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 crost the bar.

Acknowledgments

Words cannot express how deeply we appreciate all the love, kindness, and support shown to us during this difficult time. It will always be remembered.
May God bless each of you.

Funeral Arrangements Entrusted To:

JWR Robinson Funeral Home Est. 1911
"Where Courtesy Dwells & Service Excels"

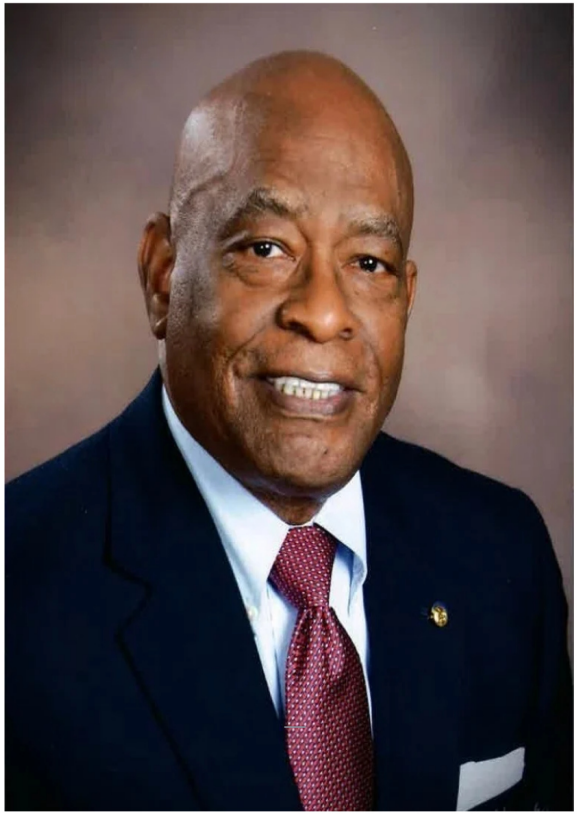
534 Hampton Street
Rock Hill, South Carolina
(803)327-4245

Designed by vndwhite 803-659-7148

Celebrating the Life of

Napoleon Franklin Bradford

April 24, 1945 – October 31, 2026



Service: Wednesday, November 4, 2026 · 12:00 PM

Robinson Funeral Home

534 Hampton Street, Rock Hill, SC

Officiating: Captain Napoleon A. Bradford, D.MIN.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Call to Worship.……..…Dr. Marion H. Newton
Jehovah Missionary Baptist Church

Opening Hymn…..... *"Precious Lord"*……Dr. Karen H. Bradford
The Perfecting Place

Scripture Reading:
Old Testament .....Psalm 23…….….Prophet M. Janean Wilson
The Perfecting Place

New Testament…….Matthew 6:9-15……....Pastor Justin T. Rhodes
Trinidad Baptist Church

Prayer of Comfort` .....

Selection..... *"It Is Well"*

Remarks and Acknowledgments……..……The Grandchildren

Selection……..……Minister NeTyra A. Bradford

Words of Comfort .....Chaplain(CPT) Napoleon A. Bradford, D.Min.

Benediction/Blessing of Food

Recessional Hymn .....“Going Up Yonder”

Napoleon Franklin Bradford, beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, educator, minister, and United States Air Force veteran, peacefully transitioned from this earthly life on Saturday, October 31, 2026.

Born in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Napoleon was the son of Henry Shields Bradford and Mary Catherine Davis Bradford. Matriculating through the public schools of Forsyth County, Napoleon “Poe” graduated from Paisley High School in 1963 and continued his education at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, earning a Bachelor of Science in Art Education in 1968. He later earned a master's degree in Social Studies from the University of South Carolina in 1977.

A proud Vietnam-era veteran, Napoleon served in the United States Air Force and attained the rank of Captain. Following his military service, he dedicated almost three decades to public education in Sumter, South Carolina, serving as a History teacher at Bates Middle School, then as an Administrator in several schools throughout Sumter School District #17. His commitment to education, leadership, and service positively influenced generations of students and families.

A man of faith, Napoleon embraced the Baptist tradition and was baptized at New Bethel Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, N.C. He was ordained a Deacon, then accepted a call to ministry being licensed and ordained at Jehovah Missionary Baptist Church in Sumter, SC. Napoleon later joined The Perfecting Place in Temple Hills, MD. He believed in loving God, valuing family, and treating others with dignity and compassion.

Napoleon “Brad” was a Lifetime member of the N.A.A.C.P., a proud member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., the Prince Hall Masons, and several Educational Associations

Among his proudest accomplishments in life were his marriage and the births of his children. He cherished his family and the generations that followed.

Napoleon leaves to cherish his memory his beloved wife of 51+ years, Ella Rose Abram Bradford; his children Deidre Shireen Holmes Berry, Napoleon Abram (Karen), Ella Frankrozlyn, Brad Gallashaw, his grandchildren: Portia La-’Shay, Roger Cameron, Alese Lauryn, NeTyra AtiNyque, Napoleon Koren, Noelle Kannise (deceased), and Nylah Jennai; 5 great-grandchildren; and a host of family members, friends, former colleagues, and students. He was preceded in death by his brother, Reginald Lee Bradford, and his granddaughter, Noelle Kannise.

In reflections he personally prepared, Napoleon shared two guiding principles that beautifully summarize his life:

“Love God and your fellow man and woman.” “Help someone along the way.”These simple yet profound words remain a lasting testament to his faith, character, and commitment to humanity.

Though his earthly journey has ended, his legacy of love, learning, and service will continue through the lives he touched and the family he loved.

His life was a gift. His service was honorable. His legacy will endure.