

**Pallbearers**

Nephews and Friends

**Floral Bearers**

Nieces and Friends

**Acknowledgement**

We, the family of Mary Louise Benefield, would like to thank each of for the many acts of kindness shown to us during our time of bereavement. May God continue to bless each of you with His love, grace, and mercy.

**Services Entrusted To:**

**Taylor Street Chapel**

1831 Taylor Street  
Columbia, SC 29201  
(803)771-7799

I. S. Leevy Johnson  
-Owner & Director-

**Leevy's**

F U N E R A L H O M E

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-

*In Loving Memory of*



*Ms. Mary Louise Benefield*

*March 27, 1955 - October 11, 2025*

# Reflections of the Life of Ms. Mary Louise Benefield

It is with deep love and heartfelt remembrance that we celebrate the life of a cherished mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend—Ms. Mary Louise Benefield, or as she would say, “Mary Louise.”

Mary was born on March 27, 1955, in Columbia, South Carolina, to the late Richard Benefield, Sr. and Viola Boykin Benefield.

On Saturday, October 11, 2025, Mary peacefully departed this life and transitioned into the ancestral realm, where she is surely reunited with her beloved parents; brothers, Jake Boykin, Richard Benefield, Jr., and Donald Lester Benefield; sisters, Laura Ann Price and Julia Mae Youmans; grandson, Rolland Graves, Jr.; brothers-in-law, Rufus Youmans and Melvin McDaniel; sister-in-law, Vivian Benefield; and two longtime companions, Nathaniel “Bojack” Williams and George “Ol Folk” Lucas.

Mary received her education through the public school system of Richland County and proudly graduated from Booker T. Washington High School as part of the Class of 1973. Her classmates affectionately voted her “Most Talkative Female,” a title that perfectly captured her lively spirit and her love for connecting with others.

She had a true gift for keeping things clean and in order, which led her to work in various housekeeping roles throughout her life. But more than that, she had a servant’s heart. Mary generously gave her time and energy to care for her community, helping elderly neighbors with housework and babysitting for families in need. Her quiet acts of kindness spoke volumes and left a lasting impact on all who knew her.

In her spare time, Mary loved the simple joys of life. She had a passion for cooking and was often found in the kitchen preparing a good meal with love. She enjoyed listening to old-school music, dancing with a carefree spirit, and entertaining friends with her signature charm and infectious laughter. Mary also cherished her moments of relaxation, sipping her favorite drink and enjoying her bay leaf. But above all, Mary was unapologetically herself. She always kept it real, and those who knew her loved her for her honesty, warmth, and unwavering authenticity.

Mary leaves to cherish her precious memory: her children, Tejuniana (Rolland) Graves and Travis (Melissa) Benefield; her brother, Walter Benefield; her sister, Amy McDaniel; her grandchildren, Elijah and Braxton Graves, Traviaah, Traveze, Jaylen, and Zora Benefield and Alexandria Sasser; fifteen great-grandchildren; a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, other loving relatives, and devoted friends who will miss her dearly.

To know Mary was to love her.

## God's Garden

God looked around his garden  
And found an empty place.  
He then looked down upon the earth,  
And saw your tired face.

He put His arms around you  
And lifted you to rest.  
God’s garden must be beautiful,  
He always takes the best.

He knew that you were suffering,  
He knew that you were in pain.  
He knew that you would never  
Get well on earth again.

He saw the road was getting rough  
And the hills were hard to climb.  
So He closed your weary eyelids  
And whispered “Peace be thine.”

It broke our hearts to lose you  
But you did not go alone...  
For part of us went with you  
The day God called you home.

# Memories



*Sunday, October 19, 2025  
3:00 p.m.*

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

*Reverend Charles Epps, Officiating*



## Order of Service

- Prelude
- Processional
- Viewing.....Funeral Directors
- Opening Selection.....Mr. Billy Jefferson
- Prayer of Comfort.....Mr. Brian McLaughlin
- Old Testament.....Minister Kent McFadden
- New Testament.....Minister Sean Benson
- Musical Selection.....Elder Anthony Stubbs
- Remarks.....Mr. Billie Green  
Ms. Tonjia Allen  
Mrs. Sylvia Williams
- Musical Selection.....Elder Anthony Stubbs
- Words of Comfort .....Reverend Charles Epps
- Recessional
- Postlude



## Committal, Benediction & Interment

Brown Chapel AME Church Cemetery  
808 Barnes Street  
Columbia, South Carolina

# Memories

