

Honoring

THE LIFE OF OUR BELOVED



DEACON CHESTER JOE
McLendon

May 20, 1942 - August 11, 2024

A Life

Greatness is not found in possession, money, power, positions, titles, or prestige. Greatness is discovered in truth, goodness, humility, integrity, character, and service to our fellow man. Such was the life of Deacon Chester Joe McLendon.

Deacon Chester Joe McLendon was born to the late Ben Steele and Mary Ella McLendon on May 20, 1942 in Richmond County, North Carolina. On Monday, August 11, 2026, Deacon Chester Joe McLendon received his final call.

Educated in the public schools of Richmond County, North Carolina, he attended Mineral Springs High School, graduating in the Class of 1961. Deacon Chester, later entered the Funeral Service Program at Fayetteville Technical Community College, graduating in 1990.

His Work

Chester J. McLendon started working early in his life. A few of his early work experiences included cleaning houses, catching chickens, and finally, he served as a safety patrol officer at Mineral Springs School. He took that job very seriously. He actually thought that he was a certified police officer.

After a brief living experience in the City of New York, Chester returned to Ellerbe. He began working with N. C. Mutual Insurance Company in July of 1965. Chester was the company's top sales person. His hard work was awarded with travel vacations throughout the world. He shared these vacations with his beautiful wife, Annie. They enjoyed traveling to places like New York, Mexico City, Atlanta, Georgia, Canada, and Florida.

Chester McLendon's desire for success continued and through his hard work and determination, his dream of owning his own funeral home, became a reality. McLendon Funeral Home has served the people of the Richmond County Community for over fifty years!

His Service To God

Deacon Chester Joe McLendon loved God! At a very early age, Deacon Chester became a member of Saint Luke Freewill Baptist Church (#1) He has served his beloved church in many capacities. Starting in 1963, as the Superintendent of the Sunday School, President of the Twilight Gospel Singers, Chairman of the Trustee and Deacon Boards, Usher, and finally as the Church Treasurer.

Deacon Chester was a Bible Scholar! His knowledge of God's word, was a direct result of his faithfulness and participation in Bible study night at St. Luke's. Deacon Chester Joe McLendon didn't care what was going on in the world on that particular night, he was going to be at Bible study! God was the very strength of Deacon Chester's life. Deacon Chester's Final Words "Remember that the only Bible a person may read is you. Because you are the Bible."

Well Lived

His Love of Family

Chester loved his family, and laid their foundational success by following three simple principles; First, love and honor God with all of your heart. Secondly, maintain a good reputation, and lastly, always be honest in everything that you do.

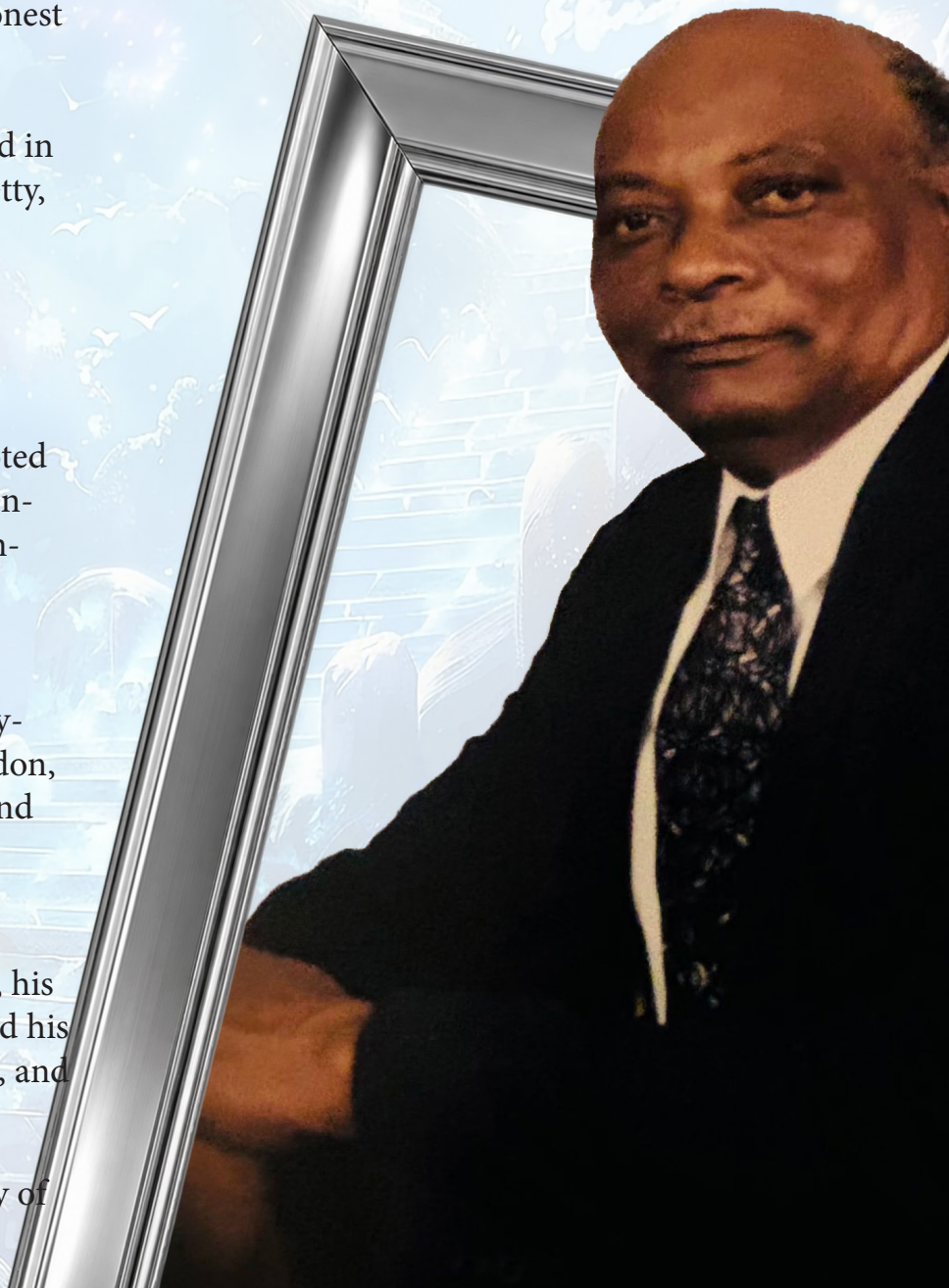
Deacon Chester J. McLendon is preceded in death by his parents, and his siblings, Betty, Jesse, Robert, and William.

His Legacy of Love

He is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 62 years, Annie Covington McLendon; his beautiful daughters, Shelia (Timothy), and Tonya; Grandchildren, Mick (Kyia), Isaiah, and Jeremiah; Stephany; Grandchildren, Nathaniel (Hydia), and Hannah; and Great-Grandchild, Antoni-us; Sister-laws, Mattie and Nellie McLendon, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Precious memories shall always remain with the McLendon Funeral Home Staff, his colleague and friend, Gary Overcash, and his Sons in Funeral Service, Rev. Jeff Person, and John T. Peoples.

Thank you God for the Life and Legacy of
Chester Joe McLendon!



Order of Service

Officiating

Bishop Reginald Hinton

Eulogist

Elder Wilma Murray

Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believed in me, though he was dead, yet shall he live.

John 11:25

Prelude

Minister of Music

Processional

Clergy and Family

Song of Praise

Twilight Gospel Singers

Prayer of Comfort

Deacon William Smith

Scripture Reading

Old Testament: Psalm 100

Bishop Arlester Simpson

New Testament: Revelation 21:1–4

Rev. Jerry McNeil

Selection

Twilight Gospel Singers

Order of Service

So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.
Psalm 90:12

Church Resolution

St. Luke's Freewill Baptist Church (#1)

Reflections (*Two Minutes*)

Elizabeth M. Bryant
Bishop Frederick E. Clarida
Pastor Joseph McFarland

Remarks (*Two Minutes*)

Lessons Learned from Daddy

Tonya McLendon

Acknowledgments

Elder Angela Smith

Musical Presentation

St. Luke's Freewill Baptist Church (#1)

Selection

Albert Everett

Words of Comfort

Elder Wilma Murray

Recessional

Interment

St. Luke's Freewill Baptist Church (#1)

Treasured





Memories

Honorary Pallbearers

McLendon Funeral Home Staff

Honorary Flower Bearers

McLendon Funeral Home Staff

Active Pallbearers

Friends

Active Flower Bearers

Friends

A Healer's Reward

He walked in faith and healing grace,
A servant heart in every place.
God shaped his hands, both firm and kind,
To mend the body, soothe the mind
Through weary nights and long, hard days,
He served the Lord in quiet ways.
Each life he touched, each prayer he prayed,
Reflected love that never fades.
He ran his race, his work now done,
And hears the words, "Well done, My son."
No pain, no tears, no earthly strife—
He's earned the crown of endless life.
His instruments now laid to rest,
His spirit home, forever blessed.
For those who heal with heart and hand,
Are closest to what God had planned.

Our Sincere Gratitude

Perhaps you sent a lovely card or sat quietly in a chair. Maybe you sent a flower arrangement, if so, we saw it there. Perhaps you spoke the kindest words that any friend could say. Maybe you were not there at all, but simply thought of us today.
Whatever you may have done to console our hearts, we thank you, whatever your part.

It is with sincere gratitude that we, the family of the late Chester Joe McLendon, appreciate your love, compassion, and sympathetic gestures during the passing of our loved one. First Health Hospitals, of Richmond, and Pinehurst.
Brock Bartlett, Mabrys Drug and Home Care, Emily Nicholson, Sheriff Mark B Gullede, the McFayden Family, Uriah Smith, St. Luke Freewill Baptist Church (#1), Greenlake Baptist Church, the McLendon Funeral Home Staff, his special son's in Funeral Service, Rev. Jeff Person, and John T. Peoples.
Gracefully,
The McLendon Family