REFLECTIONS OF HIS LIFE

Mr. Hiram Riley Jr. was born on June 16, 1937, in Columbia, South Carolina, to the late Mr. Hiram Riley Sr. and Frances Riley. He transitioned on Friday, October 2, 2026, at his residence.

Hiram was educated in the public schools of Columbia and graduated from C.A. Johnson High School in 1955. During his high school years, he was active in athletics, serving as captain of the basketball team and co-captain of the football and track teams. He later attended Columbia Commercial College, where he earned degrees in Accounting and Business Management. He also attended training in Norman, Oklahoma and received multiple certificates with the United States Postal Service through the Postal Employee Development Center.

Hiram proudly served his country in the United States Army, where he was assigned to the 11th Airborne Division (Infantry). During his military service, he spent three years in Germany, where he served as an E-6 Platoon and Drill Sergeant and managed 50 soldiers. He also attended the Academy in Germany during his deployment. Following his active-duty service, he remained on call for an additional five years. In recognition of his exemplary service and conduct, he was awarded the Good Conduct Medal and recognized as a Parachutist.

Following his military service, Hiram continued his commitment to serving others. He worked for the American Red Cross for four years as a driver. He later enjoyed a distinguished career with the United States Postal Service, retiring as a Postmaster after more than 30 years of dedicated service. During his career, he was honored with the Superior Accomplishment Award.

Hiram was a faithful member of Jones Memorial AME Zion Church for over forty years. His dedication to his church extended beyond attendance; for many years, he faithfully served on the Jubilee Choir, in the Celebrate Recovery Ministry, and as the church van driver.

In addition to his parents, Hiram was preceded in death by his six sisters: Edith Cromwell, Doris Riley, Sarah Glover, Bernice Martin, Edna Goodman, and Mildred Higgins.

He leaves to cherish his memory his loving wife, Shelia Riley; one son, Hiram Riley III; one daughter, Sharon (Enoch) Pou; three stepchildren, Shea (Spencer) Murray, Thomas Ryan Massengale, and Miracle Drummond.

He also leaves a beautiful legacy through his grandchildren, Antonio Riley, Nichole (Terrick) Williams, Kaelah Pou, N'Kosha Smith, Lamiya Murray, and Brooklyn Murray; and his great-grandchildren, Elijah Williams, Araia Williams, Kyla Williams, and Nyla Williams. Hiram's legacy will continue with his soon-to-arrive great-granddaughter, Knova Jones, who was already loved and eagerly anticipated by the family. He also leaves a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Hiram's life was marked by service—to his country, his community, his church, and, above all, his family. His years of dedication, strength, faith, and love created a legacy that will remain in the hearts of all who knew and loved him.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Reverend Solomon McAuley, Officiating

Jones Memorial AME Zion Church

Processional

Clergy, Family & Friends

Opening Selection

Jones Memorial AME Zion Church Choir

String Duet

Miracle Drummond & Brooklyn Murray

Scripture Reading

Old Testament

Pastor Ethel Smith

Church of the Harvest — Columbia, SC

New Testament

Reverend Sharon Malone

Jones Memorial AME Zion Church — Columbia, SC

Prayer

Reverend W. Calvin Murray, Associate Minister

Poplar Spring Baptist Church — Simpsonville, SC

Selection

Mrs. Karen Scott

Reading of Poem

Mrs. Shea Murray

Selection

Minister Angela Williams

Words of Comfort

Reverend James Williams

Closing Selection

Jones Memorial AME Zion Church Choir

Recessional

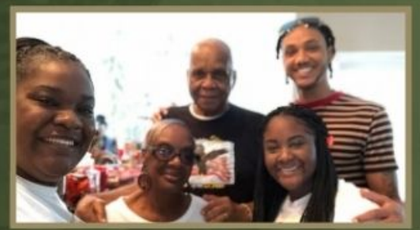
TO BABY FROM YOUR HONEY BUNNY

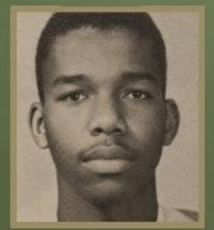
Baby, we found each other later in life,
when neither of us knew just how much love
was still waiting for us.
And somehow, at just the right time,
God allowed our paths to cross
and gave us something beautiful—
each other.
For eighteen years, we shared our lives,
and for ten of those years,
I had the blessing of calling you, my husband.
But no amount of time could ever
have been enough with you.
You called me your Honey Bunny,
and I called you Baby.
Those simple words became our own language of love—
a love that was sweet, genuine,
and uniquely ours.
Baby, you were such a kind and compassionate man.
Your heart was gentle,
your spirit was sweet,
and the love you gave me
made my life better simply because you were in it.
I will miss so many things about you.
I will miss your voice.
I will miss your smile.
I will miss your touch
and the comfort of having you near.
I will miss being your Honey Bunny,
hearing you call my name,
and most of all,
I will miss your ear and kisses.
Oh, how I wish I could have
just one more...
One more hug.
One more kiss.
One more conversation.
One more rub of your ear.
One more moment to look at you
and tell you how deeply I love you.
We may have met later in life, Baby,
but we loved each other dearly.
And I would choose our eighteen years
over a lifetime without knowing
the kind of love we shared.
You were not only my husband.
You were my companion,
my comfort, my friend,
and the man I loved with all my heart.
Now I am learning how to carry
a love that has nowhere to go
except deeper into my heart.
So, I will carry you with me, Baby.
I will carry your kindness.
I will carry your compassion.
I will remember your sweet ways,
your loving heart,
and every kiss that made me feel cherished.
Death may have taken you from my sight,
but it can never take away
the eighteen years we shared,
the ten years we spent as husband and wife,
or the love that made us Baby and Honey Bunny.
Thank you for finding me.
Thank you for choosing me.
Thank you for loving me.
And thank you for allowing me
to love you.
Until we meet again, Baby,
remember that your Honey Bunny
will always love you.
You were my love later in life,
my blessing when I least expected it,
and a piece of my heart
that I will carry forever.
Forever your Honey Bunny.

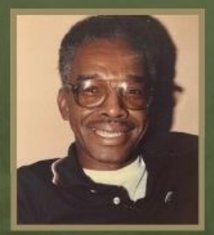
Memories Last














Forever!

Floral Bearers

Family and Friends

Expression of Gratitude

Perhaps you called, sent a card, shared a kind word, offered a prayer, brought food, sent flowers, or simply sat quietly by our side. Perhaps you gave of your time, provided a helping hand, or showed your love and support in ways known and unknown. Whatever you done to comfort our hearts and help carry our burden during this difficult time, please know that your kindness has not gone unnoticed. The Riley family are deeply grateful for every expression of love, prayer, encouragement, and support extended to us during the illness and passing of our loved one. Your thoughtfulness has brought us comfort and strength, and we sincerely thank each of you. We would also like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), your Health, and Caregivers on Demand for the care, compassion, assistance, and support provided to our loved one and our family. Your dedication and kindness will always be remembered. May God richly bless each of you for the love and compassion you have shown.

With sincere gratitude and love,
The Riley family

JP Holley Funeral Home
Est. 1917
JPHolley.com

Celebrating over 100 Years Of Service

Columbia NE Chapel
9010 Farrow Rd
Columbia, SC 29203
803-764-0888

Columbia SE Chapel
8132 Garners Ferry Rd
Columbia, SC 29209
803-695-1666

St. Matthews Chapel
102 Church Street
St. Matthews, SC 29135
803-874-3317

Bishopville Chapel
114 E. Church Street
Bishopville, SC 29010
803-484-7245

Johnathan P. Holley
President & Director

www.jpholley.com

Celebration of Life services for



Hiram Riley Jr.

June 16, 1937 - October 2, 2026

Saturday, October 10, 2026
1:00 PM

Jones Memorial AME Church,
2400 Barhamville Road, Columbia, South Carolina