



FOREVER IN OUR  
HEARTS

## PALLBEARERS

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

## HONORARY PALLBEARERS

The Men of Nazareth R.E. Church

## FLORAL BEARERS

Friends of the Family

## EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE

The family of the late

**ELIJAH "BOOTSIE" MCCANTS, JR.**

is grateful for all expressions of love, kindness, and comfort shown during the passing of our loved one. Our lives are now changed by Elijah's passing, yet so wondrously blessed by the preciousness of his memory. We are sincerely appreciative to everyone who took the time to show love to him throughout the period of his extended illness. We would like to especially thank: the Staff of Cypress Square Assisted Living, Interim Healthcare, Nazareth R.E. Church Family, Gethers Funeral Home Inc. and the many others who took the time to visit and share a laugh. May the joy, peace and love of God always embrace you.

COMPASSIONATE & CARING SERVICES  
ENTRUSTED TO:



200 Grace Street | Moncks Corner, South Carolina  
221 Church Road | St. Stephen, South Carolina  
Telephone: 843.761.8519 or 843.567.4046  
"Committed To Excellence and Integrity"  
[www.gethersfuneralhome.com](http://www.gethersfuneralhome.com)

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR

# ELIJAH "BOOTSIE" MCCANTS, JR.

ALPHA

OMEGA

October 29, 1941

May 27, 2025

Tuesday, June 3, 2025 | 11:00 A.M

Nazareth Reformed Episcopal Church  
145 West End Drive | Moncks Corner, SC





# LIFE REFLECTION

*“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.” ~ II Timothy 4:7-*

## EARLY LIFE AND EDUCATION

Born and raised in the Kitfield Section of Moncks Corner, South Carolina, Elijah was one of two children born to the late Rev. Elijah McCants, Sr. and Elizabeth Smalls McCants on October 29, 1941. To close family and friends, he was also known as “Bootsie”. He was reared in a home where Christian values were stressed. He exhibited natural vitality and curiosity from an early age. He was always someone who found joy in discovery, whether it was through academic pursuits or the simple act of walking in the natural beauty of his surroundings.

Elijah attended Berkeley Training High School, Moncks Corner, SC, graduating in 1959. He not only excelled academically, but his love for music propelled him to become a member of the school’s inaugural marching band. Upon graduation, he enrolled at Howard University, Washington, DC. He matriculated there with hopes of obtaining a degree in medicine; however, upon departure from the school he enlisted in the United States Army. He served dutifully and received an Honorable Discharge. Elijah also completed additional studies at Long Island University, Brooklyn, NY.

## PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Elijah’s professional career was characterized by dedication, innovation, and a commitment to making a difference through banking and providing financial advice. He began his career in banking at Manufactor’s Hanover Trust Bank in Brooklyn, NY in 1968. After twelve years, he desired to come back home where he became a banking officer for South Carolina National Bank, which later became First Union, and then Wachovia Bank (now Wells Fargo). He retired from banking and became a Financial Advisor with The Sharon Snyder Agency, a position that he held until deteriorating health necessitated his retirement. With every position held, he earned the respect of colleagues and clients alike for his exceptional skills and unwavering integrity. Elijah’s focus on assisting others to obtain their dreams not only contributed to his professional success but also enriched the lives of those he served.

## COMMUNITY COMMITMENT

Elijah was a cornerstone of his community. Whether volunteering at local charities, mentoring youth, or simply offering a listening ear to anyone in need; his compassion and empathy knew no bounds. Elijah became a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated in 1961 through Alpha Chapter. He later became a member of the Iota Beta Beta Chapter (graduate) where he served in the following capacities: Keeper of Finance, Keeper of Records and Seal, Vice Basileus and Basileus of Iota Beta Beta Chapter. He was a member of Meridian Lodge #93, Free and Accepted Masons, Prince Hall Affiliated, New York, New York.

Through the years, Elijah served on the board of numerous civic organizations, including, but not limited to the Berkeley County Planning Commission, and The Ernest E Kennedy Center. He also served on the Board of the Cummins Memorial Theological Seminary, Summerville, SC. He tirelessly worked to transform the lives of those who were less fortunate. Elijah believed in the power of collective action and inspired countless others to join him in his mission of hope.

Elijah’s early Christian affiliation as a youth was with Wesley United Methodist Church, Pinopolis, SC. After his military service, he transferred his membership to Nazareth Reformed Episcopal Church, West End, Moncks Corner, SC. He dutifully served within organizations in the church including: the Vestry Board, Senior Choir, and Men of the Church.

## FAMILY, PERSONAL INTERESTS, LEGACY AND REMEMBRANCE

Family was the heart and soul of Elijah’s life. He was a devoted husband, father, sibling, and cousin, providing support, guidance, and unconditional love. His family remembers him as a person of unparalleled warmth and support. He knew no stranger and could easily engage with anyone he met. At the assisted living facility (Cypress Square) where he resided for the past two years, he was endeared by the staff as someone who could light up a room with his smile and jovial manner. He made even ordinary moments feel extraordinary to those who cared for him.

Elijah had a deep appreciation for the arts and the natural world. He loved fishing, golfing, listening to jazz, and traveling.

On Tuesday, May 27, 2025, Elijah transitioned from earth to his Heavenly home. Though he is no longer physically with us, his memory will continue to inspire those he left behind. He taught us the value of kindness, the importance of resilience, and the significance of living life fully and always trusting in God. His life was a testament to the power of human connection as he shared with others his God given blessings.

Elijah’s passing leaves a void that cannot be filled, but his legacy will endure in the hearts and minds of all who knew him. Let us honor his memory by embodying the values he cherished and continuing to uplift those around us, just as he did throughout his life.

## FAREWELL

As he has transitioned from his earthly life, his spirit will continue to live on through his devoted family: his wife, Ruthie S. McCants of Summerville, SC; son, Ronald McCants of Richmond, VA; his beloved sister, Carole (Henry B., Jr.) McCants Williams of Moncks Corner, SC; stepchildren: Shanita K. Simmons, Eric Simmons and Daniel Simmons of Summerville, SC; special niece, Yvette Weiters; special cousins, Dirinda (Frank) Weiters of Moncks Corner, SC, Ruby W. Brooks, Dr. William J. Washington (Retired), Willie M. Marshall and Melvin Washington all of Cleveland, Ohio; two grandchildren; one great-grandchild; a host of other loving relatives and friends.

Elijah (Bootsie) will be greatly missed, but his presence will remain eternal in the lives he touched.

Rest in peace. You were a beacon of light in our lives, and your spirit will forever shine brightly.

# ORDER OF SERVICE

*Reverend George C. McCray, Officiating  
Bishop William White, Presiding*

**Processional Sentences**.....BCP, Pg. 516

**Opening Hymn**.....Blessed Assurance

**Psalter – Psalms 27**.....(*read in unison, all standing*)

**Gloria Patri** (*sung by all, standing*)

## Scripture Reading

Old Testament.....Psalm 116:1-9.....Rev. Benjamin Milligan  
*Rector, Redeemer R. E. Church*

New Testament.....Revelation 21:1-7..... Rev. Tory Liferidge  
*Rector, Grace RE Church*

**The Apostles’ Creed** (*all standing*).....BCP, Pg. 16

**Prayers Continued**.....BCP, Pgs. 526-529

**Solo**.....Bro. Terrell Palmer

## Life Reflections: (3 Minute Limit)

Church.....Bro. Chauncey Bryant, Class Leader

Friend.....Bro. Raymond Bennett

Family ..... Dr. William Washington (Retired)

Recognition ..... Berkeley Training High School Class of 1959

**Solo**.....Sis. Faye Hanton

**Poem**.....Sis. Carole M. Williams

## Resolution

**Selection**..... Nazareth Reformed Episcopal Church Choir

**Words of Comfort**.....Rev. George C. McCray  
*Former Rector, Nazareth R.E. Church*

## Benediction

## Committal Service

**Recessional Scripture Sentences**