POEM (from daughters Niya and Clare)

You can shed tears that he is gone,
or you can smile because he has lived.
You can close your eyes and pray that he'll come back,
or you can open your eyes and see all he's left.
Your heart can be empty because you can't see him,
or you can be full of the love you shared.
You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday,
or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.
You can remember him only that he is gone,
or you can cherish his memory and let it live on.
You can cry and close your mind,
be empty and turn your back.
Or you can do what he'd want:
smile, open your eyes, love and go on.

POEM (from wife Nanette)

In Memory of My Dear Husband
The day I lost you, my life changed in ways I never thought possible.
The deepest pain isn't only that you're gone-it's waking up each morning and facing another day without the man I love.
Some losses can never be measured, and some tears never truly dry.
No matter how much time passes, my heart still reaches for you.
If love alone could have kept you here, you never would have left.
Even though I cannot see you, I believe you're at peace, watching over those you love.
That hope carries me through my hardest days.
Until Heaven brings us back into each other's arms,
I'll keep loving you, I'll keep missing you, and I'll carry you in every beat of my heart.
Forever my husband.
Forever my home.

POEM (from Son, Clarence Jaiden)

Death is not the greatest loss in life.

The greatest loss is what dies inside while still alive.

Never Surrender.

Pallbearers

Walt Jackson
Brian Chapman
Rudy Woodson
Ro Thompson
Duane Graham
Jamil Canada

Floral Bearers

Cousins

Acknowledgement

We, the family of Mr. Clarence Ray Hassell, would like to thank each of you for your prayers and support during the passing of our loved one. It is our prayer that the Lord blesses each of you in a very special way.



Homegoing Service Celebrating the Life of

Mr. Clarence Ray Hassell



Saturday, October 17, 2026
12:00 Noon

Brown Chapel AME Church
808 Barnes Street
Columbia, South Carolina

Reverend Dr. Dennis W. Broughton, Jr.
-Pastor-

Obituary

Clarence Ray Hassell, 53, born in Columbia, South Carolina, on September 27, 1973, was the beloved son of Rhonda Sims and the late Clarence Spigner. When he was three years old, Clarence spent the next three years on a tour of military duty with his adoptive grandparents, Ray and Betty Hassell, and family in Berlin, Germany. He enjoyed growing up in the Department of Youth Activities until his return to the United States in August of 1980. Raised with a deep appreciation for family and a strong work ethic, Clarence lived his life anchored by these core values before peacefully departing this earthly life. He entered his eternal rest on Saturday, October 10, 2026.

As a youth, Clarence attended Brown Chapel AME Church, where he was involved in the Young People's Department, Sunday School and the B.C. Singers. He accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior at a young age

Clarence attended Greenview Elementary School, W. G. Sanders Middle School, and graduated with the W. J. Keenan Class of 1991. While at Keenan, Clarence was an outstanding member of the Tennis Team and earned a scholarship to attend South Carolina State University, where he majored in Criminal Justice and was a member of the Tennis Team.

After his freshman year at South Carolina State, Clarence worked in Retail, to include Circuit City and Dollar Tree Stores. Clarence then worked for several years as a Private Investigator, traveling throughout the State of South Carolina. He attended the SC Criminal Justice Academy and worked as a Correctional Officer with the South Carolina Department of Corrections. He worked as a City of Columbia Police Officer while also working security at multiple businesses and churches throughout the city. He was a School Resource Officer at Eau Claire High School before he was medically retired.

On May 22, 2004, Clarence married the love of his life, Nanette Denise Bush. They were married for 22 years.

Clarence enjoyed playing tennis, watching sports, grilling, entertaining others, spending time with his family and friends, and was an avid Washington Commanders fan.

Clarence was preceded in death by his father, Clarence Spigner, and stepfather, Thomas Sims

He leaves to cherish precious memories, his wife, Nanette Bush Hassell; his son, Clarence J. Hassell of Mooresville, NC; his daughters, Niya and Clare Hassell of Gadsden, SC; mother, Rhonda Sims of Columbia, SC; grandmother, Laura Betty Ann Hassell of Columbia; three sisters, Simone Spigner of Newark, NJ; Serena (Norris) Williams of Ft. Mill, SC; Sarah Sims of Inman, SC; father-in-law, Emanuel Bush of Gadsden, SC; sister-in- law, Kimberly (Colin) Richardson of Waxhaw, NC; five (5) nephews, Norris and Noble Williams of Ft Mill, SC; Andrew Green of Newark, NJ; Ethan and Grant Richardson of Waxhaw, NC.

Aunts

Christine Phelps of Richmond, Virginia; Ida Jackson, Columbia, SC; Catherine Sewell, Julia (Ulysses) Weston, Mary (Cleveland) Young and Diane (Trent) Green of Gadsden, SC; Dorothy Tatem of Richmond, VA; Valerie (Ronald) McFadden of Columbia, SC; Toni Butts of Atlanta, Georgia, and Melanie Marshall of Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Uncles

Robert (Geraldine) Anderson, Sr., John L. (Susie) Anderson; Izell (Mary) Anderson of Elgin, SC; George (Michelle) Anderson; Jacob Bush of Columbia, SC; Lee Bush of Jackson, MS; Michael Bush of Capital Heights, MD; Melvin (Jackie) Tatem of Edenton, North Carolina; Wilbert (Portia) Tatem of Elizabeth City, North Carolina; Richard Tatem of Upper Marlboro, Maryland, Jimmie Tatem, Sr. of Raleigh, North Carolina; Gary (Rita) Spigner of Columbia, South Carolina; and Darris Hassell (Columbia, South Carolina).

Special cousins, Walt Jackson of Columbia, South Carolina, and Brian Chapman of Simpsonville, South Carolina, and a host of cousins and other relatives and many devoted friends who will miss him dearly.

Memories



Order of Service

Prelude

Processional

Musical Selection …… Choir and Congregation

Prayer of Comfort ……Reverend Ronald McFadden

Old Testament …… ……Reverend Kenneth McFadden
Psalms 23:1-6

New Testament…… …… Reverend Flavian Coleman
St. John 14:1-6

Musical Selection ……Grands Incorporated

Reflections …… Mr. Markilo Anderson (Friend)
Mr. Domino Boulware (Friend)
Mrs. Serena Williams (Sister)
The Fellas

Acknowledgements……Brown Chapel AME Church

Musical Selection …… Grands Incorporated

Words of Comfort ……Reverend John Lewis

Viewing

Recessional

Postlude

Committal, Benediction, and Interment

Brown Chapel AME Church Cemetery
808 Barnes Street
Columbia, South Carolina