

CASKET BEARERS

Michael Burkley
Christopher Hines
Quinton McGill
Flavonea McMillan III
Tamy Miller
Kenneth Sadler II

Clifford Lee Sims III
Gregory Stone
Darnold Tillman
Jaron Tillman
Jeff Tillman
Patrick Williams

FLORAL BEARERS

Beverly Burkley
Yolanda Cadde
Dr. Amy Tillman Brown
Kaye Michelle Hines
Sylvia T. Landerum
Quan McGill

Karen Miller
Patricia Miller
Kari Sadler
Sheri Stanford
Terry Taylor
Kandice Tillman

Vivian White

INTERMENT

Heritage Memorial Gardens
3301 S. Church Street Extension
Rocky, South Carolina 29026

REPAST

Majority Baptist Church - Dining Hall
400 Hudson L. Barksdale Boulevard
Spartanburg, South Carolina 29006

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The family of Reverend Dr. Richard L. Sadler, Sr. appreciates your kind words, comforting presence, and thoughtful gestures that have brought us strength and peace when we needed it most. Whether it was through a call, visit, prayer or act of kindness, each expression of love has meant more to us than words can fully express.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ENTRUSTED TO



CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF



REVEREND

Dr. Richard L.
SADLER, SR.

FEBRUARY 19, 1938 - MAY 6, 2026

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026

12:00 PM

MAJORITY BAPTIST CHURCH

400 HUDSON L. BARKSDALE BOULEVARD
SPARTANBURG, SC 29306

REVEREND MARCELL BUSH, PRESIDING



OBITUARY

Reverend Dr. Richard Lagere Sadler, Sr., was born on February 19, 1938, in Clover, South Carolina, the first of three children born to the late Luke H. Sadler and Margaret Adams Sadler. Affectionately known as "Sadler" by his family and friends, from his earliest days he was known for his warm spirit, strong faith, and deep love for his family and community. Sadler was educated in the public schools of York County, where he graduated from Roosevelt High School with honors in May 1953. He attended Benedict College in Columbia, SC, where he received a Bachelor of Arts in Social Studies in May 1959. Sadler was a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., having been initiated into the Epsilon Epsilon Chapter in 1957, a brotherhood he proudly carried throughout his life and one that would inspire a multitude of family members to follow in his footsteps, including his three sons.

Following his education, Sadler answered the call to serve his country in the United States Army, where he gained experience as a radar and computer operator, a Chaplain's Assistant, and a gifted singer with the Army Choral Group.

Upon separation from the military, Sadler met the love of his life, Shelvin Jean Tillerson, in November 1962 at a district teacher meeting in Union, SC. The two married the following year on June 22, 1963, and would later be blessed with three sons: twins Richard H and Reginald, followed by Rodrick.

Sadler began his teaching career, which spanned 34 years in Spartanburg District 2, where he served across a multitude of roles including teacher, assistant principal, principal, and assistant to the District Superintendent as Director of Pupil Services. He furthered his education by attending Clemson University and Converse College, where he received his Master of Arts in Teaching, Principal's Certificate, and Education Specialist Certification.

A faithful servant, Sadler answered the call from God to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ in 1970. He began his pastoral career at Corinth Baptist Church of Union, SC in 1971, where he faithfully served for six years. He would then accept the

THE BROKEN CHAIN

We little knew that morning
That God was going to call your name.
In life, we loved you dearly
In death, we do the same.

To some, you may be forgotten,
To others, part of the past,
To us who loved and lost you
Your memory will always last.

It broke our hearts to lose you
You did not go alone
For part of us went with you,
The day God called you home.

You left us peaceful memories,
Your love is still our guide
And though we
cannot see you
You are always
at our side.

A heart of gold
stopped beating,
Two smiling eyes laid to rest.
God broke our hearts
to prove to us
He only takes the best!





pastoral position at Zion Hill Baptist Church of Inman, SC in 1976, where he would serve with distinction for 47 years. Sadler furthered his theological training by attending the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, NC. Sadler was also bestowed an Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from the NJ Brockman School of Theology.

Sadler served as President of the Spartanburg County Congress of Christian Education for fifteen years, a role that reflected both his heart for ministry and his lifelong dedication to education.

On Wednesday, May 6, 2026, God gently closed Sadler's eyes and whispered, "Thy will is done," as he transitioned peacefully from his earthly home to God's promised land surrounded by his family.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his beloved brothers, Reverend Kenneth (Mildred) Sadler and Douglas (Lenora) Sadler; and his brothers and sisters-in-love, Ruth (Ray) Blackley, Elouise (Enoch) Miller, James Tillerson, Alvin Tillerson, and Benny McDowell.

Those left to celebrate his life and cherish his precious memories include his beloved wife of 63 years, Shelvia Jean Tillerson Sadler; three sons, Richard Sadler II of Columbia, SC, Reginald Sadler, Sr. of Blythewood, SC, and Rodrick (Shayla) Sadler, Sr. of Simpsonville, SC; seven grandchildren, Regan, Riyah, Rachel, Richard III, Reginald II, Rodrick Jr. (RJ), and Rylee Grace; one great-grandchild, Alaia; sisters and brothers-in-love Tillie Stanford, Elbert (Mildred) Tillerson, Gertie Tillerson, Josie McDowell, Ann (Flavours) McMillan, Thomas (Phyllis) Tillerson, Bena (Converse) Waddell, Linda (Lucious) Buckman, Brenda (Truman) Williams, Dorothy Sims, Kenneth (Cathy) Tillerson; a special nephew, Lee Sims, and a host of other relatives and dear friends who will forever hold him close to their hearts.

Though Sadler's physical presence will be deeply missed, his spirit, faith, and legacy will live on in each of us forever.

Ephesians 6:10-12

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realm.

ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE.....MUSICIAN

PROCESSIONAL.....THE FAMILY

MILITARY FUNERAL RITES

MUSICAL SELECTION.....ZION HILL ENSEMBLE
"Near the Cross"

PRAYER OF COMFORT.....REV. BLAKELY N. SCOTT
First Nazareth Baptist Church, Columbia, SC

OLD TESTAMENT.....REV. DR. BOBBY CALDWELL
Lamentations 3:22-26 Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Inman, SC

NEW TESTAMENT.....REV. ASHAD RECTOR
John 14:1-7 Zion Hill Baptist Church, Inman, SC

MUSICAL SELECTION.....DR. AMY TILLERSON BROWN
KENTON TILLERSON

REMARKS

ZION HILL BAPTIST CHURCH.....REV. LEROY FOWLER

ZION HILL BAPTIST CHURCH TRUSTEE.....WAYNE THOMAS

ZION HILL BAPTIST CHURCH DEACON.....CONVERSE WADDELL

SON.....RODRICK SADLER

GRANDDAUGHTER.....REGAN SADLER

GRANDSON.....RICHARD SADLER III

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....SARAH SIMMONS

MUSICAL SELECTION.....ZION HILL ENSEMBLE
"Spirit Fall Down"

WORDS OF COMFORT.....REV. JAMES SPLAWN
Mt. Sinai Baptist Church, Spartanburg, SC

RECESSIONAL.....THE FAMILY

A GENTLE GOODBYE

Do not weep for me, my dear,
I am still with you, always near.
You'll find me in the morning light,
And in the stars that shine at night.

I am the whisper in the breeze,
The quiet calm among the trees.
I am the warmth the sun will bring,
The gentle song the robins sing.

Though my journey's reached its end,
My love lives on, my soul transcends.
So when you smile, please think of me

—

I'm at peace, and I am free.

