

THE WORLD COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

LOCAL

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INTERNATIONAL

MARCH 2025

MARCH is WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

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Women's History Month is an annual declared month that highlights the contributions of women to events in history and contemporary society. It is celebrated during March in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia, corresponding with International Women's Day on March 8, and during October in Canada, corresponding with the celebration of Persons Day on October 18.

The commemoration began in 1978 as "Women's History day" in Sonoma County, California, and was championed by Gerda Lerner and the National Women's History Alliance to be recognized as a national week (1980) and then month (1987) in the United States, spreading internationally after that.

History

Women's History Week

In the United States, Women's History Month traces its beginnings back to the first International Women's Day in 1911. The holiday had been largely forgotten in the US until the late 1960s, when an activist calling herself **Laura X** organized a march in Berkeley, CA, on International Women's Day (March 8, 1969). The march led to the U.S. rediscovery of International Women's Day, and the creation of The Women's History Research Center, a central archive of the Women's movement from 1968 to 1974. Laura X thought it unfair for half the human race to have only one day a year and called for National Women's History Month to be built around International Women's Day.

In February 1980, **President Jimmy Carter issued a presidential proclamation declaring the week of March 8, 1980**, as **National Women's History Week**. The proclamation stated,

"From the first settlers who came to our shores, from the first American Indian families who befriended them, men and women have worked together to build this nation. Too often the women were unsung and sometimes their contributions went unnoticed. But the achievements, leadership, courage, strength and love of the women who built America was as vital as that of the men whose names we know so well. As

Dr. Gerda Lerner has noted, 'Women's History is Women's Right.' It is an essential and indispensable heritage from which we can draw pride, comfort, courage, and long-range vision. I ask my fellow Americans to recognize this heritage with appropriate activities during National Women's History Week, March 2–8, 1980. I urge libraries, schools, and community organizations to focus their observances on the leaders who struggled for equality –**Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth, Lucy Stone, Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Harriet Tubman, and Alice Paul**. Understanding the true history of our country will help us to comprehend the need for full equality under the law for all our people. This goal can be achieved by ratifying the 27th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which states that 'Equality of Rights under the Law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.'" Carter was referring to the Equal Rights Amendment, which was never ratified, not to the amendment which did become the 27th Amendment to the United States Constitution after his presidency.

In 1981, responding to the growing popularity of Women's History Week, **Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) and Rep Barbara Mikulski (D-Maryland)** co-sponsored the first Joint Congressional Resolution proclaiming a Women's History Week. Congress passed their resolution as Pub. L. 97-28, which authorized and requested the President to proclaim the week beginning March 7, 1982, as "Women's History Week."



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By Priscilla Wyman Fuller

**Priscilla W. Fuller**

Women's History Month is a special time of the year to acknowledge women and their contributions, though as women we know that we are special throughout the year. As I remember the women in my life that impacted me, there are so many that I can draw inspiration.

Always beginning with my mom, **Lula Wyman**, a strong woman with an 8th-grade education working as a sharecropper and often as a housemaid to supplement the family income. Her life was about her

strong belief in God, in family unity, strong moral values, and a work ethic. Before women's liberation became popular in the 1970s, she believed in women getting an education and being independent. Although she could not afford to send her children to college (she had eight), she encouraged getting an education as she believed that was the way to move up in life.

Although I did not always agree with some of her philosophies growing up, I clearly now understand and agree with most of them. There are several teachers that I had that truly encouraged me. One was **Ms. Edna Baldwin Levister** who encouraged and inspired me in writing; writing what you feel, writing about life in my family. This helped me in so many avenues.

In looking back at my life there are so many strong Black women who were pioneers in making a difference. Too numerous to know all of them but a reason to always research the history. to find out about them. So many of them did not have the resources we have today but struggled to make a difference. We cannot forget these women in medicine, politics, journalism, housewife and every walk of life. Never let anyone tell you history does not matter. These women were our steppingstones to who we are now. Life is hard now with so many things happening but looking back at our history, we always had struggles, but we were resilient. let no one tell you differently. It is not about the name brands we can now afford or those wonderful vacations we can take around the world. It is not about the title we attached to our names. It is about what we are doing to lift our younger and sometimes older sisters and brothers to give a hand, to give guidance and give back to our communities. We must ask ourselves this question often. *Only then can we appreciate what we see in the mirror.*

**Mrs. Lula Wyman****Ms. Edna B. Levister**

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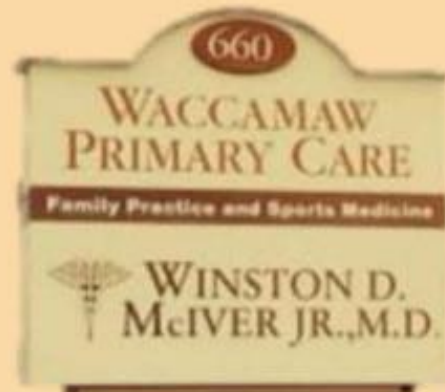
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Receives “Duty to God” Award from Scouting America

On February 23, 2025, Scouting America had its Annual Awards Ceremony & Reception in Camden, SC. The mission of **Scouting America** is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

The World Community Magazine extends maximum congratulations to former Whittemore High School Band Director, **Leslie H. McIver, Sr.**, as he was awarded the “**Duty to God**” honor at this awards ceremony. A forwarded narrative of this distinguished gentleman is as follows:

Leslie Hathaway McIver, Sr. is a lifelong servant leader dedicated to Scouting, education, ministry, and community development. A retired educator with the Horry County School District (40 years) United Methodist Church ordained clergy, and

Chaplain at Conway Medical Center, Leslie has made an immeasurable impact on youth and families. His academic journey includes an Ed.S. degree from the University of South Carolina, an MME from Vandercook College of Music, and an AB degree from Claflin College. His theological education spans Wesley Seminary, Methodist Theological Seminary, and Clinical Pastoral Education at Roper St. Francis Healthcare System. He has also participated in United Methodist Volunteer in Mission trips across Central América, Eastern Europe, and Haiti.

A steadfast community leader, Leslie has served as a Councilman for the City of Conway for 16 years, chaired the Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments, and held leadership roles in numerous civic organizations, including the Conway Ministerial Association, United Way Salvation Army, and Chamber of Commerce. He was a founding member of the Conway Rotary Club and a Charter Member of the Horry Cultural Arts Council.

Within Scouting, Leslie has served as Scoutmaster for Troop 154 in Conway, a mentor for the God and Country religious program, a Board Member for the Pee Dee Area Council, and an Advisory Board Member for the Indian Waters Council. His commitment was recognized with the Silver Beaver Award, one of Scouting's highest honors for distinguished service.

Leslie's state and national accolades include the South Carolina Band Master of the Year, citations from both the South Carolina House and Senate for Community Service, the Olmstead Prize for Excellence in Secondary School Teaching, and as a Paul Harris Fellow with Rotary International and National Officer and Life Member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

A Wood Badge-trained Scouter, Leslie embodies the principles of the Duty to God Award which recognizes those who provide transformational, spiritual, moral, and ethical leadership. As a current member of Trinity United Methodist Church in Conway, his lifelong dedication to faith, youth mentorship, and community service continues to inspire those around him. He was married to the late Mary Anne McIver and has four adult children who each continue to have their own impact on their communities and society.

Special Thanks to Mr. Kenneth McIver, son of Mr. Leslie McIver, Sr., for Providing all Information in this article.

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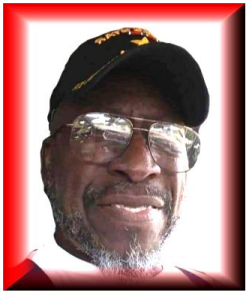
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HCCV-CDC VETS Hosts The 4th Annual Sgt. Harold Blye, Sr. Humanitarian & Innovator Leadership Awards Ceremony



On February 08, 2025, the **Horry County Coalition of Veterans (HCCV)** celebrated Black History Month by inviting everyone to the Mount Olive AME Church to help show appreciation to some well-deserved veterans and other members of the Horry County Community who made a difference in their communities.

The **HCCV** is a charitable organization headquartered in Conway, SC. It took this opportunity to celebrate the late **US Army Vietnam Veteran, Sgt. Harold Blye, Sr.** *During his tenure of service to the country he*

was the recipient of 2 Silver Star Medals, 2 Bronze Star Medals, 5 Air Medals, Purple Heart Medal, Arm Commendation for Heroism in Action, Myrtle Beach Community Leader, and Myrtle Beach Community Historian.

This year the **Veteran Honorees** include; Mr. Prince Bowens; Ms. Margaret L. Herriott; Mr. Johnny Ray Lewis; Mr. O’Neal Smalls; Mr. Herbert Corbitt Jr., Mr. James Keno; Mr. J.V. Mott and Mr. Ralph Vaught.

The **Innovator Leadership Awards** went to: Ms. Frances Bowens; Ms. Shirley Gore; Mr. Phillip Brown; Mr. James E. “Buddy” Lee; and Mrs. Mary E. Moore.

Kudos to **HCCV President William Pennington, Vice President Curtis Platt and remaining members for continuing with this worthy endeavor for the Community.**



HCCV President William Pennington



Ms. Frances Bowens



Mr. Herbert Corbitt Jr



Ms. Margaret L. Herriott



For Mr. James Keno



For Mr. Johnny Ray Lewis



Mr. J.V. Mott



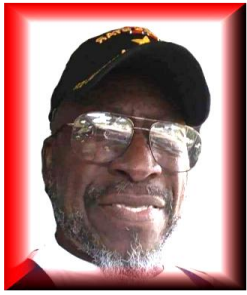
Mr. O’Neal Smalls



Mr. Ralph Vaught

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On February 08, 2025, the **Horry County Coalition of Veterans (HCCV)** celebrated Black History Month by inviting everyone to the **Mount Olive AME Church** to help show appreciation to some well-deserved veterans and other members of the Horry County Community who made a difference in their communities.



Mrs. Mary E. Moore



Mr. James "Buddy" Lee



The Harold Blye Family



For Mr. Phillip Brown



Ms. Shirley Gore



Special Thanks to Mrs. Mary Brown, team and crew, who provided outstanding food and decorations at Mt. Olive AME Church.

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The Annual CHS Cultural Celebration Recognized Three Historical Legacies in the Community

Kudos to Mrs. Claudine Schofield and the Conway High School Cultural Planning Committee for producing a successful Cultural Celebration honoring historical mortuary service with milestones of longevity in the community.



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This well-coordinated celebration had an opening introduction by *Miss Reese Richardson (Miss CHS 2025)*; A Welcome Message by **Conway High School (CHS) Principal, Dr. Tanika McKissick**; A very powerful Musical Tribute by *Mr. Christopher Hennigan* singing the Black National Anthem, "Life Every Voice and Sing;" *Jayden Griffin* gave the Blessing of the food. Miss Reese Richardson presented the individual students who subsequently introduced each honoree beginning with *Jayden Benning* honoring **Latimer Funeral Home**; *Skylar Platt* honoring **McKiever Funeral Home**; and *Jordan "JP" Courtney* honoring *Ocean View Funeral Home*. Additional musical tributes were performed by *Mrs. Kimberly Lee, Miss Reese Richardson, and a special Rev. Martin Luther King Tribute by Clyde Gore*. Closing remarks were offered by *Mr. Chad Hamilton, Assistant CHS Principal*.



Continued on Page 14

The Annual CHS Cultural Celebration Recognized Three Historical Legacies in the Community

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ABOVE: Kudos to The Mighty CHS Students that served a delicious meal that everyone thoroughly enjoyed. Great Job !!



Supporters of the Ceremony were Very Pleased with the Delicious Meal Served by the CHS Student Volunteer Food Servers



The Mighty CHS Cultural Planning and Coordinating Committee



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Valuable Gems of The World Community Magazine Treasure Chest

The Eastern Star of Horry County



Photo Originally Submitted by The Late Ms. Laura Francis McQueen

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THEY HELPED PAVED THE WAY !!

Members of the Horry County Eastern Star Pose in Front of Bethel AME Church (Date Unknown)

The Eastern Star is a national organization as a female counterpart to the Masons. It is headquartered in Washington DC and was founded in 1896. It is defined as a benevolent Society restricted in Membership to Masons and their families, whose local units participate in community charity work and in social affairs.

The World Community Magazine welcomes input from our readers regarding identification of members. Email to: WCMagazine2@gmail.com

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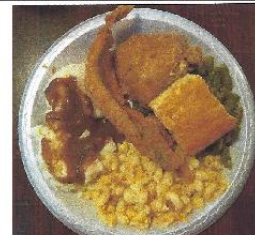
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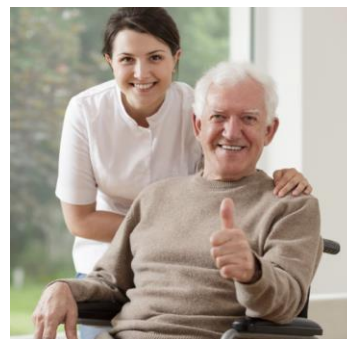
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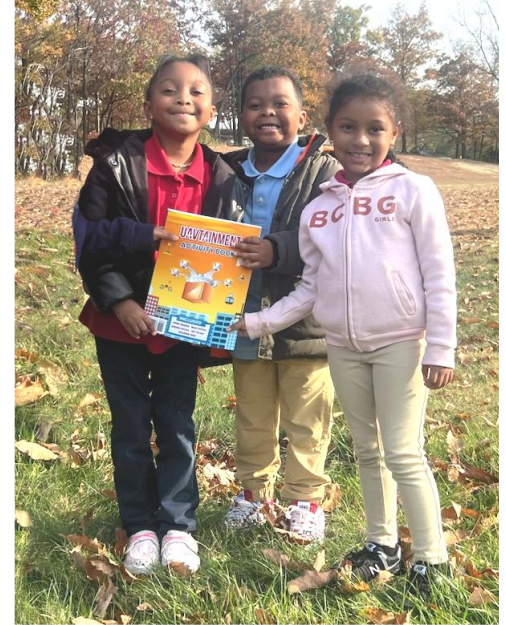
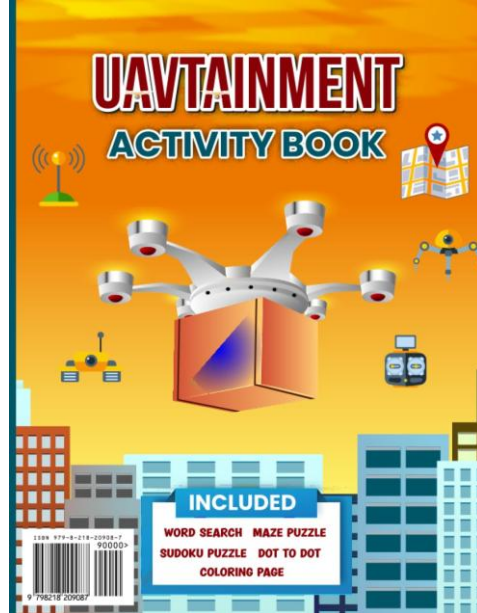
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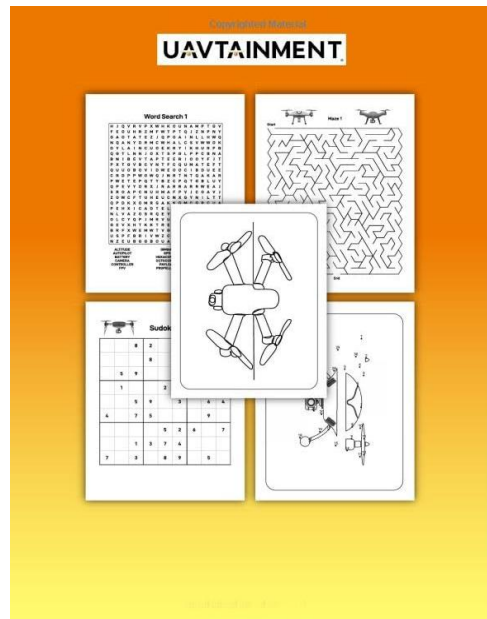
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8	7				1		5
	2			7			4
	9	2		1	5		
		8	7	2			
	4		5	3	6	2	
2		9			4	8	7
4	1		9		8		5
7		5	3			4	



Back Cover of Book

Word Search 1

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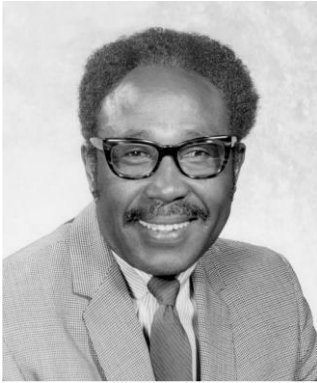
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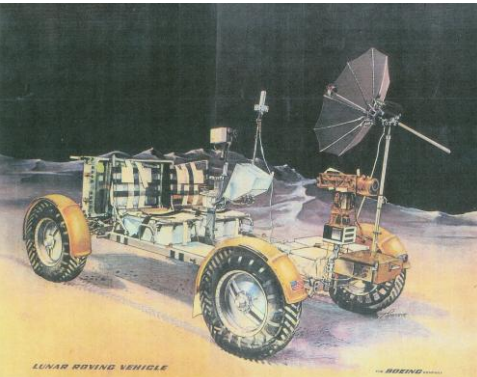


Dr. Robert E. Shurney, an aerospace engineer at NASA renowned for achievements critical to the success of the Apollo and Skylab programs, was a deacon, community services leader, and longtime member of the Oakwood College church.

Early Years

Born on December 29, 1921 in Dublin, Georgia to Vance Shurney (1900-1991) and St. Clair (Clara) Weston Shurney (1901-1930), Robert was the third of four children. His father, a veteran of World War I, was employed in the Dublin Lumber Company sawmill.¹ Following the death of their mother

in 1930 due to complications during pregnancy, Robert and his siblings were raised by grandparents in San Bernadino, California.² As a teenager Robert discovered he had a talent for designing things and worked as an auto mechanic. He wanted to become an engineer, but had to drop out of school in order to help support his family during the Depression years. Eventually he made his way to Huntsville, Alabama, where he studied and worked at Oakwood Junior College. He was inducted into the United States Army on November 13, 1943, serving as a medic in the European theater during World War II.



Artist conception of Dr. Shurney's design of the lunar rover tires.

Marriage, Family, and High Aspirations

Shurney married Susie Flynt (d. 1997), whom he met while a student at Oakwood, on May 16, 1946, two months after his discharge from the Army. They would have four children: Darrell, Glyndon, Glenn, and Ronald.⁴ The Shurneys lived in southern California for approximately three years. They then moved to Nashville, Tennessee, where Robert took a position as a maintenance engineer for Riverside Sanitarium and Hospital, an Adventist medical institution established to serve African Americans during the segregation era. While at Riverside, Shurney and his colleague Jonathan Walker led the hospital's maintenance staff in completing every phase of the construction of a new Adventist elementary school, except for the architectural plans. The school, intended primarily to provide Adventist education for the children of hospital employees, opened September 19, 1961.

Shurney's inventive gift became evident when he designed and installed a rotational surgical lamp for the hospital. Dr. Carl Dent, Riverside's medical director, urged him to complete his college degree. Having long desired to pursue higher education, Shurney resolved to do so despite warnings from others about the obstacles he would face as a middle-aged Black man and father of four children. He pushed forward, graduating in 1962 with a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering and physics from Tennessee State University.

Continued on Page 31

Marian Rogers Croak is an American engineer known for her voice over IP (VoIP) related inventions. Croak worked for three decades at Bell Labs and AT&T where she filed over 200 patents and works at Google since 2014 where she is Vice President of Engineering. In 2022, she was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame for her work with VoIP.



Early life and education

Born May 14, 1955, Croak was raised in New York City. She credits her lifelong interest in technology to her father. While he did not have formal education beyond elementary school, he built her a chemistry set that set into motion an early exploration of the sciences. Croak grew up entranced by the inner workings of plumbing, electricity, and other home-related maintenance. Her career is defined by the desire to fix broken systems, just like the technicians she viewed as a child. She got a bachelor's degree from Princeton University in 1977 and a PhD from the University of Southern California in Social Psychology and Quantitative Analysis. Her education pointed her to the direction of Bell Labs where she worked for three decades.



Career

She started off in Bell's Human Factors division, with the specific purpose of studying how technology could be used to positively impact human's lives. Croak first began working on digital messaging applications, tasked with the study of determining if various messaging applications could communicate with each other. This kind of research was very novel, as the earliest form of the Internet would not come to full fruition until the next year in 1983. Bell Labs wanted to send voice, text, and video data digitally rather than using a standard phone line. The favored mechanism for this was Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) protocol but Croak, along with the rest of her team, convinced AT&T to use TCP/IP instead. TCP/IP allowed for a standardized way of packaging and communicating information.

While at AT&T, Croak and her team contemplated the potential of digital telecommunications. She worked on advancing Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) technologies, converting voice data into digital signals that can be easily transmitted over the internet rather than using traditional phone lines. Her work has furthered the capabilities of audio and video conferencing.

At AT&T she patented the technology that allowed cellphone users to donate money to organizations using text messaging. She developed this technology during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, and it revolutionized how people donate to charitable organizations when a natural disaster occurs. She was inspired to do this after seeing AT&T develop technology that helped *American Idol* set up a voting system that relied on text messages rather than voice calls, in 2003. The technology that she created with co-inventor Hossein Eslambolchi, was not finalized until October 2005, a couple of months after Hurricane Katrina.

Continued on Page 34

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Samya A. Muhammad

Bessie Blount-Griffin

In recognition of Women’s History Month, I would like to write about an amazing woman who invented a device that would help disabled soldiers have the ability to eat. Her name was *Mrs. Bessie Blount-Griffin* and she was born on the 24th of November, 1914. The school she attended growing up was, Diggs Chapel Elementary School. The school was in Hickory Virginia, and it was a school specifically for black children. Her school didn’t have textbooks until receiving them from white schools.

One day she was using her left hand to write and her teacher gave her a rap on the knuckles for that, because they believed that writing with the left hand was associated with wickedness. A rap on the knuckles meant that she got her knuckles hit as a punishment. She later became ambidextrous and could also write with her teeth and feet. The school she attended lost resources and she had to stop going to school when she had gotten to sixth grade.



Mrs. Bessie Blount-Griffin

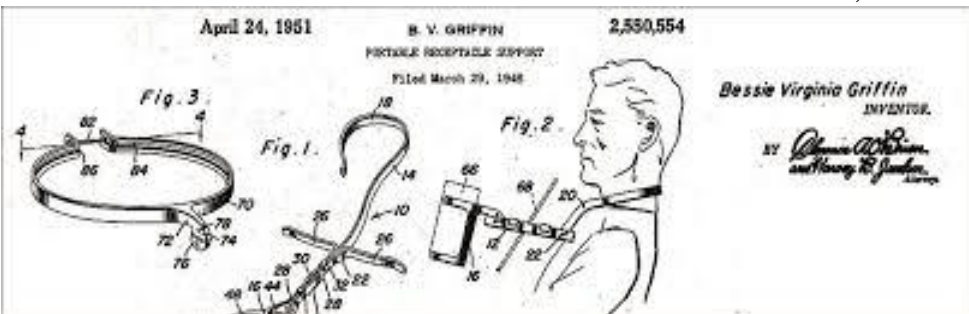
Mrs. Griffin and her family moved to New Jersey, where she attained her GED. While in New Jersey, she went through the Community Kennedy Memorial Hospital’s nurse’s program. She attained her nursing degree, and went to Panzer College of Physical Education and Hygiene, to become a physical therapist. She helped hurt soldiers during World War II; she then invented her feeding device in the 1940’s. At first, the invention was a tube put into the person’s mouth, and they would have to bite down on the tube to eat mouthfuls of food.

Mrs. Griffin later remade the invention and named it the *“portable receptacle support.”* She acquired a patent for the device on April 24, 1951, but the U.S didn’t want to purchase her invention. In the same year of 1951, she married Mr. Thomas Griffin and they later had a son named Philip.

The invention that was unwanted by the U.S. was instead sold in France and was put in their Military Hospitals. Around the same time, she invented the *emesis basin*, which was a kidney shaped container used to catch bodily fluids from a patient, and also to catch things for disposal. Just like her previous invention, the U.S. did not want to purchase the invention, so she sold her basin in Belgium. This invention is still used in Belgian hospitals today. Sadly, Mrs. Griffin passed away in New Jersey, on December 30, 2009 at 95 years of age.



Bessie Blount-Griffin Writing with Her Teeth



Portable Receptacle Support



Emesis Basin

A Brief History

Cont'd from Page 3

Women's History Month

In 1987, after being petitioned by the National Women's History Project, Congress passed Pub. L. 100-9 which designated the month of March 1987 as Women's History Month. Between 1988 and 1994, Congress passed additional resolutions requesting and authorizing the President to proclaim March of each year as Women's History Month. Since 1988, U.S. presidents have issued annual proclamations designating the month of March as Women's History Month on occasion.

In March 2011, the Obama administration released a report, *Women in America: Indicators of Social and Economic Well-Being*, showing women's status in the U.S. in 2011 and how it had changed over time. This report was the first comprehensive federal report on women since the report produced by the Commission on the Status of Women in 1963.

Source: Wikipedia



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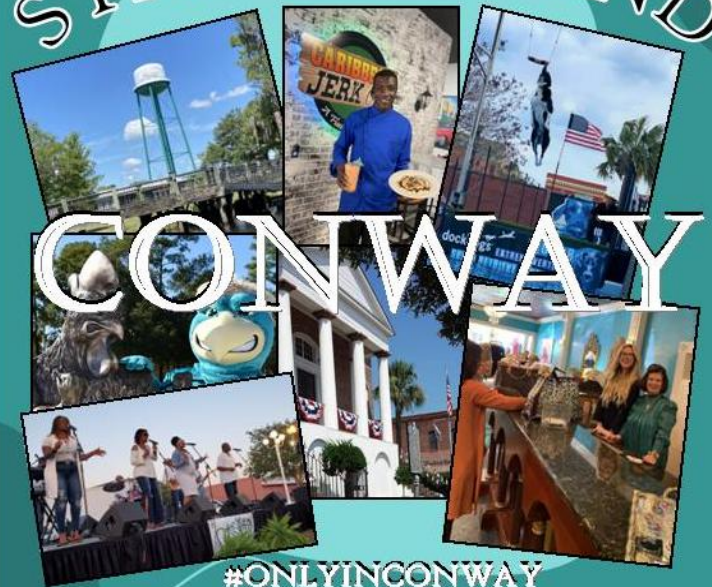


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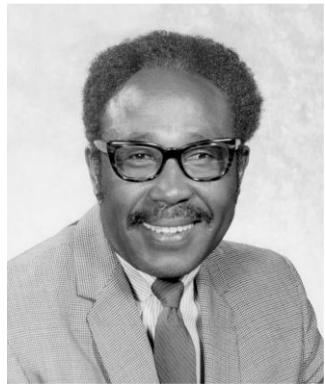
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For assistance in your county, go to website at: <http://weoc.org/agency/contacts.html>

*Cont'd from Page 22****NASA Aerospace Engineer***

After his graduation, Shurney's application for an engineering position at NASA was initially turned down. His sister-in-law, an acquaintance of Dr. and Mrs. Martin Luther King, Jr., informed them about his plight and the Kings in turn informed Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, who contacted NASA on Shurney's behalf, as did Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., of New York. After a favorable interview, NASA hired Shurney in the fall of 1962 as a flight systems engineer at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama. One of Shurney's first contributions at NASA was to work on the



Dr. Robert Ellerston Shurney
1921–2007

weight distribution of the massive Saturn V rocket. President John F. Kennedy's dream to send a man to the moon by the end of the 1960s was successful in part because of Robert Shurney's work. As test coordinator for flight operations, he directed crew training and research programs in aircraft-based weightlessness simulations to test human reactions. He spent 300-400 hours in weightless flight using NASA's modified KC-135 aircraft but, remarkably, never had to take motion sickness pills. One of



Shurney, in his home office, points to his design.

Shurney's most notable contributions was designing wheels for the NASA lunar rover, or "moon buggy," that enabled Apollo 15, 16, and 17 astronauts to move easily across the moon's surface. His successful design, combining metal plates on the outside with mesh on the inside, made the wheels both strong and lightweight, giving the rover maximum traction while keeping the vehicle within weight specifications. He also helped design a solar shield to insulate spacecraft from the intense heat of the sun and a solar panel as a constant source of power.

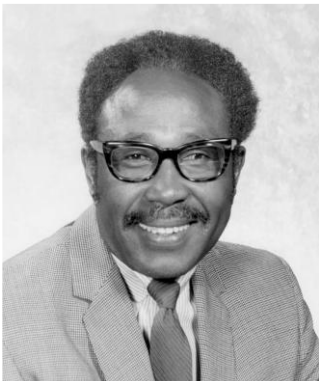
Shurney's standout achievements also included developing ways for astronauts to perform essential human functions in a zero-gravity environment. He developed a binding agent to keep the astronauts' food from flying apart while they were trying to eat it and designed utensils and storage containers for the food. He also helped invent space toilets for the Skylab missions.

Continuous Education and Church Involvement

Shurney was relentless in his pursuit of education, and in the ever-changing world of NASA and space travel, such advancement was essential. "During my time as an aerospace engineer, I kept abreast of new innovations in space by attending many colleges and universities, including Meharry Medical College, Howard University, the University of Michigan, the University of Alabama and the University of Oklahoma," he stated. He also published several NASA Technical Memorandums and Papers on findings in microgravity research for leading scientific journals. A graduate again at the age of 64, Shurney completed his Ph.D. in physics from Columbia Pacific University, San Rafael, California, in 1986.

Throughout his years at NASA, Shurney's involvement in the Adventist church remained strong. He served as a deacon and held other offices in the Oakwood College church. He spoke at several Adventist colleges, including Andrews University where he lectured for Black History week in 1978. He was a vigorous fundraiser for Oakwood and active in the J. L. Moran Chapter of the Oakwood College Alumni Association.

Continued on Page 32

Cont'd from Page 31

Dr. Robert Ellerston Shurney
1921–2007

Final Years

After 28 years with NASA, Shurney retired in 1990. He and his wife Susie continued residing in Huntsville. They helped to establish the Adventist Community Services Center in the city. In fact, Shurney's daily routine in retirement, for several days out of the week, revolved around collection and distribution of food and other items donated for the center.

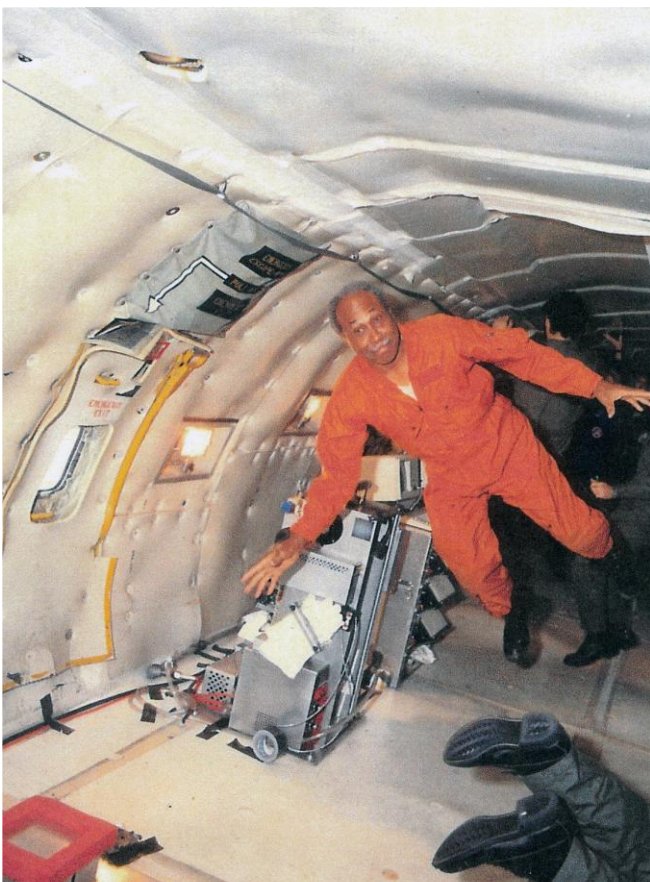
He remained active after Susie's death in 1997. They had been married 51 years. After a short illness, Robert E. Shurney died on November 25, 2007, at age 85.

Legacy

Robert Shurney's presence as an engineer with a leadership role challenged racial stereotypes at NASA, as seen in his initial meeting with Mercury astronauts soon after he was hired in 1962. "They said they were looking for the one in charge of weightlessness training," he recalled, "and they went to every white person in the room asking if they were the person who ran the program." To their surprise they finally discovered that, as Shurney put it, "It was my program."

Astronaut James Lovell, in an essay about his early days in the space program, cited Shurney's work in discussing the contributions of Black people:

[M]any people I meet think the space program was the exclusive domain of white, middle-aged men with crew cuts. But the reality is that African Americans have played an active and important part in space exploration since the very beginnings of the program.



For his work, NASA awarded Shurney the Lunar Flight Award, Skylab Achievement Award, Apollo Achievement Award, and the NASA Exceptional Service Medal.

On April 7, 2021, Huntsville, Alabama, city officials held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of the Dr. Robert Shurney Legacy Center, an eleven-acre campus featuring the new North Huntsville Library and recreation facilities. The city of Huntsville, supported by donations from private and governmental sources, funded the \$11 million project. The center is named after Dr. Shurney in recognition of his "valued contributions" as "a NASA engineer and one of the most important leaders in manned space flight" and as "a trailblazer in the African American community."

Robert Shurney's achievements despite formidable obstacles showed what a strong faith combined with hard work can accomplish. As he put it, "Success is possible with clear goals, determination to succeed, and the blessings of God."

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Cont'd from Page 23

She received the 2013 Thomas Edison Patent Award for this technology. But through this technology after the 2010 Haiti earthquake, more than \$43 million in donations were collected by relief organizations through donations by text message.

At AT&T she managed over 2,000 engineers and computer scientists responsible for over 500 programs impacting AT&T's enterprise and consumer wireline and mobility

services. Her responsibilities ranged from product realization and service planning to development and testing. Before leaving AT&T she held the title of Senior Vice President of Applications and Services Infrastructure.

In 2014 she joined Google as a Vice President in the engineering group. At Google, she is responsible for expanding what the Internet is capable of doing around the world and increasing access to the Internet in the developing World. She created a new center of expertise on Responsible [AI](#) focusing on ethical development of AI within Google Research. Croak also works on racial justice efforts at Google and continues her goal of encouraging women and young girls in engineering.

Croak was inducted into the [National Inventors Hall of Fame](#) (NIHF), the [National Academy of Engineers](#), and the [American Academy of Arts and Sciences](#) in 2022. Because of this, she became one of the first two black women to be inducted to the NIHF, joining the ranks of 48 other female inductees and 30 other Black inductees.

Patents

Croak has been awarded over 200 [patents](#), almost half of which are in VoIP. Many of her inventions lay the foundations for the digital networks we know and use today. She was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 2022 for her patent VoIP Technology [U.S. Patent](#) No. 7,599,359 *Method and apparatus for monitoring end-to-end performance in a network*. Today, the widespread use of VoIP technology is vital for remote work and conferencing, as well as personal communications.

She received a patent in 2005 for text-based donations to charity, along with co-inventor Hossein Eslambolchi, U.S. Patent 7,715,368 *Method and Apparatus for dynamically debiting a donation*. This technology enables a network to identify a particular charity, provide the designating funding to the charity, and then have the network service provider bill the original donor on its monthly bill.

Personal life

Croak won the Edison Patent Awards in 2013 and 2014. She is currently a member of the Corporate Advisory Board for the [Viterbi School of Engineering](#) at her alma mater, the University of Southern California.^[14] Croak is also a former board member for such organizations as the [Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions](#) Catalyst; the Holocaust and Human Rights Museum (New Jersey); and the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering. She has three grown children.



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By Priscilla Wyman Fuller



With the recent pairing down of governmental departments and loss of jobs by thousands of American workers, we stand in awe and fear without any comments or criticism. We all agree that the government needs to be more efficient, but will that happen by reducing the workforce without a plan? Can the process be done more strategically with evaluations with evaluations about what works and what is not working? The best practice in coming into a new environment is to observe and then strategically plan for changes. Responsible changes are not done by tearing down all departments at once. This nation has too much to lose and making this nation and its people more at risk is not the aim.

A number of people of color and especially women benefited from DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION PROGRAMS. Tis nation has benefited from these groups based on their talent and contributions. Earlier in our history, this nation benefited from slave labor and cheap labor by this same group. Now we are being told to forget race or anything that would give us a seat at the table we are entitled. Our silence is not making things better but giving consent we are ok with the conditions and lack of rights of the 50s and 60s that this group experienced.

America is a strong country, but we must also be brave enough to say something when we know things are not right. It does not meant we don't love our country, but we want to see it function to its greatest potential. Whatever we can do as an individual to express what you feel, this is the time to speak.... Later might be too late!!



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Donald Ray Watson

Mr. Donald Ray Watson was the son of the late Ben Watson and Mamie Bullock Watson. He was born **November 21, 1952**, in Dillon County, South Carolina. On **Thursday, February 13, 2025**, he slipped away in the early morning and entered into eternal rest at Grand Strand Regional Medical Center, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Donald Ray was educated in Longwood Elementary School and Brunswick County Public School, North Carolina when his family moved to Longwood, North Carolina from Dillon County, South Carolina. Donald Ray was preceded in death by his only child his daughter Danette Shantae "Dee" Watson in 2009 and his brother Clarence Leon Watson in 2011. *Donald Ray leaves to cherish and remember his beautiful smile, spirit, and precious memories; one sister, Clementine (Linwood C. Hill, Sr.) of Sunset Beach, NC; one brother, Morris Otherol Watson (Gloria) of Holden Beach, NC; two aunts, Dorothy Bullock Sutton of Longwood, NC and Mary Ann Bullock of Mount Clemens, MI; one great aunt Odessa Bullock of New York City; a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends who all loved him, in which he had the ability to make you laugh; best friends, Bernard Stevenson and Jimmy Ivey.*



1952 - 2025



Homer Wright

Homer Rudolph Wright was born on **February 1, 1935**, in Conway, South Carolina, to the late Buster and Jerrylee Wright. He passed on **February 10, 2025**, at the age of 90, at his home in Conway, SC. His beloved sisters, Ethel Lee Wright and Louise Brown, preceded him in death. Homer knew the Lord early and lived with faith, love, and kindness. A proud graduate of **Whittemore High School, Class of 1953**, he soon moved to New York, where he started his career and eventually retired from Park Lane Elevator Company in 1991. Upon returning to Conway, he worked at Myrtle Beach National Golf Course. *He leaves behind his beloved wife, Cleo Wright, his faithful partner and companion. He will be fondly remembered by his sons, James Earl Moore (Harriett), Michael Wright, Duane "DD" Wright, and his stepchildren, Deborah McDonald, John Jackson Jr., and Alescia Jackson-Claiborne. He shared a unique and unbreakable bond with his granddaughter, Atilah Claiborne-DeShazor, and many cherished grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins, particularly his niece, Sandra Brathwaite. His life was further enriched by his close friend, Madison Powell, whose friendship brought him great joy and laughter.*



1935 - 2025



Catherine DeWitt Wilson

Catherine Dewitt Wilson, lovingly known as **"Cookie,"** was born on **June 4, 1959**, in Conway, South Carolina, to the late Woodrow and Effie Dewitt. She met the love of her life, Mr. Frederick Wilson and they were united in Holy Matrimony on July 14, 2007. Cookie was preceded in death by her beloved parents, Woodrow and Effie Dewitt; her grandparents, Frank and Sadie Onley, Charles, and Nancy Dewitt; her siblings, Priscilla King, and Woodrow Dewitt, Jr.; and her special friends, Alice Pyatt and Pamela Kelly. She departed this life on **February 12, 2025**. *Cookie is survived by her devoted husband, Frederick Wilson; daughters, Shayla (Steven) Floyd and Ashley Rhue, both of Conway, South Carolina; bonus daughter that she reared as her own, Tammy (Maurice) Ingram of Spring, Texas; brothers, William (Elke) Dewitt of Ludwigshafen, Germany and Anthony (Linda) Dewitt and sister, Janice (Michael) Hopkins all of Conway, SC; cousins reared as sisters, Darlene (Jeff) Spain of Conway, SC and Carmella (Donald) McNaughton of Conway, SC. She is also survived by her five grandchildren: Naseem Dewitt of Surfside, SC, Zavier (Allyson) Trent of Conway, SC, Yasmine Alston of the home, Autumn Alston of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and Ashton Rhue of Conway, South Carolina. Two bonus granddaughters, Kamryn Ingram of Spring, Texas, and Nylani Dewitt of Conway, South Carolina. Additionally, she leaves behind four great-grandchildren: Princeton and Isabelle Trent of Myrtle Beach, SC, Zora Trent of Conway, SC, and Syncir Dewitt of Surfside, SC. Three aunts, Iva Bellamy, Marian Howard, and Catherine Benning, all of Conway, SC. Two uncles, Benjamin Onley and Harold Johnson both of Conway, SC. Mother-in-love, Lorraine Wilson of Longs, SC; sisters-in-law, Shirley Wilson, Sharon Wilson, and Carla Wilson, all of Longs, SC; brothers-in-law, Charles King of Myrtle Beach, SC, Keith (Darlene) Wilson, Brice Wilson, and Kelsey Wilson, all of Longs, SC. Special friend Wanetta Harriot and many other loved ones will forever cherish her memory.*

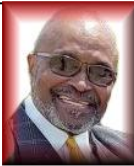


1959 - 2025



Daniel Myers

Daniel "Danny" Michael Myers, son of the late Sarah Elizabeth Myers Bellamy, was born on **May 6, 1948**, in the Bronx, New York. Danny gained his wings and took the Master's hand early Saturday morning on **February 15, 2025**, And entered into eternal rest. He accepted Christ at an early age upon moving from New York to take care of his mother and joined Cherry Hill Missionary Baptist Church. He was a faithful member until his health failed. Danny was educated in the New York City School System. He worked many years for J. Rueben Long Detention Center as a cook until he retired in 2015. Danny was passionate about the way he dressed' always "clean", matching from head to toe. Whenever you came in contact with Danny, he would always say "Be Cool", and "Thank God for another day." He was preceded in death by his mother and brother, Arthur Myers. *Danny leaves a lifetime of sweet memories to his son, Antoine Lydell Myers of New York; grandson, Elijah Edmonds of Georgia; goddaughter, Juvanté Mitchell, Jayce Dixon, and Myla Dixon; one aunt, Anna Cunningham of Georgetown; special family members who will cherish and miss him dearly, Sally Sarvis Garrett, James Edward Grant, Jakobe Grant, The Grant/Brown family, Mrs. Mary "Mother" Green family, Esther Clifton family, Michael Johnson and Bobby Moore; along with a host of other caring and loving nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.*



1948 - 2025



Jefferson Barnes

Jefferson S. Barnes was born on **May 30, 1963**, in Columbia, South Carolina to the late Ernest Sameul Barnes, Jr. and the late Catherine Smith Powell. He departed this earthly life on **Saturday, February 15, 2025**. Jefferson was raised in Rock Hill, South Carolina attending Rock Hill High School. Later in life he studied hard and earned his GED. He met the love of his life Laura, and they were married on February 15, 1993. Jefferson worked as an Inspector at an Inspection Station for the Amaco Company in North Carolina. He drove dump trucks for a construction company. Jefferson was a huge fan of all types of sports including football, where his favorite team was the Miami Dolphins, Nascar racing with his favorite driver being, Davie Allison. He also enjoyed bowling, riding bikes, and swimming. *Along with his parents, Jefferson was preceded in death by one brother, David Barnes. Jefferson's memory will live on through his wife, Laura Barnes; his sons, Tyler Barnes and Michael Johnson; his brother, Kenneth Barnes; his sister, Sandra; three granddaughters, Raelynn Barnes, Aliza Cooper, and Eliana Barnes; a host of nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, other relatives and friends.*



1963 - 2025



Clark Graham

Clark Allen "Skeeter" Graham of Georgetown, South Carolina, was born on **June 6, 1949**. He passed away peacefully on **Saturday, February 22, 2025**, at the age of 75. *He leaves to cherish his memory, a brother, Larry Graham (Anetta) of Clinton, MD; Sisters Hattie C Graham of Laurel, MD, and Denise Bratcher (Harold) of Conway, SC and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.*



1949 - 2025



Richard Howell

Richard Lee Howell was born on **February 19, 1973** in Greensboro, Georgia to the late Jessie Howell and the late Linda Carroll. He transitioned from this earthly life into eternal rest on **Sunday, January 26, 2025**. He attended



1973 - 2025

Taliaferro High School in Greensboro, Georgia where he assisted in winning the state championship in football. Richard was employed with Richardson and Sons as a truck driver for 26 years and was a loyal fan of the San Francisco 49ers football team. Richard was preceded in death by his parents, Jessie Howell and Linda Carroll; two children, Rakeem Howell, and Richard Lee Howell, Jr. and one brother James Howell. *He is survived by his loving wife, Angie D. Howell; his son, Damin Howell; three grandchildren, Rakiyah Stephens, Zavier Howell, and Zoya Jones; two brothers, Hansom Howell and Jimmy Howell; four sisters, Cynthia Howell, Jazmin Howell, Jessica Ingram, and Sandra Porter; his mother-in-law, Sarah Tucker; along with a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, other relatives and friends.*



Frank Isom

Frank "Free" Isom, III was born on **October 31, 1966** to Glenda B. Isom and the late Frank Isom, Jr. in Conway, South Carolina. Frank entered eternal rest on **Sunday, February 2, 2025**. Frank



1966 - 2025

received his early education in the public schools of Conway, South Carolina, and graduated with the Class of 1985 from Conway High School. He loved his two sons and family with every fiber in his being. *Frank leaves to cherish his memories, two sons, Frank Isaiah Isom and Elias Jeremiah Isom; his mother, Glenda B. Isom of Atlanta, Georgia; four siblings, Sandra Miller of Laurinburg, North Carolina, Sean Isom of Conway, South Carolina, Mia (Clifford) Peacock of Atlanta, Georgia, and Nicole Roberts of Little River, South Carolina; six nephews, Arious, Malik, TaSean, Jameer, Alex, and Jaylin; five uncles, Mr. Charles Brantley, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Brantley, Mr. and Mrs. William Brantley, Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Brantley, and Mr. and Mrs. Akbar Esa; nine aunts, Jan B. Alford, Debra B. Ross, Joyce Brantley, Geneva Heggins, Wanda Brantley, Joann Isom, Josephine Isom, Daisey Isom, and Janie Isom; and a host of nieces, nephews other relatives and friends*



Johnnie Wilson

Mr. Johnnie Howard Wilson gained his wings on Wednesday, **January 22, 2025**. Johnnie, affectionately known as Howard, was born on **August 4, 1952**. He was the son of the late Mr. Donnie Wilson and Villa Wilson. Howard



1952 - 2025

attended Horry County Public Schools. After the completion of high school, Howard went on to join the United States Army where he served until he received his Honorable Discharge. He was born on Howard returned home and became employed by Horry County Schools Transportation as a bus driver until his health began to fail. He was preceded in death by his parents, Donnie and Villa Wilson; one sister, Ms. Jennie Wilson; one brother, Mr. Ulysses Wilson; and two brothers-in-law, Mr. Wilbur (Marcus) Livingston and Mr. Clarence Hemingway. *Howard leaves to cherish loving memories his wife, Mrs. Cheflin Wilson Reynolds; two sisters, Mrs. Carolyn Livingston and Mrs. Dorothy Hemingway; two brothers, Mr. Donnie Jr. Wilson and Mr. Ben Wilson all of Longs, South Carolina; one aunt, Mrs. Ozie Bell Randall of Longs, South Carolina; a very special niece, Ms. Terrie Wilson of Longs, South Carolina; and a host of loving nieces, nephews, other sorrowing relatives and friends.*



Willie Gee

Willie Gee was born on **October 30, 1946** in Timmonsville, SC to the late Sam Gee, Jr. and the late Ethel Mae Cain-Gee. He departed this earthly life on **Monday, February 10, 2025**. After



1946 - 2025

Attending Brockington Elementary School in Timmonsville, SC, he relocated to Aynor, SC where he spent most of his life. Willie was preceded in death by his parents, Sam Gee, Jr. and Ethel Mae Cain Gee; two children, William Gee and Cheryl Ann Arthur; nine siblings, Alberta Gee, Joe Hubert, Doris Gee, Janette Gee, Cora Lee Smalls, Willie Mae Gee, Ronnie Gee, Dennis Gee, and Lena Mae Gee. *Willie is survived by his wife Geneva Gee, his remaining siblings, Charles Gee of Mullins, SC, Samuel (Hazel) Gee of Aynor, SC, Deloris Stukes of New York, Clifford Gee of New York, Jerry (Frances) Gause of Marion, SC, and Franklin Gee of Miami, FL; his children and step-children, Willie Earl Gee of Marion, SC, Timothy Gee of Marion, SC, Shirley Ann Arthur of Whiteville, NC, Betty Ann McRae of Bennettsville, SC, Willis Jowan Mitchell of Conway, SC, Chrissy Gee of Loris, SC, Kim Gee of Georgia, April Johnson of Marion, SC, Regina Huggins of Marion, SC, Daviana Huggins of Conway, SC, James Huggins of Pittsburg, PA, Helen Covington of Bennettsville, SC, Gloria Thomas of Bennettsville, SC, Patricia Grady of Bennettsville, SC, Martha Witherspoon of Bennettsville, SC, Tasha Bruce of Bennettsville, SC, and Brenda Smith of Bennettsville, SC; 34 grandchildren, 21 great grandchildren, many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.*



Elizah Randall

Elizah Elton Randall, son of the late Samuel E. Randall and Ruby Lee Randall, was born on **August 5, 1952** in Little River, South Carolina. He peacefully transitioned into eternal life at Seacoast Medical Center on **Wednesday, February 5, 2025**.



1952 - 2025

He graduated from Horry County Schools, Class of 1970. He attended college at Denmark Tech. in Denmark, South Carolina where he received an associate degree. After college, he started his career as a Tailor with MB Sewing Shop, Nelson Men's Shop, and Victoria Rag Patch. He also worked for Security Services, CRTA for over 10 years, Horry County Schools, and after retirement, he worked for O'Reilly's. He loved his family and playing his many bass guitars with his church family at St. Paul AME Church. *Elizah is survived by his loving wife, Evangeline B. Randall; three sons, Elton E. (Stacey) Randall, Scott R. (Sarah) Bellamy, and Michael S. (Dorothy) Bellamy; a loving and devoted brother, Ellis Jerome (Doris) Randall; three special aunts, Fannie Bell Smith, Queen Isabell Ford, and Doris Green; a special uncle, Sidney Green, Jr.; seven in-laws, Edell (Patricia) Bellamy, Harold (Erica) Bellamy, Carlton (Janie) Bellamy, Wendell Bellamy, Verline Bellamy (Alford Evans), Delaphine (Darrell) Crosland, and Yvonne (Anthony) Walker; a mother-in-law, Mattie B. Bellamy; along with a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other loving relatives and friends.*



Sandra Jones

Sandra Faye Chestnut Jones of Conway, SC was born on **November 21, 1952** in Longs, SC to the late Mr. Earl Chestnut and Mrs. Alberta Vereen Chestnut. She departed this life on **Friday, February 7, 2025**. Sandra



1952 - 2025

attended North Myrtle Beach High School. She graduated with the class of 1971. Sandra was one of 10 initiated Deltas who chartered the Conway Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. in June 1976. She helped lay a solid foundation which enabled the Chapter to continue Delta's legacy of Scholarship, Sisterhood, and Service. She married her husband Larry Jones on July 1, 1977. From this union came twin sons, Lorene Jay Jones and Brandon Lamar Jones. Along with her parents, she was preceded in death by a sister Gertha Stanley and two brothers, Carl Chestnut and Floyd Chestnut. *Sandra is survived by her husband Larry Jones; sons, Lorene (Juanita) Jones of Conway, SC and Brandon (Kenneth) Jones of Gaithersburg, MD; two grandsons, Camden Jones and Langston Jones both of Conway, SC. She also leaves to cherish her memory two brothers, Marion (Ronnie) Chestnut of Longs, SC and Lloyd (Cynthia) Chestnut of Myrtle Beach, SC; two sisters, Evon Hemingway and Sharon (Ray) Scott both of Longs, SC; four sisters-in-law, Wanda Chestnut of Longs, SC, Mamie Turner of Middleburg, NC, Vivian Izard of Newark, NJ, and Georgia Jones of Galivants Ferry, SC and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.*



Denise Vereen Grant

Denise Cedre Vereen, the daughter of the late John D and Julia Hodge Vereen was born **August 1, 1970**. She departed this earthly life on **January 9, 2025**, at McLeod Seacoast Hospital following a sudden illness. Denise accepted Christ as her Savior at an early age and was a lifelong member of Mt. Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church. "Niecey" as she was fondly called was a 1989 graduate of North Myrtle Beach High School. She attended Horry Georgetown Technical College. Her parents and one brother John B. Vereen preceded her in death. *She leaves to cherish her sweet memories: One daughter Destiny Vereen; One son John Edward Vereen, both of the home; Two sisters, Paula (Anthony) Brockington of Myrtle Beach, SC, Carla Carmicheal of Conway, SC, Three nieces, Deshondra, Lashondra and Antionette, One nephew; Wesley Carmicheal; Six great nieces and nephews. Four uncles; James "Bees" (Jamma) Hodge of Little River, SC, Allen (Nancy) Vereen of Supply NC; Eric Hodge and Robert L. Vereen of Loris, SC, One aunt Catherine Parker of Washington, DC, a special close cousin; Beverly Bellamy and a host of other sorrowing relatives and friends.*



1970 - 2025



Phillip Elmo Batts

Mr. Phillip Elmo Batts affectionately called "Sam", the son of the late Henry and Louise Batts, was born on **November 17, 1936**, in Halifax County, North Carolina. He was called to eternal rest on **Monday, February 10, 2025**, at his daughter's residence in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Phillip united in marriage with Dorothy Mae Johnson. He was predeceased by Dorothy on March 29, 2021. *He is survived by daughters, Cheri Hunter (Joe) of Newberry, SC; Ann Daniels (William Mack) of Myrtle Beach, SC; Cynthia Batts of Virginia Beach, SC; son, Phillip Batts of New Bern, NC; grandchildren, William Brandon Daniels of Myrtle Beach, SC, Whitney Daniels of New York, NY; Alyssa and Ryan Batts of New Bern, NC; great-granddaughter, Brielle Batts of New Bern, NC; sisters, Isadell Beatty and Marion Miller of New Bern, NC; and a host of nephews, nieces, and cousins.*



1936 - 2025



Louis Albert Myers

Mr. Louis Myers was born on **March 12, 1953** to the late Albert and Mary Myers. He departed this life on Friday, **February 21, 2025** at his residence. He received his education at Socastee High



1953 - 2025

School. Three of Louis's siblings, Mary Willard, Eugene Myers, and Howard Myers; a daughter, Michelle Wilson; and a granddaughter, Destiny Wilson, all preceded him in death. *Those who remain to cherish lasting memories are his sisters, Priscilla (Solomon) Deas of Myrtle Beach, SC, Angela (Ian) Roman of Tampa, FL, and Marjorie (Alfred) Gary of Buckeye, AZ; one brother-in-law, Miles Willard; one aunt, Clara Chestnut; three uncles, Morris Myers and Walker (Eddie) Knox of Myrtle Beach, SC, and Benny Vault of N. Myrtle Beach, SC; a grandson and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.*



Dwayne Edward Grace

Dwayne Edward Grace was born in Baltimore, Maryland on **July 26, 1971**, to the late Joseph Grace Sr. and Janie Taylor. He departed this earthly life on **Tuesday, February 25, 2025**, at Calhoun Convalescent Center Rehabilitation in Saint Matthews, South Carolina. He was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Joseph Grace, Jr. Dwayne attended Lake Clifton Eastern High School and received his secondary education from Morgan State University and Coppin State University. *He leaves a legacy of love and cherished memories to his sisters, Sharon Grace, Antoinette Hill, Tiffanie Lewis, Shantie Brown, Natalya Grace, and Kashimia Grace; his brothers, Demond Grace, Sr., Tywan Grace, Sr. Cordiro Grace, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.*



1971 - 2025



Katie Bryant

Katie Mae Bryant was born on **May 3, 1957**, in Horry County to the late Rev. James Elder Bryant and the late Lular Mae Bryant. She departed this earthly life on **Thursday, February 27, 2025**. She attended the public schools in Horry County. *She leaves to cherish special and loving memories her children, Gary Bryant, Jeffery Bryant, Ronnie Bryant, Willis (Candice) Moss, Jeremy (special daughter in law Catherine) Moss, Rick Moss, and Donneka (Larry) Gibbs; 23 grandchildren and a host of great grandchildren; her siblings, Willie Bryant, James (Dale) Bryant, Carolyn (Tanty) Freeman, Billie Bryant, Teresa (Daryl) Bryant, special sister Valene Bryant, Sarah Moss, James Felder, and Howard Hemingway; a host of family, friends, and loved ones.*



1957 - 2025



Jean Carlos Porfirio De Aquino

Jean Carlos Porfirio De Aquino was born on **March 20, 1998**. He departed this life on **February 24, 2025**.



1998 - 2025



Rosina Ganice Myers

Mrs. Rosina Ganice Moore-Myers was born on **July 29, 1958**, in Newark New Jersey. She was one of the beloved daughters of the late Roosevelt Moore and Bernice Moore. Rosina attended Peshine Elementary and then on to Weequahic High School in Newark New Jersey, where she was an avid singer in the glee club. After high school, Rosina met the love of her life Morris Myers of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Together they raised their children Michael Moore, Bridgette Moore DeJesus, Morris Moore, James Moore, and the late Galecka. On **Sunday morning, January 26, 2025**, the Lord called Rosina Ganice Myers home to rest; a devoted and beloved child of God who was also a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, aunt, cousin, and friend. *One child, Galecka Moore; one sister, Naomi Moore; and four sisters-in-law, Maude, Rebecca, Helen, and Bernice all preceded her in death. Rosina Ganice Myers is survived by her husband Morris Myers, and four children Michael R. (Sadie) Moore, Bridgette T. (Juan) DeJesus, Morris (MaShawnda) Moore, and James M. (Calandra) Moore; her grandchildren, Kweli-Makhari, Makhalah, Isaiah, Johnathan, Xavian, Xariyah, Xylon, Janice, Julien, Sanaja, Jayden, Petreca, Pete, De'Mon, and Summer; her three sisters, Orvetta Moore, Catherine Moore, and Clarice Peterson; 13 great-grandchildren and a host of cousins, nieces, and nephews.*



1958 - 2025



Wilbur Ausbur Vereen

Mr. Wilbur Ausbur Vereen departed this earthly life to be with the Lord and Savior on Thursday, **February 13, 2025**, in Conway, SC. He was the loving son of Wilbur H. and Oreatha Gause Vereen born on **December 15, 1939**. He attended **Whittemore High School** in Conway, SC, graduated from Horry Georgetown Technical College. He was united in holy wedlock to the late Mrs. Ilena Huffman Vereen in June of 1966. To this union two children were born, Glenn Russell Vereen (Cyndi) of Siler City, NC, and Lavivia V. Taylor of Aynor, SC. **Proceeded in death: Sisters:** Mattie Carter, Janie Alford, Isla Alston, Viola Gilmore, Rosa Lee Vereen, Alice Vereen **Brothers:** William (Sonny) Vereen, Ander Lee Vereen and Joseph Vereen. Junior Vereen. **Survivors include; sister: Odessa Legette of Galivant Ferry, SC. Brother-in law: Jimmy Bird of Willingboro, NJ; Sister In Laws: Sara Mae Huffman of Aynor, SC; Vonter Vereen, Vera Mae Vereen and May Bell Bird of Willingboro, NJ; Grandchildren: Ashley Vereen Walker Jr. (Sheldon) of Baltimore, MD, Jordan Hannah (Lydia) of Oak Ridge, TN, Alyssa Ilena Vereen of Siler City, NC, and Maryah Grace Vereen of Winthrop, ME; one proceeded him in death, Isaiah Michael Perry of Bangor, ME, and ten godchildren.**



1939 - 2025



Debbie Watts

Debbie Yvonne Watts was born to the late John A. Watts, Sr. and Marie Ann Brockington Watts on **February 5, 1958**. She peacefully transitioned into eternal rest at home with her children on **Saturday, February 22, 2025**.



1958- 2025

Debbie was preceded in death by two brothers: John Watts, Jr. and Michael Watts, one sister, Mary Myers, one aunt, Margaret Wills, and one niece, Courtni McCollum. Debbie attended the public schools of Horry County. She graduated from Myrtle Beach High School, class of 1976. She later continued her education at Horry-Georgetown Technical College, where she obtained an associate of science degree in business administration. *She leaves to cherish fond memories: two daughters; Nekeya Watts of Columbia, SC and Brittany (William) Watts Vaught of Myrtle Beach, SC, five grandchildren; Brianna Thompson, Dazaria Thompson, Keshaua Ludley, Kavonte Vaught, and Kamoree Vaught, three sisters; Deborah Watts, Marie Watts, and Cheryl Lynn Watts-Etheridge, three brothers; James (Sandra) Brockington, Gerald (Georgia) Watts, and, Robert Watts, one uncle; George (Vanessa) Watts, a very special friend, Calvin Goings, and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.*



McKiever

Carol Jean White

Carol J. White, daughter of the late Calvin White and Harriet Parmley, was born on **November 6, 1964**. She departed this life on **January 5, 2025**. *She is lovingly survived and cherished by her son, Jacques White (KeKe) and grandchildren,*



1964 - 2025

Jacquasha White (her children- Journic Layone and Patience Atoria), Keiyah Adams, Keion Jacques White and Kyree Jac'kaira White. Carolis also survived by her sister Ivory Williamson (Mac) and the children Joicherie Ritman, Michelle Felix (Dennis), Jennifer Williamson. She is additionally survived by her sister Charlene Hughes (Steve) and their children, Matthew Anderson (Shanequa) Stephen Hughes (Rene), Jeshua Powers (Allyson Rose), Chelise Smith (Kevin), Hequasha Gagum, and Chantel Smith (Dustin). CarolJean White is further survived by numerous nieces, nephew and countless loved ones who will forever carry her kindness in their hearts. Though she is deeply missed, we rejoice knowing she in the presence of her Savior.



Myrdith Alston

On **February 25, 2025**, the Lord gently plucked his precious flower **Myrdith "Mert" Rutledge Alston** and placed her in his garden. She was born **October 6, 1931**, to the late Mr. Samuel of Burgess, South Carolina and Mrs. Fostner Fraizer Rutledge of Bucksport, South Carolina. Mert was raised in Bucksport by her maternal grandparents, the late Mr. Fred and Mrs. Mahalia Troy Fraizer, until her high school years. She was preceded in death by a brother, Samuel Rutledge, Jr. and a sister, Ardith Rutledge Random. Mert attended Horry County Schools and was a proud Whittemore High School graduate of the Class of 1949. Mert was united in holy matrimony for fifty-two years to the late Mr. Robert Alston of Georgetown, South Carolina and they were blessed with seven children. Preceding her in death was one daughter, Robert Ann Alston Sorrell; a step-daughter, Audrey Lee Alston, and one grandson Jason Sorrell. *Mert leaves to cherish her loving memories four sons: Robert Q. (Connie), Robert C. and Edrick Alston of Conway, SC, and Ivin (Veronica) Alston of Dallas TX; two daughters, Cindy and Marshalla Alston of Conway SC; eleven grandchildren: Jamal of New Mexico, Demal of Charlotte, NC, Brandon and Yolanda of Dayton, OH, Stacy, George and Jasmine of Conway, SC, Andrea, Hector, and Ceclia of Dallas, TX; four great-grands: Quasean and Myasia of Conway, SC, Makyiah of Charlotte, NC, and Zoya of Georgetown, SC; two step-grandchildren: Annette Alston and Kim Randall of Conway, SC; two special friends: Mrs. Elizabeth Stevens and Mrs. Lulubell Dewitt as well as the 16th Avenue and Ward Circle Community, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.*



1931 - 2025

Janice Haywood

Janice Lee Haywood was born to Jimmy Haywood and the late Grace Ann Haywood, who preceded her in death. Janice was born on **April 12, 1967** in Conway, SC and departed this life on **February 23, 2025**. She is preceded in death by her twin sister, Haywood. Janice graduated from the Horry County Public School System. *Janice leaves to cherish fond memories by her four children: Arrine Haywood, Loris, SC; Tashawna (Chris Calvin) Conway, SC; Quianna Brockenbrough, Conway SC; and Latouria Brockenbrough, Loris, SC; eight grandchildren; two sisters, Linda Thomas, Conway, SC; Heather (Vernon Bellamy), Conway, SC; one brother, Lavar Haywood, Baltimore, MD; four nieces, one nephew, nine great nieces and great nephews; two aunts, Frances (Nathaniel Bellamy) Marion, SC; Clara Johnson, Baltimore, MD; and a host of cousins and other loving relatives and friends.*



1967 - 2025



Kamishun Newman

Kamishun Grate Newman departed this life on Friday, **February 21, 2025**. She was born on **March 29, 1969** in Loris, SC. She was educated in the public schools of Horry County and graduated from Loris High School in 1987. She attended Carolina Cosmetology in Conway and received additional training at Dudley School of Cosmetology. Kami married **Ozell J. Newman**, the love of her life, on **October 12, 1996**, and were blessed to have known one another for 30 years and married for 28 years. To this union, three absolutely loving children were born—two loving sons, Ashton, Christian and their precious daughter, Kynsli. *Kami leaves to cherish her memory a devoted husband, Ozell J. Newman. Her legacy lives on through her three children, Kynsli, Ashton, Christian and his wife Alexis Newman; her loving mother, Linda Stevens Grate; her caring sister, Freda and her husband, Jerry McGill; her brother, Frederick and his wife, Elizabeth Grate; two uncles, Joice and his wife, Halestine Grate and Charlie and his wife, Sally Grate; cousins who were like brothers, Andre, t Kevin and Michael Stevens; five sisters-in-law, Joella Newman, Jasmin and her husband, Jay Crowell, Tahshia and her husband, Jonathan Johnson, Christina and her husband Kevin Banegas and Juliana and her husband King Cheng; many nieces, nephews and cousins; her 1st special baby she affectionally cared for, Kenneth "Mook" Grate II; five Goddaughters, Antqnisha Monge, Amaya, Aleah, & Abrya McIver and Ariyah Jenkins; one Godson, Tevin Jenerette; two daughter figures, Amber Jenkins and Ciera Eaddy, who were all profoundly impacted by her love and guidance; several special sisters and was particularly close to Jessica Jordan, Angela McIver, Shawana Shaw, Robin Vaughn, and Annette Dixon; Ollie Wonka Newman, her precious miniature Poodle which she adored and a host of extended family and friends.*



1969 - 2025

Oria Ray

Oria Mae (Ladson) Ray's life was celebrated on Monday, **March 24, 1969**. Her family and friends knew her as "Smoochie." She left this world on **Sunday, February 16, 2025**, at the age of 55. She was raised by her mother Ms. Willie Mae Bellamy and stepfather Mr. Otis Ladson, alongside her father Mr. Jessie Ford. In addition to her parents, she was also preceded in death by her brother, Dennis Earl Bellamy, and sisters, Clorine Ladson and Beulah Ann Bellamy. She leaves behind a legacy of service and love. *Oria Mae (Ladson) Ray is survived by her husband, Roosevelt Ray of Longs, SC; two sons, Lashon Ladson and Dayton Frinks of Longs, SC; one daughter, Caresha (Devante Kinlaw) Ladson of Columbia, SC; two grandchildren, Darius Washington of Whiteville, NC and Sienna Kinlaw of Columbia, SC, one sister, Frankie Mae Moss of Little River, SC; two brothers, Ricky (Linda) Bellamy of Little River, SC, Otis Ladson of Longs, SC; a special aunt, Leila Mae Bellamy of Longs, SC, a host of beloved nieces and nephews, along with her step children, other relatives, and friends.*



1969-2025



Isaac Livingston

Mr. Isaac Gary Livingston was born on **July 22, 1963**, to the late Joseph Hemingway and Nettie Livingston. He departed this life on **February 8, 2025**. He was a 1982 graduate of North Myrtle Beach High School. Isaac was married to his high school sweetheart, Centry Livingston. To this union three children were born. Isaac was preceded to the grave by one son, Isaac Livingston, Jr.: his parents, grandparents, one sister, Janelle Williams, bonus sister, Cherry Williams, bonus parents, Mack and Lorraine Vereen. *He leaves to cherish his memories; his wife, Centry Livingston; two sons, Joseph Livingston of Columbia, SC and Marcelous Livingston of the home; siblings; Augustine (Jimmy) Clarida, Nathan (Rhonna) Livingston, Theron (Barbara) Livingston, Van (Teresa) Lane, Jonell (John) Graham, Jennie Mae Vereen, Marzina (Robert) Graham, and Kim Culler; the wife of his father, Viola Hemingway; sister-in-law, Chelvis (Elvis) Wilson, Gertha Wilson, Marlinda Livingston, Angela (JC) Adderton, Roxie Claridy, Debbie Livingston; brother-in-law, Oneal (Ruthenia) Vereen, Elroy (Flo) Vaught and Adam (Ruby) Livingston; bonus parents, Cynthia (John) Glover; bonus siblings, Teresa (Jeremia) Greene, Mack (Janice) Vereen, John T. (Velma) Glover, Cedric (Patricia) Glover, Lakeish a Clark, Nathaniel Hemingway, Tannya (Jake) Hemingway, Darryl (Shirley) Hemingway, and Tracy (Patrick) McKellar; his best friend, Milton Price; a host of aunts, uncle, nieces, nephews and other sorrowing relatives and friends.*



1963- 2025



Annie Lassiter

Annie Lorine Lassiter, affectionately known as "Boo," was born on **December 16, 1938**, in the Bayboro Community of South Carolina to the late Dossie and Hattie Graham. She departed this life on **January 29, 2025**. She was preceded in passing by her husband, Alexander Lassiter; parents, Hattie and Dossie Graham; her sister, Golder Ann Rice; three brothers: John Henry Graham, Lee Graham and Andrew Lee Johnson. Annie was baptized and attended the Mount Olive Baptist Church in Bayboro, SC. After graduating high school, she moved to Newark, NJ. It was in Newark where she met the love of her life, Alexander Lassiter. From this union they were blessed with three children James, Gwendolyn and Alexandra. *Annie leaves to cherish in her memory a son, James Lassiter (Michelle), Edison, NJ; two daughters, Gwendolyn Lassiter and Alexandra Lassiter, Union, NJ; six grandchildren: Kiana, Quinter, Breanna, Daisia, Wali "Trey" and Mia; and one great-granddaughter, Zoic; two sisters, Willa-Mae Crawford and Lena Harper; a special, friend Mr. James Daniels, Bayboro, SC and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.*



1938 - 2025



Wilbert Vereen

Wilbert Allen Vereen of Conway SC passed away on **February 7, 2025**. Wilbert was born on **April 24, 1953** to the late Rufus Vereen Sr. and Estelle Vereen. He was preceded in death by his son Wilbert Vereen Jr. Wilbert Sr. received his education in Philadelphia Pennsylvania. While in Philadelphia he fell in love with boxing, mastering the skill. He came home, to Conway SC, to be with family in the early 90s. Wilbert worked numerous jobs highlighting his many skills, including Walmart and Stilly Mills. *Wilbert Allen Vereen is survived by his two children, Sarita Vereen and William Vereen, both of Philadelphia Pennsylvania. Also left to cherish his memory, his brothers and sisters: Frederick Vereen, Barbara (James) Greene, Sarah Vereen, Philip Vereen, Cathy (Herbert) Brown, Estelle J. Vereen and a host of nieces, nephews, other family and friends.*



1953 - 2025



Alberta Sampson

Alberta Lenere Sampson, affectionately known as 'Grammie Bert' by family and 'Bert' to friends, peacefully departed this life on **Saturday, February 15, 2025**. She was born on **July 2, 1941**, to the late Clarence and Dora Campbell in Zion, South Carolina and is preceded in death by six siblings. Alberta graduated from Palmetto High School in Mullins, SC where she lettered in basketball, drove the school bus, and was voted Miss Palmetto High. She went on to graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Biology from North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro, NC. She greatly appreciated the steadfast support of her nephew and his wife, Lucious and Andean Campbell, Jr. and close friend Mary Helen Wilks that extended her ability to remain in her Conway home. As her memory failed, Alberta struggled to find her words and to recognize faces, but she always managed to express her love. She often would say that she had her bag packed and ready. We take joy in knowing that when God called her home, her soul was prepared to make that journey. *She leaves to cherish her memory a daughter, Aprelle Hill (Ronald), Advance, NC; and a son, Robert Michael Neal (Christina), Raleigh, NC; and a host of grandchildren, great grands, family and friends.*



1941 - 2025



Onetta Ametria Hughes Deas

On **Tuesday, February 4, 2025**, **Mrs. Onetta Ametria Hughes Deas** departed this life after a long illness at the age of 91. She was born in the Nixonville Section of Horry County on **January 11, 1934**, and lovingly raised by the late Howard and Lelia Hughes. She was preceded in death by her husband Norman L. Deas, four brothers and four sisters. Onetta graduated from **Whittemore High School in 1950** and had the distinction of being the school's first Homecoming Queen. She met the love of her life, Norman, while working at a boutique in Myrtle Beach. They were united in Holy Matrimony on August 14, 1960, and enjoyed 62 years of marriage until his death in December 2022. To this union they were blessed with two children, Norma Denise and Dennis O'neal. She was a faithful and committed servant of the Lord and served in various capacities at True Vine Missionary Baptist Church in Nixonville, and St. Mary A.M.E Church in Pawleys Island. *She is survived by her devoted children, Norma Denise Deas Brooks (Lawrence), Norfolk, Virginia and Dennis O'neal Deas, Conway, South Carolina. She is also survived by a brother, Michael Hughes (Pam), sisters: Shirley Smith, Mary Colbert and Elizabeth Bellamy (Ted), all of Conway, SC; special niece Linda Gore; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.*



1934 - 2025



Carrol Dial

Carrol Dial was born **June 12, 1955** to his mother and father Mamie Lee and Willie Dials he passed away on **February 8, 2025**. He was preceded in death by his parents, and three sisters: Alica Graham, Emily Graham and Lula Mae Vance. He went to school in Darlington County and graduated from Spaulding High School. He was a farmer. He loved westerns and country music especially Charlie Pride and drinking Budweiser's and he loved wrestling. He loved listening to gospel service on the radio on Sunday mornings. Carrol was married to Ann Dial and to this union they have three children. *He leaves cherished memories to his wife, Ann and his three children: Carolyn Thomas (Jerry), Stevie McCoy (Shonda) and Terry Dials; nine grandchildren and great grands; three sisters: Linda Stenson (Marshall), Barbara Ann Duncan (Raymond) and Georganna Orange; one brother, Willie Dials (Marshall) AKA- Bill and a host of nieces, nephews other family and friends*



1955 - 2025





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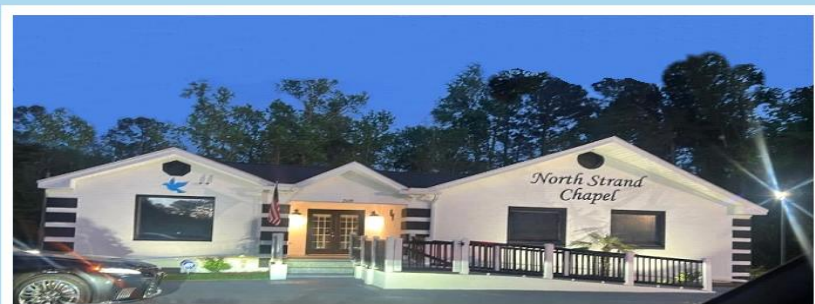
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