt, Germany, and later served over 30 years with the AAFES Main Exchange (PX) at Fort Jackson, SC retiring as a respected supervisor.

Mrs. Humphrey was deeply rooted in her faith and upheld the values of discipline, integrity, and generosity. She was known for her leadership, her neatly kept home and yard, and her strong voice within her family and community. A woman of few but powerful words, she led with dignity and inspired many.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, her parents, and all her siblings: Benjamin Langford Jr., Leroy Green, Curtis Langford, Odell Reid, Lucile Robinson, Martha McKinney, and Bernice Langford.

She is survived by her daughter, Jacqueline Vernae Humphrey of Raleigh, NC; her son, James Patrick Humphrey of Jacksonville, NC; grandchildren: Crystal J. Sewell of Columbia, SC, Shannon Avery of Las Vegas, NV, Mark Harvey of Waterbury, CT, Charlisa J. McCoy of Columbia, SC, Tia (T.J.) Humphrey-Erhart of Dallas, TX, Deja Noel Humphrey of Raleigh, NC, and James Patrick Humphrey Jr. of Jacksonville, NC; and great-grandchildren: Ayonna Victoria Sewell-Wolfe, Zachary Warren Sewell, Kylie Alexandria Sewell, Caleb Jacob Wolfe, and Dallas Omega Wolfe, all of Columbia, SC. She is also lovingly remembered by her close friends Brenda Gadson and Debbie Jackson; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, neighbors, and dear friends.

Memories



Order of Service

Prelude.....“He’s Preparing Me”
Recording by: Darrel Petties

Processional

Viewing.....Funeral Directors

Opening Hymn

Scriptures.....Reverend Sara Martin
Old Testament – Proverbs 31:25-31 (KJV)
New Testament – II Timothy 4:7-8 (KJV)

Prayer.....Reverend Sara Martin

SelectionCurtis Jackson & Rehoboth Baptist Choir
“I Won’t Complain”

Remarks.....Mrs. Crystal Humphrey Sewell, Granddaughter
Sergeant Major (Ret) USMC James Patrick Humphrey, Sr., Son
Selection “God Is”..... Rehoboth Baptist Choir

Words of Comfort.....Reverend Dr. Ivory Thigpen

Recessional

Postlude



Committal, Benediction and Interment

2:00 p.m.

Monday, July 28, 2025

Fort Jackson National Cemetery

4170 Percival Road

Columbia, South Carolina

A FINAL WORD FROM ETHEL

I overcame. I endured.
I found strength in the storm.
I believed in doing all things
In decency and in order
With love, grace, and warm hands.
I loved you dearly each of you.
I watched, I prayed, I stayed.
I trusted Christ Jesus,
My Savior and my source.
And now I rest in peace and joy.
Don't cry for me, don't carry sorrow.
Instead, rise up and become
Become all I ever saw in you.
Live in excellence. Live in truth.
Live with love in your heart.
Honor me not with tears,
But with triumphs and healing.
Honor me by enduring.
By forgiving. By overcoming.
And when you wonder how to go on,
Remember: I taught you how.

Pallbearers

Family and Friends

Floral Bearers

Family and Friends

Acknowledgement

The family of the late Mrs. Ethel Mae Humphrey wishes to express heartfelt thanks to Brenda Gadson, Debbie Jackson, Michael Wilson, and Badetra Long for their unwavering love, support, and friendship to Mrs. Humphrey. We also deeply appreciate the compassionate care and dedication provided by the staff at Brookdale Assisted Living facility during Mrs. Humphrey's time with them. Their kindness, professionalism, and genuine concern brought comfort to both Mrs. Humphrey and her family during this journey.

We are also truly grateful to each one who has offered love, prayers, kind words, and support during this difficult time. Your presence, whether in spirit or in person, has helped sustain us, and we thank you sincerely for walking alongside us in both grief and celebration of her life.

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-

Leverette A. Williams, II
-General Manager-

SIGN THE ONLINE REGISTRY:



IN
LOVING
Memory



Mrs. Ethel Mae Langford Humphrey



Saturday, July 26, 2025
3:00 p.m.

Leevy's Funeral Home Chapel
1831 Taylor Street
Columbia, South Carolina

Reverend Dr. Ivory Thigpen
-Officiating