

Reflections of His Life

Mr. Benson James Cantrell, affectionately known as “Brother Ben” and “Uncle Ben,” entered into eternal rest on May 26, 2026. Benson was born on July 30, 1955, in Rutherfordton, North Carolina, to the late John Isom Cantrell and Margaret Ann Moore Cantrell.

He graduated from R.S. Central High School in Spindale, North Carolina. In July 1973, Benson enlisted in the United States Army. He faithfully served his country and was honorably discharged from active duty in 1976. He continued his military commitment through the Army Reserve, serving with a unit based in Charlotte, North Carolina, until 1979.

Later, Benson relocated to Los Angeles, California, where he made his home. Utilizing the GI Bill benefits earned through his military service, he pursued higher education. A gifted scholar from an early age, Benson excelled in all subjects and demonstrated a lifelong dedication to learning. His academic achievements included earning two bachelor's degrees, one of which was from the prestigious University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

Benson was intelligent, witty, and possessed a personality that brightened every room he entered. He left a lasting impression on the hearts and minds of everyone he encountered—from renowned boxer Sugar Ray Leonard to the many friends and neighbors he greeted daily at the local VA hospital.

He leaves to cherish his memory his loving sisters: Kitty Cantrell of York, South Carolina; Doris Cantrell Caldwell and Rev. Bobby Caldwell of Inman, South Carolina; Dawn M. Sims and Gregory Sims of Salisbury, North Carolina; and Virginia Greene of Inman, South Carolina. He was preceded in death by his brothers, Rev. John R. Cantrell, Leroy Cantrell, and Arthur Twitty; his sisters, Geneva Copeland and Louise Woodruff; and his fiancée, Cindy Campbell.

Benson loved his family dearly. In addition to his siblings, he leaves behind 19 nieces (three deceased), 7 nephews (two deceased), a host of cousins, great-cousins, great-nieces, great-nephews, and many other relatives and friends who will forever cherish his memory.

His kindness, wisdom, humor, and love for family will be remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Order of Service

Prelude

Processional

Selection

Minister Roger McBeth

Old Testament/New Testament

Pastor Sherman McBeth

Prayer

Pastor Sherman McBeth

Selection

Minister Roger McBeth

Reading of Poem

Selection

Minister Roger McBeth

Words of Comfort

Pastor Sherman McBeth

Recessional

Committal, Prayer and Benediction

Stopping Place

Life is but a stopping place,
A pause in what's to be,
A resting place along the road,
to sweet eternity.
We all have different journeys,
Different paths along the way,
We all were meant to learn some things,
but never meant to stay
Our destination is a place,
Far greater than we know.
For some the journey's quicker,
For some the journey's slow.
And when the journey finally ends,
We'll claim a great reward,
And find an everlasting peace,
Together with the Lord.

Expression of Gratitude

The family of Mr. Benson James Cantrell extends its sincere appreciation and heartfelt gratitude to those who provided support, care, and assistance during this difficult time. We offer a special thank you to: Mr. Curtis Holmes, Fort Jackson National Cemetery, JP Holley Funeral Home, Pastor Sherman McBeth, Minister Roger McBeth and Colonel James Robinson. Your kindness, prayers, guidance, and acts of compassion have been a source of comfort and strength to our family. We are deeply grateful for your support and will always remember your generosity during our time of bereavement.

The Cantrell Family



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

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ST. MATTHEWS CHAPEL
102 CHURCH STREET
ST. MATTHEWS, SC 29135
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BISHOPVILLE CHAPEL
114 E. CHURCH STREET
BISHOPVILLE, SC 29010
803-484-7245

Jonathan P. Holley

P R E S I D E N T & D I R E C T O R

W W W . J P H O L L E Y . C O M

IN LOVING Memory of



Benson James
CANTRELL

JULY 30, 1955 - MAY 26, 2026

THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2026

11:00 AM

JP HOLLEY FUNERAL HOME SOUTHEAST CHAPEL
8132 GARNERS FERRY ROAD, COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29209
PASTOR SHERMAN MCBETH