

GRACE

In the early morning hours of September 8, 2008 Freddie Eugene Grace, Sr. quietly answered his Homegoing call. A devout servant of God, he was a beloved husband, father, uncle, brother, nephew, cousin, church leader, neighbor, friend and co-worker.

Brother Grace was born June 1, 1920 to Lillie Belle and Will Grace in Pensacola, FL. His father died when the young Freddie was 5 years old. During the Great Depression his mother moved the family to Alabama. By age 9 he was working to help sustain his family. Cousins told stories of him plowing the fields in Alabama with an ox, named "Bud" that followed him around like a pet dog. Despite having lost school time while living in Alabama, upon return to Pensacola, Freddie persisted in his education and graduated from Booker T. Washington High School at the age of 21.

He received a certificate in electricity from Florida A&M University. He later returned to A&M and completed three years of college. He moved to Charleston in the 1940's to work as an electrician at the Charleston Naval Shipyard and was promoted to Foreman of Temporary Service, Shop 99. He retired in 1983 after 34 years of service. During his service at CNS he received special commendations. On one occasion he was cited for making a cost savings of thousands of dollars. In another event he was cited when he helped to save the life of a coworker whose clothing had caught on fire. As the terrified man ran down the pier, Freddie caught him and helped put out the fire with his bare hands.

In his early years he joined the AME Zion Church in Pensacola. After moving to Charleston he joined Wesley United Methodist Church where he remained a member until his death. Over the years he was church trustee, class leader, Lay Leader and Sunday school teacher.

He was joined in marriage to Martha Charlotte Levine on July 31, 1955. To that union were born Candis, Mary and Edna (Ethna) and Freddie, Jr. He was unwavering in his commitment as a husband and father. In the 1960's, with his own hands, he built a house that no hurricane has been able to destroy. He and Charlotte continually exemplified the Christian life. Freddie would attempt to fix or build just about anything. "No" and "Can't" were words he did not use or allow.

He was a 60 year member of Nehemiah Lodge No. 51 F.& A.M. Prince Hall Affiliation, where he was a Past Worshipful Master; a member of Arabian Temple 139 A.E.A.O.N.M.S. and George Washington Carver Consistory 162.

Brother Grace leaves to rejoice in his Homegoing his wife of 53

IN MEMORIAM

years. Mrs. Martha Charlotte Levine Grace, daughters, Dr. Candis Grace-Lee of Owings Mills, MD, Mrs. Mary Wilkerson of Winston-Salem, NC, Edna Grace of Goose Creek, SC and Joanne Morgan of New York; son, Freddie E. Grace, Jr. of Columbia, SC; their spouses Mr. Antonio Lee, Mr. MacDouglas Wilkerson, Mrs. Robin Grace and Mr. Alvin Cunningham; grandchildren, Kimberly, Charlotte, Beatrice, Camille, Aimee, Jocelyn, Morgana and Leonce; step-grandson, MacDouglas Nettles; nieces, Mrs. Deborah Baker, Mrs. Jacqueline Brown and Mrs. Patricia McBean; nephews, Dr. Richard Kennedy and Mr. Bryan Kennedy; first cousin Charles Jones and his wife, Rosetta of New York; 4 step-grandchildren; 7 grandnieces; 4 grandnephews; a great-grandnephew; and a host of relatives and friends He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers, Eddie Clopton and Willie Grace and sister, Anna Kennedy.

Brother "Daddy" Grace was a quiet soul. He didn't brag, complain or ask for show. He had quiet words of wisdom and an understated sense of humor and wit. He surprised his grandchildren when in his 80's he climbed on a bicycle and went for a ride.

Seemingly tireless in his efforts, his life of 88 years is the testament of a God-filled life.

"Servant of God, Well Done." Funeral service for Mr. Grace were held on Saturday, September 13, 2008 2:00 PM at Wesley United Methodist Church, 446 Meeting Street, Charleston, SC. Arrangements by Fielding Home for Funerals, 122 Logan Street, Charleston, SC 29401, Interment: Sunset Memorial Gardens, 2719 Ashley Phosphate Road, North Charleston, SC 29418. Clark S. Brown & Sons was in charge of local arrangements

KEARSE

Mrs. Bernice S. Kearse, of Winston-Salem, N.C. was born Feb. 15, 1926 to Viola Mason Scales and Robert Scales. She departed this life Sept. 19, 2008.

Mrs. Kearse graduated Atkins High School in 1943; she received a B.S. in 1947 at Winston-Salem State University, and received an M.A. from Southern Conn. State University. She was preceded in death by her parents; a daughter, Brenda E.

Kearse; and a brother, Robert Scales.

She is survived by her devoted husband of 60 years, Samuel E. Kearse, Sr.; a daughter, Beverly A. Kearse of Atlanta, G.A.; sons, Samuel E. Kearse, II of New Haven, Conn., and Terry L. Kearse (Betty) of Winston-Salem, N.C.; three grandsons, Kenneth Moye (Marilyn) of Charlotte, N.C., Keith Moye of Durham, N.C., and Brandon A. Kearse of Winston-Salem, N.C.; two great-grandsons, Kenan Moye and Khristian Moye; a sister, Marian Scales Collins; a brother, Bernard Scales (Josephine); and a sister-in-law, Madeline Scales.

Funeral services were held at 12 noon Sept. 26 at United Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church. Rev. Prince R. Rivers officiated. Interment followed in Evergreen Cemetery. Online condolences may be made at www.russellfuneralservice.com. Russell Funeral directors were in charge of services and arrangements.

MYERS

Beatrice Wilkins Myers departed this life on Sept. 24 at the Kate Biting Reynolds Hospice Home.

Beatrice was born March 25, 1926 in Rutherfordton, N.C. to Rev. Thomas J. and Evangelist Hattie H. Wilkins. She was an active member of New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church for over 20 years until joining her brother's Ministry, Compassion of Christ Outreach Ministry.

She was preceded in death by her parents; four brothers and four sisters; Effie Cannon, Geneva Jones, Julia Thomas, Jessie Mae Abbott, and Lewis, Harold, Robert, and Wilbert Wilkins. She leaves to cherish her memories her daughter, Phyllis (Walter) Combs; her son, Bernard (Barbara) Wilkins; four grandchildren, Alfred Myers, Antonia Myers, Eleathia Wilkins, and Ceilita (Alvin) Hughes; eight great-grandchildren; her sister, Martha (Norris, Sr.) Gullick; four brothers, Thomas (Grace), Richard (Mary), Oscar (Vivian), and Pastor Melvin (Marilyn) Wilkins; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m. Sept. 27 from the Russell Funeral Home Chapel. Pastor Melvin "Rip" Wilkins, Sr. officiated. Inter-

ment followed in Evergreen Cemetery.

A special thanks to her loving and devoted caretaker, Gloria Little and her devoted friends, Claretta Thomas, Belinda Beasley, Hattie Jones and Love.

Online condolences may be made at www.russellfuneralservice.com. Russell Funeral directors were in charge of services and arrangements.

PIERCE

On Monday, September 15, 2008, Mrs. Willie Mae Simmons Pierce, affectionately known as "Sister," departed this life at Forsyth Medical Center, following a period of declining health. She was born in Winston-Salem, NC on August 28, 1927 to Charlie and Dora Porter Simmons. Sister was a graduate of Atkins High School, class of 1944 and was a beloved employee at Centenary United Methodist Church for 38 years until her retirement in 1987.

She was a faithful member of the Antioch Christian Church, Camel City Elks Lodge and the American Legion Post 128. Preceded in death by her parents, spouse of 42 years, Jesse H. (Peas) Pierce, two brothers, Clyde (Louise) Porter and Johnny (Rose) Simmons. Sister leaves to cherish her memories a loving son, Percell L. Simmons of the home, a niece, Valerie Porter of New Jersey, her devoted extended family Tony, Deborah and Toni Grace of this city, cousins and a host of other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, September 20, 2008 in the chapel of Clark S. Brown & Sons Funeral Home with Rev. James Gilliam officiating. Interment in Evergreen Cemetery. (Clark S. Brown & Sons).

SHAVERS

Mr. James B. Shavers departed this life on September 6, 2008 at his residence. He was born April 11, 1947 in Kingstree, SC and attended the Forsyth County Schools. James was a carpenter by trade. He was preceded in



death by his parents Mr. Johnny B. and Mrs. Earline Shavers; also a brother Joseph Shavers and a grandson James (Jai) Parks. He leaves to cherish his memory a devoted friend Gwen Gidderon; three children; Tracie (James) Shavers-Parks of Korea, Christopher Shavers and Nicole Wilkes; one brother, O'Neal (Gaynelle) Shavers; two nieces Donna and Tasha Shavers all of the city; one nephew Thomas (Alice) Shavers of Korea and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, great nieces, nephews other relatives and devoted friends.

Funeral Services were held on Saturday, September 13, 2008 at 1:30 PM in the chapel of Clark S. Brown & Sons Funeral Home with Rev. Howard Daniels, officiating. Interment was in Parklawn Memorial Park. (Clark S. Brown & Sons)

THOMAS

Mr. Willie James Thomas, Sr. was born May 10, 1927 to Isiah and Elsie Thomas in Kingstree, S.C. God called Mr. Thomas Home Sept. 19.

He attended the local public school in Kingstree, S.C. and retired from the State of South Carolina. He was also a devoted and faithful deacon of Number 1 Holiness Church until his health declined. Mr. Thomas relocated to Winston-Salem, N.C. with his daughter where he resided for six years. He was married to Louise M. Thomas for 51 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife; and two sons, Marion and Willie James Thomas, Jr.

He leaves to cherish fond memories his children, Willie M. Thomas of Winston-Salem, N.C., Helen (Hayward) Robinson of Pageland, S.C., Barbara (Edwin) Rodriguez of East Bend, N.C., Johnnie P. Thomas of Arlington, T.X., Leverne (Dee) Thomas of Oklahoma City, O.K. and Margie A. Thomas of Fort Worth, T.X.; one brother, Isiah (Mary) Thomas of Kingstree, S.C.; grandchildren, Tammy and Bridgette L. Fulton both of Winston-Salem, N.C., Nicole L. Ellis of Charlotte, N.C., Edwin C. Rodriguez and Hillary (Monte) King both of East Bend, NC, Shaya and Kendra Thomas both of Baltimore, MD, and Jiwan Thomas of Fort Worth, TX; 1-6 great-grandchildren; and a host of aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

He gave us love and it will continue to be cherished and remembered by each of us!

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Sept. 27 from the Number 1 Holiness Church in Kingstree, S.C. Interment followed in the Tom & Fulton Cemetery, Kingstree, S.C.

Online condolences may be made at www.russellfuneralservice.com. Russell Funeral directors were in charge of services and arrangements.



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