



### *When I Must Leave You*

When I must leave you  
 For a little while-  
 Please do not grieve  
 And shed wild tears  
 And hug your sorrow to you  
 Through the years,  
 But start out bravely  
 With a gallant smile;  
 And for my sake  
 And for my name  
 Live on and do  
 All things the same,  
 Feed not your loneliness  
 On empty days,  
 But fill each waking hour  
 In useful ways,  
 Reach out your hand  
 In comfort and in cheer  
 And I in turn will comfort you  
 And hold you near;  
 And never, never  
 Be afraid to die  
 For I am waiting for you in the sky!

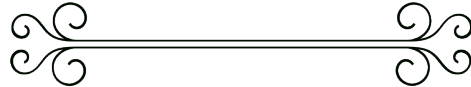
By Helen Steiner Rice



### *Acknowledgments*

The family of the late Mrs. Leila L. Cooper wishes to express our sincere appreciation for all the prayers, phone calls, visits, and many other acts of kindness shown during this difficult time.

~ The Family



### *Pallbearers*

John D. Boone III  
 Andre Dingle  
 Joseph R. Lefft  
 Walton Jones  
 Roger S. Boone  
 John C. Addison



### *Repast*

Private Family Repast



### *Interment*

Zion Cemetary  
 Beulah Tabernacle Rd  
 Russellville, South Carolina



## *In Loving Memory*



# LEILA L. COOPER

APRIL 2, 1932 - APRIL 21, 2026

SATURDAY, MAY 2ND, 2026 12:00 PM  
 GETHERS FUNERAL HOME CHAPEL  
 200 GRACE STREET MONCK'S CORNER, SC 29461



## Obituary

Mrs. Leila Lefft Jones Cooper was born on April 2, 1932, in St. Stephen, South Carolina, to the late Joseph E. Lefft and Emily C. Lefft. She peacefully departed this life on April 21, 2026.

Leila was educated in the public schools of Berkeley County, South Carolina, and later attended Banks Business School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where she studied business administration. She built a distinguished career in public service, holding several executive leadership roles, including Director of the Neighborhood Gardens Association in Philadelphia, Director of Aging for the Philadelphia Corporation for Aging, Director of Aging for Trident United Way in Charleston, South Carolina, and with the Berkeley County Department of Social Services, where she led the aging program. Her leadership and commitment to service made a lasting impact on the communities she served.

A natural leader, Leila believed in striving for excellence in all areas of life. She often said, "Where there's a will, there's a way," a reflection of her strength, resilience, and determination. She deeply loved her family and was a devoted mother, proud wife, cherished grandmother and great-grandmother, sister, aunt, cousin, and loyal friend.

Leila found joy in cooking, singing hymns, reading, and spending time with loved ones. She was known for her straightforward nature and love of conversation—especially during family gatherings. She also had a shoe collection that rivaled Imelda Marcos'. Her strong faith and steady spirit carried her through life's many challenges and setbacks. She was a longtime member of Mt. Carmel AME Church in Moncks Corner, South Carolina, and later attended Love of Christ Church in Bear, Delaware.

Leila was first united in Holy Matrimony to the late Harold E. Jones, and their union was blessed with three children: Harold E. Jones II (Shelia), Valerie Jones Ajuonuma (Christopher), and Harvey J. Jones (Michelle). She was later happily married to Samuel "SJ" Cooper Jr., for over twenty years, who also preceded her in death.

She leaves to cherish her memory her three loving children; ten grandchildren (including Aaron Joseph Jones, who predeceased her); seven great-grandchildren; two sisters-in-law, Winifred G. Lefft and Shirley Bradley Lefft Coleman; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. In addition to her husbands, Leila was preceded in death by her parents, Joseph and Emily Lefft, and her siblings, Gladys Boone (John Boone), Betty Davis (Warren Davis), Joseph D. Lefft, Oscar Lefft, and Joyce Addison (John Addison).



## Order of Service

Prelude - Musician - Ben Maurice Jones Jr. "Going Up Yonder"

Processional - Musician - Ben Maurice Jones Jr. "Amazing Grace"

Opening Hymn - "Precious Lord" - Yvonne Cooper Carter

Invocation - Bishop Roderick Sumpter

Scripture Old Testament - 23 Psalm - Jessica Rojas

Scripture New Testament - John 14:2 - Taylor Chavez

Hymn - "Eye On The Sparrow" - Yvonne Cooper Carter

Poem - Jessica Rojas

REFLECTIONS :

\* Harold E. Jones II

\* Valerie Ajuonuma

\* Harvey J. Jones

Ministry Of Music - "Come Thou Fount Of Every Blessing" - Ben Maurice Jones Jr. & congregation

Words of Comfort - Bishop Roderick Sumpter

Committal - Bishop Roderick Sumpter

Benediction - Bishop Roderick Sumpter

Sending Forth With Blessing - Ms. Octavia Gethers

Recessional - Musician - Ben Maurice Jones Jr. "Be Still My Soul"



## Mom...

How can I ever begin to repay  
All the love and support you've given each day  
From the time I was born, til the time that I pass  
I know that your love will always last  
You're my strength, my inspiration, and all that is in between  
All the love that I have for you has never been seen

When times get hard and the days seem so long  
It is your love and wisdom that carry me on  
You've taught me so much by action and word  
I will always remember the encouragement I've heard  
You taught me to be independent and stand for what I believe  
You taught me to respect and never to deceive

You've instilled the importance of family and pride  
Lessons that I will follow 'til the day that I die  
You are the person that I most admire  
The intelligence, the strength, I only aspire  
To become half as great as you've been to us  
To live, to love, to learn, and to trust

Mom, with these words I pledge to thee  
To become the best person that I can be  
I want you to be proud to say, "That's my son."  
I will not stop until my work is done  
I may not become a doctor or a preacher  
But the Lord knows I had the best teacher

My goal is to carry the morals you instilled in me  
And become the best person that I can be  
I know this is what you want me to do  
And always remember, I love you

I LOVE YOU, MOM. THANK YOU

By Harvey J. Jones 1992