

Thank You

With heartfelt thanks, the family of Walter Griffen appreciates your prayers, kindness, and support. We are deeply grateful for every call, message, and act of love shown to our family. Your presence and care have meant more than words can express.

Forever

He walked this world with steady hands
And a heart rooted in service.
A husband who loved deeply,
A father who guided patiently,
A grandfather whose smile felt like home.
He was a son who honored his roots,
A loving cousin and a loyal friend,
A brother by bond and by choice,
An uncle who always showed up,
A brother in law who treated family
Not as obligation, but as honor.
Through long years of dedicated work,
He gave his time, his wisdom, his strength,
Serving his community and neighborhood
Not for recognition, but because it mattered.
His life was built on consistency,
On quiet leadership,
On doing what was right
Even when no one was watching.
Though his hands now rest,
His legacy remains alive
In the lives he touched,
The lessons he taught,
And the love he leaves behind.
Forever remembered.
Forever cherished.



Sanders Funeral Home
306 E Market St • Smithfield, NC 27577
Phone: (919) 934-8416



Celebrating

THE LIFE OF



Walter Griffen

June 17, 1944 — January 30, 2026

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

1:00 pm

Johnston Central Alumni Center

REFLECTIONS

Walter Leon Griffin, Sr., age 81, departed this life peacefully at home on January 30, 2026, after a period of declining health.

Walter was the beloved son of the late Walter Griffin and Lillie Mae Watson Griffin. Born on June 17, 1944, he was a lifelong resident of Johnston County. He was affectionately known as “Rabbit” and “Pingaman” by those who knew and loved him.

Walter dedicated his life to hard work and being a dependable provider for his family. He retired from K.R. Edwards Tobacco and later continued his service with JCHS Alumni, where he worked faithfully until his health no longer permitted. He was also self-employed in lawn care and was well known for taking on various jobs, including moving furniture and working on cars. Walter was honored by JCHS Alumni for over 40 years of service and was a recipient of the Man in the Mirror Award.

He was preceded in death by his sisters, Dorthy Jean Griffin Russell and Annie Nora Armstrong.

He leaves to cherish his memory his devoted wife of 43 years, Pamela DeVaughn Griffin; his children, Walter Leon Griffin, Jr., Nicole D. Lane (Cowana), Brandy D. Barnes (Michael), and Jason E. DeVaughn.

He was a loving grandfather to Niasha, Nishaun, Nizire, Jahmere, Michael-Braylen, Zion, Mosiah, Niquan, Nicarie, and Kaya Mae.

Walter is also survived by special cousins Valeshia Watson, Alice King, and Sarah Watson; special sister-in-law and brother-in-law Dora and Cornell Stevens; along with a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

The family finds comfort in knowing that the time has come for his eternal rest. Though their hearts are heavy, they trust that God knows best.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Presiding
Dr. Rev. Morris M. Sanders Jr

Processional
Clergy and Family

The Reading of Scriptures
Old Testament and New Testament
Commander Charles Sanders

Prayer of Comfort
Dr. DeAshley Curtis

Solo
Sister Eboni Yarn- Prather

Acknowledgements & Obituary
Laurea Lassiter

Reflections
Members of Johnston Central Alumni Center

Solo
Sister Eboni Yarn- Prather

Eulogy
Rev. Charles Dublin

Mortician's Brief
Sanders Funeral Home

Recessional
Clergy and Family