

*Commemorating the Life,
Labor, and Legacy of*



*"Well done,
good and
faithful servant."*

Matthew 25:23



MASTER SERGEANT
BOBBY JAMES MATTHEWS

A LEADER ★ A MENTOR ★ A SERVANT

FUNERAL SERVICE

**Saturday, October 3, 2026
11:00 a.m.**

**Saint Stephen Missionary Baptist Church
272 Church Road
St. Stephen, South Carolina**

Reverend Alexander Washington, Pastor



IN LOVING MEMORY OF
MASTER SERGEANT
BOBBY MATTHEWS

A LEADER ★ A MENTOR ★ A SERVANT

*“Well done,
good and
faithful servant.”*

Matthew 25:23



THE CROSS HIGH SCHOOL FAMILY WILL FOREVER KEEP
THE LEGACY OF MASTER SERGEANT BOBBY MATTHEWS
IN OUR HEARTS.

WE WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP HIS LOVING WIFE, LORRAINE,
AND HIS ENTIRE FAMILY IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS.

“A Whispered Goodbye”

My dearest Bobby,

*My heart knows you're missing from me,
And now, in some way, I must face the reality.*

Unfortunately, our love has come to its end;

*You were my husband, my companion, and my closest friend.
You were the one who walked beside me through many seasons of this life,*

What a team we were as husband and wife.

Forty-four years is a long time to love someone so dear;

Whatever each day became, you were always near.

There are moments now when I may not remember every place we went,

Every conversation we shared, or how each passing day was spent.

Though my mind cannot hold onto everything,

You gave me memories, my strong, loving king.

Rest now, Bobby, you've walked your earthly journey for eighty-two years,

You've left me precious memories and sadly you leave me with tears.

And now I stand with love that will not fade,

Holding the life we built and the promises we made.

Though you've journeyed on to where sorrow cannot stay,

Your spirit walks with me in its own quiet way.

So, I whisper my goodbye, though love remains the same,

Carried in my heart, still answering to your name.

Your Loving Wife, Lura

*Written for his wife by Ronald Marsh Smith
September 17, 2026*

ORDER OF SERVICE
Reverend Delbert Brown, Presiding

PROCESSIONAL.....Clery & Family

OPENING HYMN “What a Friend We Have In Jesus”

SCRIPTURE

Old Testament: Psalm 23.....Reverend Joyce M. Eady, Pastor
Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church ~ Alvin, SC

New Testament: John 14: 1-7.....Minister Brandon Middleton, Youth Pastor
Grace Cathedral Ministries ~ Sumter, SC

PRAYER OF COMFORT.....Reverend Edna H. Bryant
New Covenant Baptist Church ~ St. Stephen, SC

SOLO.....Reverend Mikle Jenkins
Calvary Reform Episcopal Church ~ St. Stephen, SC

REFLECTIONS: (Please respect the 3-minute time limit)

Deacon Troy Goodman, St. Stephen, SC ~ St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church
Sister Ruthie M. Doyal, St. Stephen, SC ~ Community
Mr. George Twiggs, Friend, Charleston, SC ~ Russellville High School Class of 1962
Sister Theresa S. Prioleau, Colleague, Cross, SC ~ CEO Founder Nonprofit
Mr. Moses Matthews, Brother, Williamston, NC ~ Family
Mr. Jeremiah Graham, Friend, Summerville, SC ~ Community
Mr. Bobby Walker, Friend, Jupiter, Florida ~ Veteran’s Affairs
Dr. Franklin Addison, Laurel, Maryland ~ Morgan State University Class of 1968

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & RESOLUTIONS.....Sister Trishell Edwards
Saint Stephen Missionary Baptist Church, Secretary

SELECTION..... “Pass Me Not O Gentle Savior”

WORDS OF COMFORT.....Reverend Alexander Washington, Pastor
Saint Stephen Missionary Baptist Church

SOLO.....Reverend Mikle Jenkins

COMMITTAL

BENEDICTION

REPAST

The family will receive friends in the church fellowship hall immediately following the service.

Life and Legacy

Master Sergeant Bobby James Matthews was born October 6, 1943, in St. Stephen, South Carolina, the fifth of eight children born to the late Robert Matthews, Sr., and Gertrude Gilliard Matthews. He was called home from his labor to rest on August 31, 2026. He attended the public schools of Berkeley County and graduated from Russellville High School. Upon graduation, he relocated to Baltimore, Maryland, where he found work and enrolled in Morgan State University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and Economics in 1968. Driven by a lifelong commitment to learning, MSG Matthews pursued extensive graduate studies in business administration and economics at Kansas State University, Wayne State University, Case Western Reserve University, and the University of Michigan, as well as coursework through the University of Southern Colorado and Harold Washington College.

MSG Matthews dedicated over three decades of honorable service to his country. He answered the call to serve in the United States Army, attaining the rank of Sergeant during his initial active duty from 1968 to 1970, before continuing his military trajectory in the U.S. Army Reserve. Over a distinguished 32-year military career, he served as a Chemical Operations Specialist, Personnel Specialist, and Master Trainer (MSG/E-8) prior to his retirement. Throughout his time in uniform, MSG Matthews received numerous awards and accolades, including the Bronze Star Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and the Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon.

In his civilian career, MSG Matthews displayed exceptional corporate leadership and expertise. He began his professional journey as a Corporate Recruiter for Ford Motor Corporation and Diamond Shamrock Corp., completing specialized management training in industrial relations. He then joined the Chrysler Corporation, serving from 1973 to 1980 as a Regional Manager and earning merit honors for leading top-performing operations. Building on these achievements, MSG Matthews joined ten executive colleagues to establish Career Works, Inc., where he enjoyed a successful 22-year tenure from 1980 to 2005, ultimately rising to the role of Senior Regional Vice President. In this capacity, he negotiated major state and federal contracts, managed labor union agreements, and designed comprehensive leadership development programs.

Upon returning home to South Carolina in 2005, MSG Matthews transitioned his rich military and executive leadership experience into the classroom, serving the Berkeley County School District for thirteen years as the Senior Army Instructor for the JROTC program at Cross High School. A beloved educator and pillar of the community, he was named Cross High School’s 2006 Teacher of the Year and received a Life Membership with the South Carolina Congress of Parents and Teachers in 2007. Beyond teaching cadet leadership (LET 3–4), he counseled students, organized annual blood drives, military balls, ASVAB testing, and Veteran’s Day ceremonies, while hosting job retention and parenting workshops for local residents. On August 1, 1982, he married the love of his life, Lura Mae Armstrong and for forty-four years they shared a love that was inseparable.

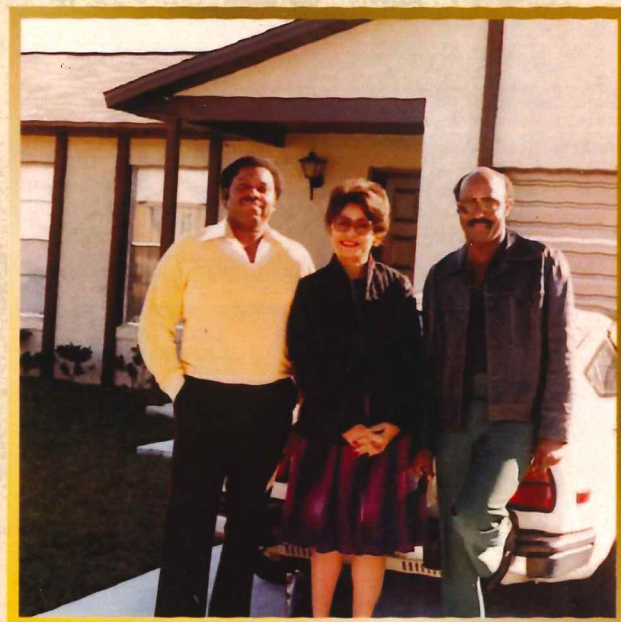
Left to cherish his memory is his beloved wife, Lura Mae Armstrong Matthews of the home; his siblings, Nathaniel (Edna) Matthews of St. Stephen, South Carolina; Moses (Carolyn) Matthews of Williamston, North Carolina, a cousin reared as a brother, Leonard Bryan of Monks Corner, South Carolina; a nephew reared as a brother, Nathan Matthews of Baltimore, Maryland; sisters-in-love, Coretta Hughes of Champagne, Illinois; Viola Ford Matthews and Karen Matthews of Baltimore, Maryland; his step-father, James Howell of Champagne, Illinois; along with a host of nieces, nephews, extended family members, former cadets, and dear friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, his brothers Robert Jr., Joseph David, and Silas Matthews and two sisters, Minnie L. Matthews and Virginia M. Barber.



"And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life." 1 John 2:25

Listen with Your Heart

Memories are a treasure time cannot take away
 So, may you be surrounded by happy ones today.
 May all the love and tenderness of golden years well spent,
 Come back today to fill your heart with beauty and content.
 And may you walk down MEMORY LANE and meet the one you love
 For while you cannot see him, he'll be watching from above.
 And if you trust your dreaming, your faith will make it true
 And if you listen with your heart, he'll come and talk with you.
 So, for his sake be happy and show him that his love
 Has proven strong and big enough to reach down from above
 And you will never walk alone when memory's door swings wide
 For you will find that your beloved is always at your side.



Crossing the Bar

Alfred Lord Tennyson

Sunset and evening star,
 And one clear call for me!
 And may there be no moaning of the bar,
 When I put out to sea,

 But such a tide as moving seems asleep,
 Too full for sound and foam,
 When that which drew from out the boundless deep
 Turns again home.

 Twilight and evening bell,
 And after that the dark!
 And may there be no sadness of farewell,
 When I embark;

 For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place
 The flood may bear me far,
 I hope to see my Pilot face to face
 When I have crossed the bar.

Remember Me

To the living, I am gone,
 To the sorrow, I will never return,
 I am at peace with myself and the Lord
 I cannot speak, but I can listen
 I cannot be seen, but I can hear
 So, remember me in your heart and thoughts,
 Remember me in your memories,
 Remember me, of the times we loved,
 Remember the times we laughed,
 Remember me and the times we cried,
 Remember me the times we fought
 And always remember me of the times we lived together.
 I am resting in peace with the highest hope
 That someday we shall all unite again in God's Kingdom.





PALLBEARERS

Family & Friends

FLORAL BEARERS

Family & Friends

INTERMENT

Monday, October 5, 2026
11:00-11:30 am
Florence National Cemetery
803 East National Cemetery Road
Florence, South Carolina

~ACKNOWLEDGEMENT~

When death comes, the task of a family's friends is indicated through the visitations, communications, flowers, cards, telegrams and other personal services rendered to the family.

We the family of the late Master Sergeant Bobby James Matthews would like to express our thanks to all of you for whatever services you rendered to us during these dark hours of sorrow. We will never forget your kind expression of sympathy and loyal devotion. May the grace of God continue to shower His abiding love upon each of you.

~The Family of MSG Bobby Matthews~

Services Entrusted to:

Gethers Funeral Home

200 Grace Street / Moncks Corner, South Carolina
221 Church Road / St. Stephen, South Carolina
Telephone: 843.761.8519 or 843.567.4046

"A Tradition of Excellence & Integrity."

www.gethersfuneralhome.com