



Acknowledgments

The Riley family is in awe and appreciation of the outpouring of support, love, care, prayers, and acts of kindness during this time of bereavement. Our dear Obbie honorably served his community, but most importantly, he deeply valued fellowship, and we are thankful to those who traveled near and far to celebrate his mighty life.

*"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."
Matthew 18:20*

Pallbearers

*Freddie Grady Jr.
Gavin Grady
Delonte Riley
Jordan Burge
Le'Keistan Tisdale
John Henry Jordan III*

Honorary Pallbearers

*Damondre Johnson
Freddie Grady Sr.
Kenneth Carr
Maurice Williams*

Special acknowledgments and affiliations:

*Mississippi Association of Supervisors, Minority Caucus
The Gideons International
Mississippi Democratic Party
Veterans of Foreign Wars
The American Legion*

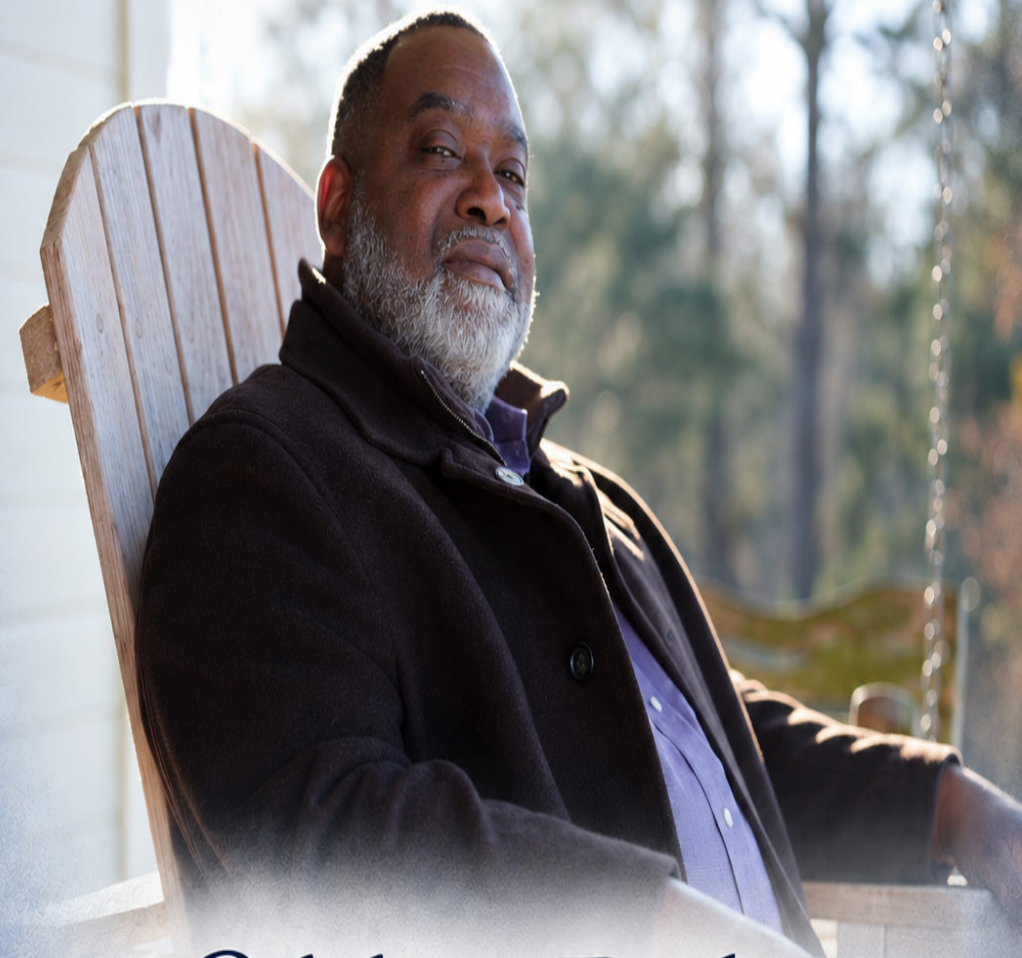
Services Entrusted To:

Beck Funeral Home, Inc.
10460 Road 561
Philadelphia, Mississippi 39350
(601) 656-1191
website: www.beckfuneralhomeinc.com

Programs Prepared by:

*Davis Life & Legacy Printing
Celebrating a Life,
Preserving a Legacy*

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR



Obbie Riley

EARTHLY ARRIVAL
June 30, 1962

HEAVENLY DEPARTURE
September 19, 2026

Saturday, September 26, 2026 • 2:00 P.M.

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church

11191 Road 747
Philadelphia, MS 39350

PASTOR EDDIE HINTON, SR.
OFFICIATING

Order of Service

Matthew 25:23: “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

Mistress of Ceremonies.....Sis. Shayla Robertson

Musical prelude/procession.....

Selection.....Philadelphia Parish Choir

The word of hope:
Old/New Testament.....Rev. Lindsey Kidd

Prayer of Comfort.....Pastor Eddie Hinton, Sr.

Congregational Selection.....Blessed Assurance: Hymn 369

Words of Remembrance.....Selection of family and friends

Official Proclamations.....Selected presenters & Sis.Shayla Robertson

Musical tribute.....Sis. Ayana and Sis. Gail Whitlock
“If I Can Help Somebody”

Reading of the Obituary: A Life of Service....Sis. Shayla Robertson

Eulogy.....Pastor Jermaine Simmons

Beck Funeral Home Directors In Charge

Musical Postlude & Recess.....

“If I Can Help Somebody”

If I can help somebody, as I travel along
If I can help somebody, with a word or song
If I can help somebody, from doing wrong
No, my living shall not be in vain
No, my living shall not be in vain
No, my living shall not be in vain
If I can help somebody, as I’m singing the song
You know, my living shall not be in vain

Celebrating A Life of Service

Psalm 29:11:

The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace.

Obbie Riley, the U.S. Coast Guard veteran and five-time Neshoba County District 5 Supervisor who dedicated his life to serving God and his community, was 64 when he was called home.

Obbie was the youngest boy of seven siblings, born on July 30, 1962, to the late Burline (Kirkland) and Luther Riley, who raised him in the Longdale community. His appetite for service started at a young age: as a teenager, he drove the school bus and coached football and baseball. He inherited a spirit of caring for the community from his parents, who kept their door open to family and neighbors, and met the needs of anyone in need of a meal, a prayer, or a ride to town.

He graduated from Neshoba Central High School (C’1980) and continued his education at the Alabama Aviation Technical School and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, where he majored in Aviation Maintenance Management. He entered the U.S. Coast Guard in 1983 and served for 22 years, retiring as an Aviation Maintenance Technician Chief Petty Officer. He received numerous honors while serving, including the Humanitarian Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the DOT Outstanding Unit Award, and a Transportation 9/11 Ribbon.

After his military service, Obbie returned to this community to continue serving his people. He was elected to the Board of Supervisors in November 2007 and took office on January 7, 2008. He worked tirelessly for the Democratic Party, most recently serving as Chair of the Neshoba County Democratic Executive Committee. As a third-act career, he established Peter Hatchett Farm, which produces chicken eggs and takes its title from his father’s nickname. When he wasn’t working, he participated in a wide range of hobbies. He loved hunting, fishing, visiting loved ones, storytelling, cooking, grilling, sipping his coffee on the porch in the mornings, watching Auburn football, working on cars in his shop, and operating his tractor with his dog Rex beside him.

His proudest accomplishments, however, were rooted in his family tree. He is survived by his loving wife, Dr. Julia Riley, and their marriage was grounded in faith, family, and service to others. They shared five children and a bounty of grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Obbie was a lifelong member of The Historic Mt. Zion United Methodist Church. On occasion, he offered a civil rights history tour capturing the events of Freedom Summer 1964 and the three civil rights workers, James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner, who were killed after visiting Mt. Zion, which they scouted as a site for voter registration.

“The truth is uncomfortable,” he said during an interview in 2022. “The sun burns when you have to stand in it, but it cleanses.”

Obbie Riley will be remembered for his contagious laugh, caring demeanor, and his unrelenting compassion and empathy. His wife likes to say, “Obbie never met a stranger.” May his life and work continue through the memories and actions of those he loved and served, and beyond.



Remembered by:

Children: Obbie Q. Riley (Philadelphia), Rodrick Riley (Philadelphia), Shereka Riley-Jordan and John Henry Jordan III (Memphis), Obreanna Riley (Gulfport), and Ko Bragg (New Orleans).

Siblings: Luther (Lisa) Riley Jr., Freddie (Ruby) Grady, Edna Hunt
His treasured grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, and beloved Aunt Dess.

Predeceased loved ones:

Siblings: Jennifer Riley, Marvin Grady, and Leemon Riley
Twin angel babies: Keyson L. Riley and Keynicka S. Riley

Blessed Assurance: The United Methodist Hymnal Number 369

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

(Refrain)

Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

(Refrain)

