

Pallbearers

Family and Friends

If You Could See Me Now

If you could see me now, you wouldn't shed a tear.
Though you may not understand why I'm no longer here.
Remember my spirit, that's the real me.
I'm still very much alive, oh, if you could only see!

I've held our Father's face. I've touch my Savoir's hand.
The angels all rejoiced as I entered the Promised Land.
Beyond the gates of pearl, I walk on golden streets.
I've touched the walls of jasper, dipped my foot in the
crystal sea.

The beauty is beyond words, nothing can compare.
I've seen your mansion; someday I will meet you there.
Allow Jesus to be your guide, His word will show you the
way.
So, please don't cry! We will meet again someday.



Floral Bearers

Class of 1982

Acknowledgement

We, the family of Mr. Willie Eugene Branic, Jr., are deeply grateful for all who gathered with us today virtually and in person. Your stories, hugs, prayers, and presence have given us immense comfort. Thank you for walking alongside us as we remember Eugene and celebrating his beautiful life. Our prayer is, you are blessed 10-fold for your outpouring of loving kindness.



Homegoing Service Celebrating the Life of

MR. WILLIE EUGENE BRANIC, JR.



Sunrise
October 25, 1964

Sunset
August 4, 2026

MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2026
11:00 A.M.

SECOND NAZARETH BAPTIST CHURCH
2300 ELMWOOD AVENUE
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

REVEREND JOHNNY RAY NOBLE, PHD
-PASTOR-

CONTACT US:

Taylor Street Chapel
803-771-7799

Lower Richland Chapel
803-776-6922

WWW.LEEVY.COM

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Obituary

Willie Eugene Branic Jr., affectionately known to those who loved him as “Gene,” “Coach,” or “Rude Boy” returned to his Heavenly Father on Tuesday, August 4, 2026, at the age of 61. Born on October 25, 1964, in Columbia, South Carolina, to SSGT Willie Eugene Sr. and Dorothy Ann Farrow Branic, “Gene” spent his life building a legacy of faith, mentorship, and community. He accepted Christ at an early age at Second Nazareth Baptist Church, a foundation of faith that guided his steps.

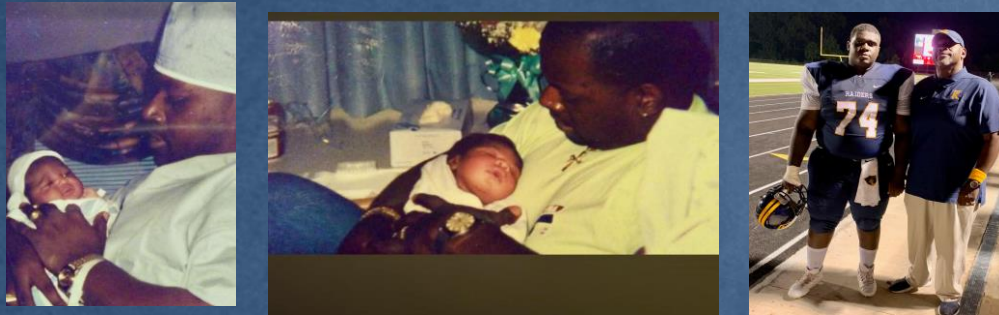
“Gene” was a proud graduate of W.J. Keenan High School, where his love for sports and community first began. He went on to attend South Carolina State College, a place that held a magical chapter in his story. It was there, over a shared textbook incident in the student union, that he met the love of his life, Myra Davis. After earning his Bachelor of Arts in History Degree, “Gene” returned to Columbia to pursue his master’s in professional history. But his heart belonged to Myra, prompting a move to Queens Village, New York, to follow his love. The two were beautifully wed in April 1998, sharing a life filled with devotion, laughter, and two cherished sons: Willie Eugene “Tre” Branic, III, and Myles Davis Branic. While in New York, “Gene” shared his compassionate heart working as an alcohol and drug counselor at Mt. Sinai Hospital.

“Gene’s” true calling was lifting the next generation. This upcoming school year would have marked his 20th year as an educator. He poured his heart into teaching middle school Social Studies across Fairfield and Richland School District One. His impact extended far beyond the classroom walls and onto the athletic fields, where he coached football at Fairfield Middle School, Fairfield Central High School, and his alma mater, W.J. Keenan High School, as well as a short stint coaching baseball at Fairfield Central High School.

To his students he was Mr. Branic and to his athletes, he was “Coach”—a steady source of encouragement and belief. To his college friends, he was the unforgettable “Rude Boy,” a lively dorm adviser in SC State’s Bethea Hall. When he wasn’t teaching or cheering on his beloved Clemson Tigers, “Gene” was likely found in the kitchen. His passion for cooking began at his mother’s side. The family fondly remembers the friendly, loving debates between “Gene” and his mother over who would cook which dish for Thanksgiving dinner. This passion culminated in the creation of Two Sons Catering, famous for its incredible, secret-recipe barbecue sauce. “Gene” loved feeding people, regularly bringing the community together by catering local events, including the EMBODI program with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.

“Gene” leaves behind a rich tapestry of love. His memory will be forever cherished by his devoted wife, Myra Davis Branic; his proud sons, Willie Eugene “Tre” Branic III (Columbia, SC) and Myles Davis Branic (Rock Hill, SC); his loving sisters, Gloria Jean Branic (Pelham, GA), Cynthia Branic Foster, and Brenda B. Branic (both of Columbia, SC); step-sister, Davida Williams (Atlanta, GA); adopted sister, Yolanda Mitchell (Columbia, SC); brothers-in-law, Sam W. Hall (Trish) (Mt. Pleasant, SC), Glenn J. Davis (Altoona, PA) and Edward A. Davis (Carol) (Richmond, Va); sister-in-law, Naomi Davis (Charlotte, NC); a host of nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, students, players, and lifelong friends. “Gene’s” warmth, his secret barbeque sauce, and his coaching whistle will be missed by all, but his welcoming spirit lives on in every life he touched.

Memories



A Service of Remembrance

“Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted”
Matthew 5:4 KJV

Musical Prelude.....Second Nazareth Baptist Church Choir

Processional

Viewing.....Funeral Directors

Old Testament.....Psalm 23.....Pastor Wille Carl Outlaw, E.D.

New Testament.....John 14:1-6.....Pastor Gregory Cunningham

Prayer of Comfort.....Reverend Jerry Melvin Screen, J.D.

Musical Selection.....Pastor Gregory Cunningham
“The Lord’s Prayer”

Remarks.....Richland School District One
Ms. Kreshella K. Goodman, Principal, Alcorn Middle School
Mr. Larry Stivender, Class of 1982
Mr. Avery C. Fields, Friend/Coach
Mrs. Cynthia Branic Foster, Sister
Dr. Brenda B. Branic, Sister

Musical Selection.....Second Nazareth Baptist Church Choir
“It Will Be All Over Afterwhile”

Words of Comfort.....Reverend Johnny Ray Noble, PhD

Recessional

Postlude



Committal, Benediction and Interment

Greenlawn Memorial Park
7100 Garners Ferry Road
Columbia, South Carolina