

Order of Service

Processional  
Receiving of Friends.....11:00 AM - 11:30 AM  
Opening Prayer.....Rev. Chad Armstrong  
Song..... Pleasant Grove Hymn Choir  
Scripture Reading  
Old Testament.....  
New Testament.....  
Prayer of Comfort.....Minister Modupeh Walker  
Song.....Scott Floyd  
Remarks (2 minutes  
Reading of the Obituary and Acknowledgements..... Myrtice Barnwell  
Eulogy.....Rev. Dr. Milton Key  
Recessional.....Pleasant Grove Mass Choir

Interment  
VA Cemetery Salisbury, NC

Floral Bearers  
Granddaughters, Family and Friends

Pallbearers  
Sons and Grandsons



Acknowledgement from the Family  
The family of Rudolph wishes to express our appreciation and gratitude for the many comforting acts of kindness and sympathy shown during the passing of our loved one. May God forever bless you and keep you.

Repast  
Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church

  
2425 West Franklin Boulevard | Gastonia, North Carolina 28052  
Telephone: 704-864-6787 Fax: 704-864-6793 | [www.costnerfuneralhome.com](http://www.costnerfuneralhome.com)

A Home Going Celebration  
Honoring the Life and Legacy of



RUDOLPH SINCO PHILSON  
November 19, 1942 – April 18, 2025

RUDY  
Honey. Daddy. Papa. Gpa. Cuz  
You are now in the arms of the LORD, but your legacy, wisdom, and love lives on forever in our hearts.  
We love you so much.  
Rest in peace

Saturday, April 26, 2025  
11:30 am  
Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church  
1875 Ridge Road  
Bowling Green, South Carolina 29710





**Rudolph Sinco Philson**, affectionately known as “Rudy,” was born on November 19, 1942, in Asheville, North Carolina to Ella Mae Wright and MacArthur “Mac” Philson. He was lovingly raised by his grandmother, Carrie Duff Wright, whom he fondly called “Mama.”

Rudy received his education through the North Carolina public school system. He attended Reed High School in Belmont and graduated with the class of 1961. Rudy made the decision to serve his country and enlisted in the Navy Reserves. His time with the Seabees allowed him to travel the world and gain life-changing experiences. He served for four and a half years, journeying to places such as Nova Scotia, the Indian Ocean, Alaska, and even the McMurdo Station at the geographic South Pole.

After his military service, Rudy moved to Detroit, Michigan, where he began working at the Chrysler Assembly Plant. He entered employment with the City of Detroit, where he held various positions, starting as a trash collector, and then a bus driver. An apprenticeship opportunity with the Water and Sewerage Department launched his long-term career in the water industry. He rose through the ranks becoming a Senior Water Plant Operator. For a few years, Rudy proudly served with the Detroit Fire Department and made history as the first African American Fireboat Operator aboard the Curtis Randolph. When the fireboat was decommissioned, he returned to the Water Department, where he remained until his retirement in 1999.

A true entrepreneur at heart, Rudy also found success in real estate, home improvement, and carpentry. He could fix just about anything and was always eager to teach others how to do the same.

Upon retirement, Rudy returned to North Carolina. He filled his retirement years with travel, gardening, tending to his land in the country, family, and, of course, giving advice. Rudy always had a plan—for himself and for whoever was willing to listen. He had an infectious laugh, a deep love for sweets, coffee, and westerns. He was rarely seen without a project (or three), in progress. Education was incredibly important to Rudy. In fact, it meant so much to him that in his 60s, he returned to school at Gaston Community College.

Rudy found spiritual joy in singing with the hymn choir at Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church. He stayed closely connected with loved ones, regularly calling, visiting, and checking in. If you ever missed one of his calls, you’d likely hear the familiar message: “Rudy here, call me back!”

Among his most cherished memories were two bucket list adventures with Lola: Carnival in Rio de Janeiro and a 10-day cruise with his daughter Lauren to the Panama Canal!

More than anything, Rudy loved his family. He was endlessly proud of his children, grandchildren, and extended family, always striving to support them in ways he thought would make a difference.

A loyal servant to God and a steady, loving presence in the lives of many, Rudy has now passed into the arms of our Lord. Though his physical life on Earth has ended, his eternal and beautiful journey has just begun. His legacy, wisdom, and love will remain with us always.

Rudy leaves behind his wife of 29 years **Lola**; and his children: daughters **Celeste (Eric) Cunningham, Keri Philson, Naomi Marbry, and Lauren Philson**; and stepsons **Darryl, Derrick, and Kenneth Nunn**; grandchildren: **Terrence Philson, Rudolph T Philson Jr., Trey Philson, Diamond (Casher) Holt, Vaughn Jr. and Sade Dortch, Tyrrell, Tamia, Timothy, Christopher, Landon, Cassius, and Bryson Nunn, JyNia, Me’Siya, Kaya Philson, and Eden Marbry**; and great-grandchildren: **Rico, Velvet, Vaughn Jr., Trent, Chosen and Amirah.**

He is also survived by his sister **Maria Philson D’Paxxe**, nephew **Gregory Lewaun Wright Jr.**, special cousins **Mike, Wanda and Scott Floyd, Coleene Boyd**, and dear friends **Connie Colandrea, Jim Conrad Freeboro, and Stackhouse**, along with a host of extended family and cherished friends.

Rudy was preceded in death by his “Mama,” his parents, his brothers **Eugene (Edith) Philson, T. J. Philson (Pearl) and Gregory (Betty) Wright**; his sons, **Vaughn Dortch and Rudolph Tyrone Philson**; great-granddaughter **A’Drionnah Dortch**; and close friends **George and Jimmy.**

