

### Pallbearers

Richard McClain  
Evan Feemster  
Elliott Haynie, Sr.  
A.J. Watkins  
Arien Cannon  
Eukenya Lewis

### Floral Bearers

Deaconesses Ministry of First Calvary Baptist Church  
Senior Ministry Society

### Listed among his awards and affiliations are:

Golden Charter Member of the General Alumni Association of Allen University, Inc. Foundation, Inc.; GAAAU, honoree at the Seventh Annual "Women and Men of Valor" Awards Banquet; ordained Deacon of First Calvary Baptist Church (1976); recipient of the Silver Beaver Award for distinguished service to youth; Life Member of the National Eagle Scout Association; member of the Richland County Education Association; member of the South Carolina Association of School Administrators; veteran of the Korean Conflict; lifetime member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); and member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

### Acknowledgement

We, the family of the late William Henry Washington Cannon, are forever grateful for the many acts of kindness during the passing of our dear loved one. May God continue to bless each one of you in a special way.

#### CONTACT US:

Taylor Street Chapel  
803-771-7799

Lower Richland Chapel  
803-776-6922

WWW.LEEVY.COM

I. S. Leevy Johnson  
-Owner-

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**Leevy's**  
Chris Leevy Johnson  
-Managing Director-

SIGN THE ONLINE REGISTRY:



Leverette A. Williams, II  
-General Manager-

# Celebrating The Life of



## Deacon William Henry Washington Cannon

Saturday, February 7, 2026  
12:00 Noon

First Calvary Baptist Church  
1401 Pine Street  
Columbia, South Carolina

Reverend Dr. Samuel K. Lewis, Pastor

## Obituary

Deacon William Henry Washington Cannon was born on January 12, 1926, in the historic Wheeler Hill Community. He was the last sibling of the late Johnny and Emma Summers Cannon. He transitioned to his eternal home on Sunday, February 1, 2026.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Johnny and Emma Summers Cannon, as well as his brothers: John Edward Cannon, Josephus Cannon, Johnny Cannon Jr., Dennis Cannon Sr., Theodore Cannon, David Cannon Sr., Clem Cannon, and Matthew Cannon.

Mr. Cannon received his education in the public schools of Richland School District One. He graduated from the historic Booker T. Washington High School in 1946, unaware that he would later return to his alma mater as a history teacher. In 1950, he earned his Bachelor of Science degree from his beloved Allen University, where he met the love of his life, Mary Ann Murphy—truly the beginning of a beautiful journey together. He later continued his studies, earning a Master of Education degree from South Carolina State College in 1959.

He began his teaching career at Voorhees College, serving as a social studies teacher and guidance counselor. In 1955, he returned to Richland School District One, where he dedicated 33 years of service to Booker T. Washington High School and A.C. Flora High School, later retiring from Columbia High School as an assistant principal.

William received his early Christian training at St. James A.M.E. Church in Wheeler Hill, where his father served as a steward. He and his brothers were baptized at First Calvary Baptist Church, where their mother held membership. William became one of the first African American young men to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. His photograph was featured in the 2025 Eagle Scout Directory, which he received just three weeks before his passing. William served for 19 years as an assistant in the General Alumni Association of Allen University, Inc. (GAAAU) Treasurer's Office, where he maintained membership records, contributions, and operational reports. In 2007, he became Treasurer, a position he held until retiring at the age of 90.

William faithfully served First Calvary Baptist Church as a deacon for 50 years. His ministry also included roles as Assistant Chairman of the Deacon Board, Assistant Superintendent of Sunday School, Sunday School Teacher, Boy Scout Leader, and former member of the Senior Choir.

Mr. William Henry Washington Cannon leaves to cherish his memory; his daughters, Erica Cannon McClain and Shani Cannon Watkins; his son, Virgil Brian Cannon; his son-in-law, A.J. Watkins; and his daughter-in-law, Olivia Cannon. He is also survived by four grandchildren: Richard McClain (Aura), Crystal McClain Haynie (Elliott), Maria McClain Feemster (Evan), and Brian Cannon, along with five great-grandchildren: Elliott Haynie Jr., Alanah Haynie, Isabella McClain, Kwame Feemster, and Mali Feemster. He also leaves behind his sisters-in-law, Kitty Jackson and Laura Murphy and Doris Thomas Cannon; his brothers-in-law, George Jackson, Tim Murphy, and Ronald Jenkins; as well as nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews who lovingly called him "Papa," and many devoted relatives and friends who will forever treasure his legacy.

## In Remembrance of William Henry Cannon

### In Loving Memory of Mr. Sunshine

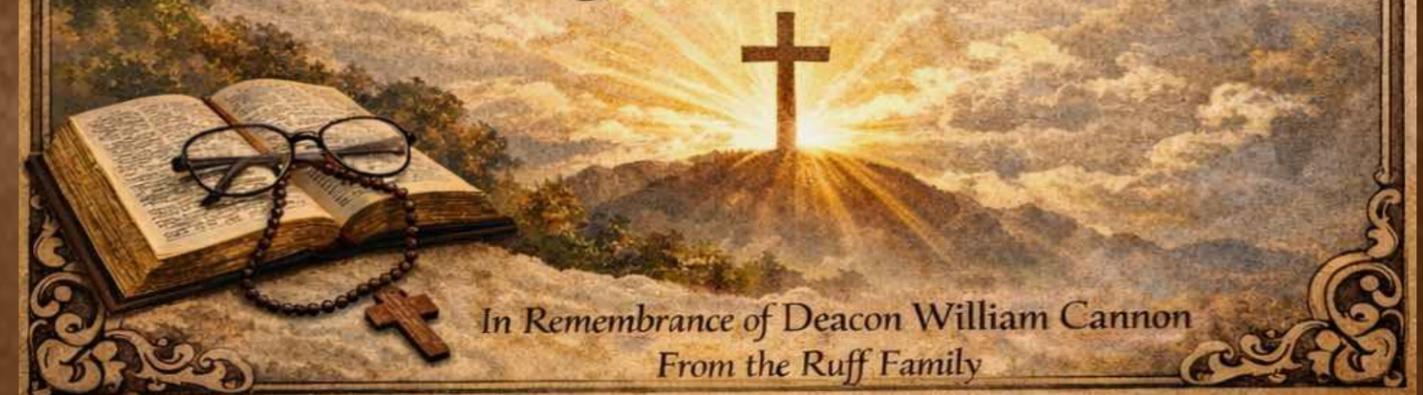
A Deacon, Family Man, Educator so wise,  
A Father figure, a Friend in Christ's eyes.  
With a heart so devoted to our Lord above,  
He filled our lives with Faith and Love.

When he walked in the room, hope would fill the air,  
A beacon of light, with warmth and care.  
He'd say, "I'm holding it in The Road!" with a joyful grin,  
Guiding us all as we journeyed within.

A man of God who loved everyone he knew,  
A true inspiration, his spirit shone through.  
Though now you rest in Heaven's abode,  
Your legacy lives on, in the hearts you bestowed.

Forever in our hearts, Mr. Sunshine you'll remain,  
Till we meet again on Heaven's golden plain.

*"I'm holding it in The Road!"*



In Remembrance of Deacon William Cannon  
From the Ruff Family

# Memories



# Order of Service

Prelude  
 Processional  
 Viewing.....Funeral Directors  
 Opening Hymn..... “How Great Thou Art”  
 Old Testament.....Isaiah 35::8-10.....Minister Eukenyia Lewis  
 New Testament.....Ephesians 4:25-32.....Deacon David Armstrong  
 Prayer of Comfort.....Reverend Dr. Jeryl Salmond  
 Musical Selection..... “Trust In God” .....Deacon Leon Wesley, Soloist  
 Remarks.....Mr. Ben Jeffcoat, Eagle Scout,  
 Deacon Cannon’s Boy Scout Troup/Friend  
 Mrs. Geneva McIntosh, Friend  
 Mr. Lamar Brown, President Allen University Alumni Association  
 Reverend Frank Houston, Church Member  
 Dr. Noble Cooper, Extended Family Member  
 Mrs. Maria McClain Feemster, Granddaughter  
 Musical Selection.....The Madrigals  
 Words of Comfort.....Reverend Dr. Samuel K. Lewis  
 Recessional  
 Postlude



Committal, Benediction, and Interment  
 Palmetto Cemetery  
 5050 Farrow Road  
 Columbia, South Carolina

# Memories



# Memories

