

Pallbearers  
Family and Friends

Floral Bearers  
Family and Friends

Acknowledgement

We, the family of Mr. Ronnie James Taylor, Sr., would like to thank each of you for your prayers, love, and support shown to us during the passing of our loved one. Each expression of love received has been greatly appreciated. For your kindness, it is our prayer that the Lord blesses each of you in a very special way. A Special thank you to Johns Hopkins Bayview Internal Medicine (NP3) and Stella Maris Hospice.

**Services Entrusted To:**

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

I. S. Leevy Johnson  
-Owner & Director-

**Leevy's**  
FUNERAL HOME

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-

*A Celebration of Life  
In Loving Memory  
of*

**MR. RONNIE JAMES TAYLOR, SR.**



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025  
11:00 A.M.**

**LEEVEY'S FUNERAL HOME CHAPEL  
1831 TAYLOR STREET  
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**MINISTER DAVID JOHNSON, JR.  
-OFFICIATING-**

## Life's Reflections

Mr. Ronnie James "Peabody" Taylor Sr., 73, passed away on December 2, 2025, in Timonium, Maryland. Born on May 18, 1952, in Columbia, South Carolina, he was the son of the late Sadie B. Goodwin (Zeb). He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Nezzie Dianne Gantt Taylor, as well as his grandparents, parents, and aunts.

At an early age, Ronnie began his Christian education and nurtured a lifelong faith that continued to grow after his baptism at New Ebenezer Baptist Church.

During his exciting high school years at C.A. Johnson—Home of the Mighty Green Hornets—Ronnie was a highly-acclaimed varsity basketball player that served as Captain of the basketball team and also excelled academically. It was during this time that he caught the eye of one of the Green Hornets' standout majorettes, Nezzie Dianne Gantt. In 1970, his life changed rapidly: he graduated from C.A. Johnson High School, married his high school sweetheart, and welcomed their first child, Ronnie James Taylor, Jr.

Ronnie furthered his education at Southeastern Community College in Whiteville, NC where he was named as "Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges and Universities". He went on to East Tennessee State University (ETSU), majoring in History, while continuing to pursue his love for basketball as a stellar member of the University's basketball team. He graduated from ETSU in 1974.

In 1975, Ronnie and Nezzie welcomed their second child, Dana Michelle Taylor, and he honorably joined the United States Air Force, embarking on a distinguished military career and serving over 20 years. Early in his military career, Ronnie continued to earn athletic accolades as a member of base-level, command-level and All Air Force professional basketball teams and was invited to try out for the National Basketball Association's (NBA) Philadelphia 76ers. During this time, he developed lasting friendships with his teammates and fellow service members. Ronnie worked most of his military career as a Contract Specialist and was stationed at military bases in Florida, Texas, Japan, the Philippines, Hawaii, Montana, and South Carolina. He deployed to the Camp Doha in Kuwait to support Operation Desert Shield/Storm and received numerous decorations including the Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Longevity Service Award, National Defense Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, and Southwest Asia Service Medal.

Following his military retirement, Ronnie began another 20-year Contracting career as a Civil Servant supporting the Department of Defense. Ronnie worked at military installations in Oklahoma, Guam, and the Washington, D.C., Metro Area until his retirement in 2017.

Ronnie was a proud member of the Masons and greatly enjoyed spending time with close friends from his basketball and military experiences. In retirement, he devoted his days to the people and activities he cherished most, traveling, watching sports, and sharing meaningful moments with his family and friends. Ronnie looked forward to connecting with his Air Force basketball teammates at "Ole Skool" reunions. He often combined his love for travel and basketball and could be found in Las Vegas watching the NBA Summer League games or in Washington DC watching the Washington Wizards or college tournament games. He continued to travel the world including the Mediterranean, South Africa and Asia. He loved cooking, good music and his "stories" (soap operas). His written messages ended with "1LOVE" and many conversations included one of his favorite sayings: "Don't fake the funk on a nasty dunk!"

He embraced life with warmth, gratitude, and joy.

Ronnie leaves behind a legacy anchored in love, strength, and unwavering devotion. He is survived by his brother, Eugene Williams (Linda); his children, Ronnie Taylor, Jr. (Carl) and Dana Moore (Wayne); his grandson, Tyson; his cousins, Anthony Taylor (Susan) and Kim Taylor; a dear great nephew/Master Barber, Jordan Faust; along with a host of extended family and beloved friends, who will forever treasure his memory.

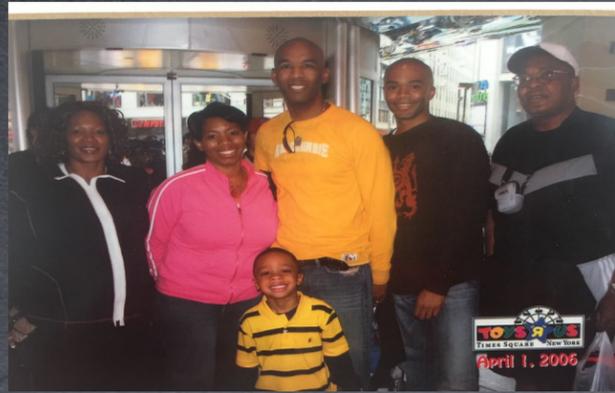
"A life well lived, a legacy well left."

## I'm Free

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



# Memories



# Memories

