

## 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.

## Pallbearers

Family and Friends

## Floral Bearers

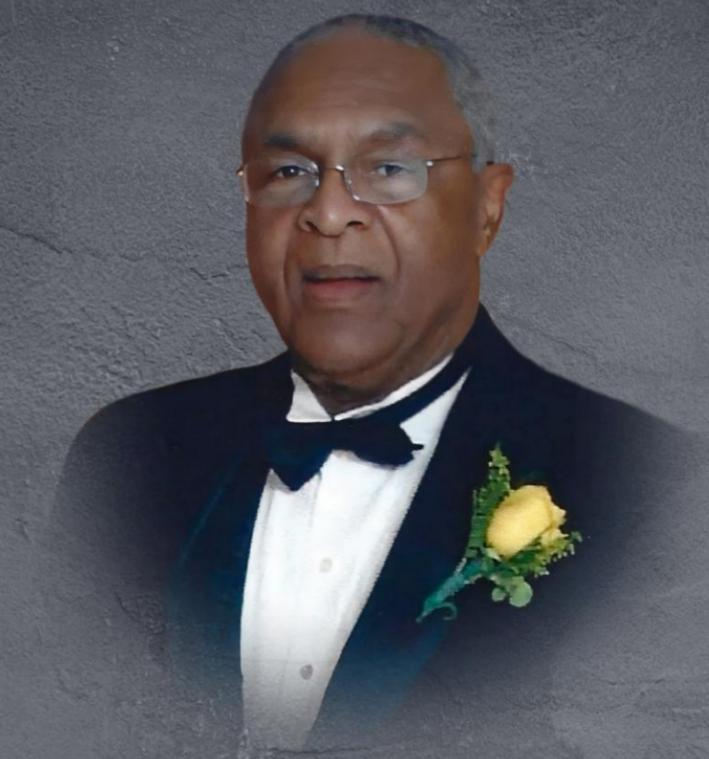
Family and Friends

## Acknowledgement

We, the family of the late Mr. Hayes Samuel, 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.

## *Homegoing Service Celebrating the Life of*

**1SG (RET) HAYES SAMUEL**



**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2026  
11:00 A.M.**

**EMMANUEL AME CHURCH  
2130 BARHAMVILLE ROAD  
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**REVEREND ERTHA BOWMAN  
-PASTOR-**

**CONTACT US:**  
Taylor Street Chapel  
803-771-7799  
Lower Richland Chapel  
803-776-6922  
WWW.LEEVY.COM  
I. S. Leevy Johnson  
-Owner-

Services Entrusted To:  
**Leevy's**  
Chris Leevy Johnson  
-Managing Director-

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Leverette A. Williams, II  
-General Manager-

# Obituary of 1SG (Ret) Hayes Samuel

On behalf of the Samuel Family, we would like to thank you for honoring our loved one, Mr. Hayes Samuel, with your attendance today.

Hayes Samuel was born on November 11, 1936, in Alcolu, South Carolina. He was the second child of the late Henry and Amelia Milton Samuel. He departed this life on Sunday, February 1, 2026. He and his family relocated to Columbia, SC, in 1942. He graduated from C.A. Johnson High School in 1955. His post-high school studies included attending the University of Maryland, where he earned a degree in business administration, and Allen University in Columbia, SC, from 1956 to 1957. Hayes joined the U.S. Army in January 1960 and retired in May 1983.

His post-military career was with the federal government as a GS-15 Budget Analyst, and he retired from this position in May 1995. Hayes returned to his home in Columbia, SC, in 1999 and reconnected with his church, where he joined in 1941 and remained a member until his passing. He married Naomi Griffin on June 23, 2001, and they shared a blended family. He was very active at Emmanuel AME Church, serving as a Trustee, Sunday School Teacher, and later as the Sunday School Superintendent. He was a Bible scholar, a devoted choir member, and a passionate supporter of Vacation Bible School. Hayes is a sports enthusiast; his favorite team is the Baltimore Ravens. He enjoys studying the Word, reading and writing.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Henry and Amelia Samuel, and his siblings, Milton, Henry, Bernard, Doris, and Hessie.

Mr. Hayes Samuel leaves to mourn his passing: his wife, Naomi Samuel. Children: Patricia Price, Kevin McLean (Virginia), Sylvia Bey (Barry), Mark Samuel (Cheryl), Bruce Samuel, Melodie Ivy (Craig), Tina Ellis (Steve), Dr. Benita Esteen (Reginald), Craig Harris (Tonya). Siblings: William Samuel (Loretta), Charles Samuel, Delores McCrea and Henrietta Samuel. 9 children, 29 Grands, 32 Great Grands, 4 Great, Great, GrandsAnd a host of nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, and many other loving relatives and caring friends, all of whom will miss him dearly.

He gave great advice and truly loved the Lord. He was very present for his children and grandchildren. He was compassionate, loving, caring, attentive, and left a lasting impact on everyone who knew him.

Dad, we will miss you immensely. You were our "go-to" when life got tough, our sanity in this crazy world, and our comfort when we needed clarity. You were always someone we could rely on, always expressing your point clearly without judgment, and consistently giving us good advice. You always ensure we make decisions after thinking things through. Because of you, we have the hearts of lions, the love of our family, and a great work ethic.

His favorite response to " How are you doing was, "I am Alive, Well, and Grateful."

## Memories



## A Service of Remembrance

- Musical Prelude
- Processional
- Viewing.....Funeral Directors
- Opening Hymn.....Mr. Daniel Thomas
- Invocation.....Reverend Dr. Andre T. Melvin
- Old Testament.....Reverend Adam China
- New Testament.....Reverend Ertha Bowman
- Prayer of Comfort.....Deacon Samuel C. Biggs
- Musical Selection.....Mr. Daniel Thomas
- Remarks.....Deacon Moses Felder  
Mr. James Felder  
Trustee Norman Jenkins
- Musical Selection.....Mr. Daniel Thomas
- Words of Comfort.....Reverend Florence Butler
- Recessional
- Postlude



## Committal, Benediction and Interment

Woodlawn Cemetery  
10216 Farrow Road  
Blythewood, South Carolina