

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
MY BEAUTIFUL WIFE

*The day you left and gained your wings, my heart just broke in two.
I wish you could have stayed with me, but Heaven needed you.*

*You left me with memories, and I love you dearly still.
No matter how much time goes by, you know I always will.*

*You were a very special person, with kindness in your heart.
And the love we shared together grows stronger now we're apart.*

*I know I cannot bring you back, although I wish it every day.
But a piece of me went with you the day you went away.*

*Always and Forever,
Your Loving Husband, Willard.*

Pallbearers
Family Friends

Floral Attendants
Family Friends



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
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Mrs. Renique Yvette Riley-Spiller, Owner and Operator

A SERVICE OF LOVE



Celebrating
THE LIFE OF

Salley

MELISSA BRANCH

JULY 19, 1961 — MAY 19, 2026

~ Celebration ~

Sunday, May 24, 2026 — 2:30 Post Meridian

~ Held At ~

**Fairfax First Baptist Church
Fairfax, South Carolina 29827**

~ Officiate ~

Rev. James Davis, Eulogist



Order of Worship

Musical Prelude	Sandra Daubard
Processional	Clergy, Family, Friends
Welcome & Prayer	Rev. James Davis
Hymn	“Amazing Grace” #330
Daughter’s Tribute	Shelby & Kari Branch
Hymn	“Old Rugged Cross” #141
Open Tributes	
Acknowledgments	M.F. Riley’s Staff
Eulogy	Rev. James Davis
Hymn	“Victory In Jesus” #426
Poem.....	“No More Tears In Heaven” Cindy Davis
Solo.....	“Because He Lives” Shawn Haynes
Benediction	
Recessional	
Postlude	

Memorial Repository
Bethany Cemetery
Charleston, South Carolina
Committal ~ Prayer ~ Benediction

~ A NOTE OF GRATITUDE ~

The family of Salley Melissa Branch would like to extend their heartfelt thanks for the kindness, compassion, and support shown during this time of loss. Your thoughtful messages, cards, prayers, flowers, and comforting presence have meant more to us than words can express. Each gesture of sympathy has brought strength and reassurance, reminding us that we are surrounded by care and love. As we remember Salley’s life, we are deeply grateful for everyone who shared in honoring her memory and celebrating the moments that made her so special. Your support has helped us through this difficult time and will remain in our hearts always.

With Sincere appreciation and gratitude,
The Branch Family

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made to the American Cancer Society to support breast cancer research in memory of Salley Melissa Branch. Contributions can be made at
End Cancer As We Know It | American Cancer Society

Obituary

“And He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain, the first things have passed away.” Revelation 21:4

Mrs. Salley Melissa Branch was born July 19, 1961, to the late Glen Burbage and the late Nancy Doris Hinson, in Charleston County, South Carolina.

She attended Middleton High School and graduated with the Class of 1979. She continued her education at the College of Charleston, graduating with the Class of 1985. She later attended The Citadel, where she earned her Master’s Degree and graduated with the Class of 1995.

Salley met and married the love of her life Judge Willard Branch, on July 31, 1999, and to this union two beautiful daughters were born.

With her husband and daughters, they moved to Fairfax, South Carolina.

Her faith and belief in God were expressed when she united in membership at Fairfax First Baptist Church. She was a dedicated and faithful member of her church. She sang in the choir and willingly stepped in wherever needed to assist in other departments of the church.

Salley was full of love, life, wisdom, and laughter. During her leisure time, she enjoyed reading, going to the beach, baking, Clemson Tiger Football, traveling, and spending time with her family. She will be remembered for her infectious smile, kindness, advocacy, and gentle soul.

She was an employee of the South Carolina Department of Social Services for 28 years. She most recently served as the County Director in Allendale County, South Carolina.

Salley received our Savior’s summon and succumbed to an eternal bliss on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, in the comfort of her home.

Salley’s departure has left a tremendous void in her home and the lives of her beloved husband of 27 years; Judge Willard D. Branch; of the home; (2) Daughters: Shelby (Kevontae Paul) Branch; North Charleston, SC; Kari (Dakota Van Vlack) Branch; Neeses, SC (2) Brothers: Danny (Cathy) Burbage; Summerville, SC; Pete Burbage; James Island, SC; (1) Sister: Suzy (Cooper) Burbage Williams; Galivants Ferry, SC; Father – In – Law: Willard “Spec” Branch, Sr; North Charleston, SC; (3) Nephews: Lee (Becca) Burbage; North Charleston, SC; Jesse (Jenneniah) Williams; Fairfax, SC; Tyler Burbage; James Island, SC; (1) Niece: Victoria (Chris) Sumner; Pelion, SC; (2) Sisters – In – Law: Dionne Conely (her son Dylan); Summerville, SC; Susie Surrell (her sons: Jay and Justin); Rockport, TX. A host of loving cousins and sympathizing friends.