

*Pallbearers*  
Grandsons



*Flower Attendants*  
Grand - Daughters

## A NOTE OF GRATITUDE

*We are most grateful for friends like you, who have been so kind and thoughtful during these hours of sorrow. Your prayers, visits, calls, flowers, and every act of kindness, have given us strength and inspiration for the facing of this hour. May God forever bless each of you.*

*Thank you, Longtime SRS Advisor and Friend, Bubba Davis; Barnwell, SC; Dr. Harold "Buck" Harvey, Harrison Peoples Health Care Center; Dr. Klasseu and Staff, Remain at Home Workers Care; Nurse Jannie Preacher; Nuclear Workers Institute of America (NWIA); Pruitt Health Care; Estill, SC; Savannah Memorial Medical Center; Beaufort Memorial; Agape Care Hospice; Beaufort; for providing exceptional care to our love one. Special thanks to his grand – daughter: Gemerica Beckett "Country" for taking care of him until to the end. Thanks for being there whenever he called.*

*The Beckett Family*



*"Everything's Lovely"  
"Good-Bye World"*

*Repast*

*Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church  
Fellowship Hall*

*Professional Services Entrusted To:*



**M.F. Riley's Funeral Home**

**Motto: "Service Above Self"**

*"We express our deepest appreciation of your faith and complete confidence in our services. We sincerely hope that every aspect of the SERVICE has been SATISFACTORY for you." The Director and Staff*

1214 South Hampton Avenue, Fairfax, South Carolina 29827  
Tel: (803) 632.3422 ~ 632.3049 ~ 686.6.MFRILEY; Fax: (803) 632.1772  
Email: mfrileysfuneralhome@yahoo.com ~ www.mfrileysfuneralhome.com

**Dorothy S. Riley, Owner  
Mrs. Renique Yvette Riley-Spiller, Owner and Operator**

## A SERVICE OF LOVE

*Celebrating*  
THE LIFE OF

ELDER  
*Bernard*  
ECKETT

**JUNE 29, 1934 — SEPTEMBER 1, 2025**

*~ Celebration ~*

**Saturday, September 6, 2025—12 Noon**

*~ Held At ~*

**Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church  
Estill, South Carolina 29918**

*~ Officiates ~*

**Evangelist Dorothy Kennedy, Presiding  
Rev. Dr. Joe H. Steve, Jr., Pastor/Eulogist**





# ~ Order of Service ~

Musical Prelude ..... Soft Music  
Processional Viewing ..... Clergy, Family, Friends  
Opening Selection ..... “What A Friend We Have In Jesus” ..... Choir  
The Blessed Scripture Readings:  
    Old Testament ..... Pastor Henry Gordon  
        *Pine Savannah Baptist Church; Pineland, SC; Sandhill Baptist Church, Garnett, SC*  
    New Testament ..... Pastor Darryl Brown  
        *Moderator of the Good Hope Baptist Union*  
Prayer of Comfort ..... Rev. Dr. Danny Swilley  
        *Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church; Cayce, SC*  
Selection ..... GHMBC Praise Team  
Remembering Our Beloved Elder Beckett: (2 Minutes, Please)  
    As A Church Member ..... Deacon John Darien  
    As A Co – Worker & Friend ..... Mr. & Mrs. Reggie McMillian  
    As A Neighbor ..... The Honorable Sherriff Anthony Russell  
    Steep Bottom Masonic Lodge # 300 ..... Brother Willie Lee Hopkins  
    Family Tributes ..... Grandchildren  
        Children  
Acknowledgements ..... M.F. Riley’s Staff  
Solo ..... Mrs. Anna Busby  
Words of Comfort ..... Rev. Dr. John H. Steve, Jr.  
Director’s Memorial ..... M.F. Riley’s Staff  
Benediction  
Recessional  
Postlude

Memorial Repository  
Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery  
Committal ~ Interment ~ Benediction



## Farewell My Brother

*Gone are the days we used to share, but in my heart, you are always there. The gates of memory will never close, I miss you more than anyone knows. With tender love and deep regret, your love I will never forget.*

*Your loving Sister*





# *A Father's Love*

*Only once in your life will someone so special  
Walk in front of you and prepare the way for a better future.  
Only once will there be a person  
who cares enough to say "no"  
But is enthusiastic enough to say "yes" wherever possible.  
God created you to show us love.  
The things you did for us were directed from above.  
You took the time to nurture us in every way.  
You loved us, kissed us, fussed at us,  
but no matter the circumstances,  
you always knew what to say.  
During our lives, you prepared us for so much.  
Today is a hard day, because we realize,  
we will never be able to receive our father's tough love.  
We still cry even though you are with our Heavenly Father.  
Dad, it's time to say goodbye, but we will love you always.*

*Love Always,  
Loving Children*

# *Your Legacy Lives*

*From your devotion to the love of your life, (Rubertha Beckett), and your offspring of EIGHT,  
you leave us a commitment to family.  
From the determination and grit you displayed for 62 years at Savannah River Site,  
you leave us your STRONG work ethic.  
From your toiling of the land of which your ancestors left behind,  
you leave us a respect for ownership.  
From your piety towards our family church (coming in hours before service to light/ignite the gas  
heaters in the winter & turning on the window air conditioning units in the summer to heat & cool  
the church before the arrival of parishioners; cleaning the cemetery; mowing the lawn; and fixing  
"whatsoever" needed to be fixed), you leave a passion to serve.  
From your willingness to invite anyone into your home  
and make them feel welcomed, you leave us a heart of hospitality.  
From your love of laughter and fun and winning EVERY spades hand,  
you leave us a zest for life because "Everything's Lovely".  
From your passion of storytelling and sharing with us your history,  
you leave each of us a piece of fabric from the Beckett ancestry.  
But most importantly, from your faith and belief in Christ Jesus, you have poured a foundation of  
HIS WORD that will enable us to one day rest in our salvation as you are now doing Granddad!*

*We are the GREAT from the EIGHT of your loins!  
Loving Grandchildren*

# *Elder Bernard Beckett*

## *Servant of God....Well Done*



Elder Bernard Beckett was born June 29, 1934, on the Beckett's Plantation on Steep Bottom Road, Estill, South Carolina. He was one of fifteen children born to the late Emory Beckett, Sr., and the late Bessie Russell Beckett. He grew up as a farmer and was taught the values of life by his parents who were Christians.

He obtained success spiritually and economically by heeding the words "you can do all things if you put God first into your life." He also lived by the scriptures in the book of Deuteronomy 6 and 7, prosperity (success). He was educated at Estill Training Colored School, located three miles from his plantation.

Elder Beckett accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior at an early age, and he became a baptized member of Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church. He served under the leadership of Rev. George Lawton, Rev. Benjamin Burison, and currently Rev. Dr. Joe Steve, Jr. He served faithfully in various capacities to include life member of the Cemetery Ministry Building, Good Hope Baptist Union, Sexton, and the Deacon Union. Elder Beckett, along with his brother, the late Cornelius, helped with the construction of Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church.

His dedication to his church and community reflected his deep faith and commitment to service. Elder Beckett was a Master Mason. He received the honor as a Life Member of Steep Bottom Masonic Lodge #300. He was a faithful member for over 60 years.

On May 7, 1951, at the age of 17, he became employed by E.I. DuPont Company, Savannah River Site as a laborer. He eventually rose to the rank of labor foreman, then, in 1974, he began to move to other craft disciplines, like paint, concrete, and teamster. His job positions began early morning having to leave Estill at 5:00 A.M., each morning riding two hours to Savannah River Site. In his youthful years at SRS he received great from mentors and carpoolers on their everyday journey just to name a few: David Primus, Oregon White, Lusious Young, Silm Chavis, Richard Pollins, CD Singleton, Willie Sanders, Eugene Williams, Verdell Newton, Jack Deloach, and Joe Patterson, Jr. He also worked in the Transportation Logistic Department. Construction officials soon realized what a wise decision it was to hire him, and they gave him the nickname "Beck – Beck." A nickname used by friends for over 50 years of working at the site.

During his tenure at SRS, he met and married the love of his life the late Rubertha Wilson Beckett. Together they raised eight children, six who have worked at SRS.

Elder Beckett had a passion for farming and taking care of livestock. He displayed skills of a veterinarian, skills he learned from his late uncle Claude Russell, taking great care of all his livestock. He raised pigs, goats, chickens, hogs, and hunting dogs. He taught his animals to keep an eye on predators. Above all, he could fix his own farm equipment. These activities brought him joy and allowed him to share his love of the land with his family and community.

Besides working extremely hard to care for his family he loved deep sea fishing, river and pond fishing, watching Sanford and Son, Family Feud, The Chase, The Price is Right and all of Tyler Perry's movies and plays.

In addition, to his wife and parents, he is preceded in death by (2) Daughters: Valeria McGraw and Carolyn Smalls; (1) Son: Jesse Beckett; (7) Siblings: Lillia Thompkins, Lewis Beckett, Hortence Russell, Ruth Singleton, Harrison Beckett, Althea Frances, and Emory Beckett, Jr; (1) Son - In - Law: Carl McGraw.

On Monday, September 1, 2025 Elder Beckett peacefully departed this life to be with the Lord in the comfort of his home.

He leaves to cherishing an astonishing legacy, (8) Children: Rev. Dr. T. (Cathleen) Beckett; Estill, SC; Vanessa (Rev. Dr. Danny) Swilley; Columbia, SC; Craig (Georgia) Beckett; Sr.; Stanley (Cynthia) Beckett; Jacqueline (Herbert) Robinson; all of Estill, SC; Tracie (Bryant) Ham; Columbia, SC; Leon Gordon; Florida; Rudolph Housey; Estill, SC; (1) Adopted Son: Illya Odom; Estill, SC; (40) Grandchildren; (43) Great – Grandchildren; (1) Sister: Carolyn Beckett Dixon; Newark, NJ; (1) Devoted Nephew: Marion Singleton; Savannah, GA. A host of loving nieces, nephews, cousins, and sympathizing friends.

His life was one of faith, service, and love, and his legacy will continue through all who knew and loved him.



