

LIFE REFLECTIONS OF  
*Mrs. Evelyn Stearns*

Mrs. Evelyn Stearns was born on May 1, 1941, in Barnwell, South Carolina, to the late George Bryant and Elma Bryant. She was a devoted wife, loving mother, caring grandmother, and faithful servant whose life was marked by unwavering dedication, quiet strength, and an enduring commitment to her family.

Evelyn attended Booker T. Washington High School before pursuing a career in nursing. She faithfully served as a nurse at South Carolina State Hospital, where she dedicated many years to providing compassionate care before retiring.

Evelyn found great joy in cooking, opening her home to family and friends, and creating lasting memories around the dinner table. Her home was a place of warmth, love, laughter, and togetherness. She loved dressing beautifully and was especially known for her elegant church hats. In November 1965, she married the love of her life, Benjamin Stearns Sr., affectionately known as "Bunny Boy." Together, they shared 60 years of marriage, building a legacy founded on love, unwavering commitment, faith, and family.

From this blessed union, they were blessed with five children: Benjamin (Monica) Stearns Jr. of Columbia, South Carolina; Nettie (John) White of Ontario, California; Stanley (Paula) Stearns of Keysville, Georgia; and Tyrone Stearns and Lamar Stearns, both of Columbia, South Carolina.

Their family continued to grow as they welcomed thirteen beloved grandchildren. Four of her grandchildren—Alex, Erica, Ariel, and Patrick—were raised with additional love, care, and guidance by Evelyn and "Bunny Boy." Their family has also been blessed with seventeen great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild, ensuring that the Stearns family legacy will continue for generations to come.

A woman of unwavering faith, Evelyn was a devoted member of Big Zion Baptist Church on Washington Street in Columbia, South Carolina, where she faithfully worshiped and served for many years until declining health no longer allowed her to attend regularly.

In addition to her loving children and descendants, Evelyn leaves to cherish her memory her beloved siblings: Betty Verne of Columbia, South Carolina; Cassandra Bryant-Jackson of Charlotte, North Carolina; Jean Bryant of Los Angeles, California; and Charles Bryant of Columbia, South Carolina. She also leaves to cherish her memory her beloved sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law: Alice Bratton; Barbara Ann and Alonza Hayes; and Jessie Stearns, all of Columbia, South Carolina, along with a host of cherished nieces, nephews, extended family members, and dear friends.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Benjamin Stearns Sr.; her parents, George Bryant and Elma Bryant; and her siblings: George Bryant Jr., John "JB" Bryant, David Lee Bryant, Gloria Ann Bryant, Carolyn Bryant Owens, and Calvin Dale Bryant.

On July 9, 2026, after courageously battling health challenges, Evelyn peacefully departed this life in the home she loved so dearly. Though her earthly journey has ended, her life remains a beautiful testimony of God's grace, enduring strength, and unfailing love. Her legacy will live on through the family she cherished, the lives she touched, and the faith she faithfully exemplified.

*She will be deeply missed,  
lovingly remembered, and forever  
cherished by all who knew and loved her.*



ORDER OF  
*Service*

|                             |                                                                                    |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Prelude                     |                                                                                    |
| Processional                |                                                                                    |
| Viewing.....                | Funeral Directors                                                                  |
| Opening Selection.....      | Elder Anthony Stubbs                                                               |
| Old and New Testaments..... | Reverend Teressa Wilson                                                            |
| Prayer of Comfort.....      | Pastor Jermaine L. Stearns<br>Grandson                                             |
| Musical Selection.....      | Elder Roni D. Stearns<br>Granddaughter-In-Love                                     |
| Remarks.....                | Erika Rodgers, Granddaughter<br>Nettie White, Daughter                             |
| Musical Selection.....      | Elder Roni D. Stearns<br>Granddaughter-In-Love                                     |
| Words of Comfort.....       | Bishop Designate Jermaine L. Stearns<br>Grandson, Victorious Hope Ministries, Inc. |

Recessional  
Postlude

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

*The family of Mrs. Evelyn Stearns would like to thank each of you for your prayers and support shown to us during the passing of our loved one. It is our prayer that the Lord blesses each of you in a very special way.*

*A wife, a mother, a grandma too,  
This is the legacy we have from you  
You taught us love and how to fight  
You gave us strength, you gave us might.  
A stronger person would be hard to find,  
And in your heart you were always kind.  
You fought for us all in one way or another  
Not just as a wife, not just as a mother.*

*For all of us you gave your best  
And now the time has come for you to rest.*

*So go in peace, you've earned your sleep,  
Your love in our hearts we'll eternally keep.*

## Committal, Benediction and Interment

July 21st, 2026  
10:00 a.m.

Fort Jackson National Cemetery  
4170 Percival Road  
Columbia, South Carolina

## Pallbearers

Family and Friends

## Floral Bearers

Family and Friends

## CELEBRATION OF *Life*



MRS.  
*Evelyn*  
**STEARNS**

MAY 1, 1941 - JULY 9, 2026

FRIDAY, JULY 19, 2026

1:00PM EST

LEEYVS FUNERAL HOME CHAPEL  
1831 TAYLOR STREET  
COLUMBIA, SC 29201

BISHOP DESIGNATE  
**JERMAINE L. STEARNS**  
OFFICIANT