

If Tears Could Build A Stairway

If tears could build a stairway,
And memories a lane,
I'd walk right up to Heaven
And bring you home again.

No farewell words were spoken,
No time to say "Goodbye",
You were gone before I knew it,
And only God knows why.

My heart still aches with sadness,
And secret tears still flow,
What it meant to lose you,
No one can ever know.

But now I know you want us
To mourn for you no more,
To remember all the happy times,
Life still has much in store.

Since you'll never be forgotten,
I pledge to you today,
A hallowed place within my heart
Is where you'll always stay.

— Author Unknown

Pallbearers

Family and Friends

Floral Bearers

Family and Friends

Acknowledgement

We, the family of Deacon James Taylor, acknowledge with grateful appreciation your prayers and all acts of kindness expressed during our hours of bereavement. May God bless each of you.

Repast

New Light Beulah Baptist Church

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-

SIGN THE ONLINE REGISTRY:



Leverette A. Williams, II
-General Manager-

*Celebrating the Life
of*

DEACON JAMES TAYLOR



**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2026
9:30 A.M.**

**NEW LIGHT BEULAH BAPTIST CHURCH
1330 CONGAREE ROAD
HOPKINS, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**REVEREND CHRIS KEESSEE
-INTERIM PASTOR-**

Obituary

Deacon James Taylor was born on April 23, 1940, in Eastover, South Carolina, to the late John and Eliza Taylor. He was united in holy matrimony on December 18, 1965, to Henrietta Scott and they shared 60 years of marriage. Their loving union was blessed with one child.

Deacon Taylor was educated in the public schools of Richland County and graduated from Hopkins High School in 1959. Shortly thereafter, he enlisted in the United States Air Force, proudly serving his country at Larson Air Force Base in Moses Lake, Washington, and in the Philippines. After receiving an honorable discharge, he began a distinguished 35-year career with the Veterans Administration Office, where he faithfully served as a counselor, assisting fellow veterans with dedication and compassion. Following his retirement, he joined several family members in opening Authentic Tours Charter Bus Company, where he continued his spirit of service by helping clients reach their travel destinations with care and professionalism.

His commitment to veterans and community service extended well beyond his professional career. He served as President of the New Castle Concerned Citizens Inc., was a member of the Disabled American Veterans, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) organizations.

A devoted believer and follower of the Lord, Deacon Taylor was a long-standing and faithful member of New Light Beulah Baptist Church. He served diligently in many capacities, including Trustee, Sunday School Teacher, Vacation Bible School Teacher, and a member of the Jubilee Choir. He was known as a cheerful giver who consistently went above and beyond whenever help was needed.

Affectionately known as "Doc" and "a talker," Deacon Taylor never met a stranger. His warm spirit, wisdom, and engaging conversation left a lasting impression on all who knew him. He found joy in the pleasures of the great outdoors. Deacon Taylor loved playing baseball, hunting, and fishing. He embraced the excitement of the game and the peaceful rhythm of nature. He also enjoyed bowling, traveling to new places, and reading the newspaper to stay informed about the world around him. A proud pioneer of RV camping, they embraced life on the open road, finding joy, freedom, and lasting friendships wherever their travels took them. These simple joys reflected a life lived with gratitude, curiosity, and balance.

Above all Deacon Taylor's greatest love was his family. He leaves to cherish his memory and continue his legacy: his devoted wife, Henrietta S. Taylor; a daughter, Michele Y. Taylor-Brown; a son-in-law, Deacon Derrick T. Brown; and a grandson, Zachary Taylor Brown. He is also survived by his siblings: Katherine (Adam) Reese, Pauline (Clyde) Bouknight, Eliza Jones, Moses (Jenney) Taylor, and Cornelia (Hezekiah) Green; his in-laws, Ernestine Jackson, Linda (Morris) Earle, Gregory (Hester) Scott, and Roderick (Theresa) Scott; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his three brothers John, Odell and Willie Frank Taylor and one sister Josephine Scott.

Deacon Taylor, a faithful servant of God, entered eternal rest at the age of 85. Though he transitioned on February 14, 2026, from labor to reward, his faith, service, love, and legacy will live on in the hearts of all who were blessed to know him.

Memories



A Service of Remembrance

- Musical Prelude
- Processional
- Viewing.....Funeral Directors
- Musical Selection.....Mr. James Mickens
"God Is My Everything"
- Old Testament.....Reverend Jesse Washington, Sr.
Zion Chapel Baptist Church #1
- New Testament.....Reverend John Middleton
New Light Beulah Baptist Church
- Prayer.....Deacon Joey Bouknight, Nephew
City of Hope
- Musical Selection.....Ms. Sybrenda Holiday
"When I Get Home"
- Remarks.....Mr. Zachary Taylor Brown, Grandson
Deacon Tally Adams, New Light Beulah Baptist Church
Deacon Derrick Brown, Son-In-Law
- Musical Selection
- Words of Comfort.....Reverend Chris Keese
- Recessional
- Postlude



Committal, Benediction and Interment

12:00 Noon
Fort Jackson National Cemetery
4170 Percival Road
Columbia, South Carolina