

Pallbearers

DEANDRE HARRELL
ROMON WELDON
LEONARD O'NEAL JR.
VALDEZ O'NEAL JR.
TRAVIS O'NEAL JR.
PETRAGUA LEMON

Floral Bearers

SHANARDORO MOZIE
CHERRILL O'NEAL
KIMIKA JORDAN
DANETTA GIBBS
VALDESHA O'NEAL
SHUN REED

HONORARY

Pallbearers

JUSTIN SMITH
ROBERT SMITH JR.
HERMAN ANTHONY
CALVIN ANTHONY

HONORARY

Floral Bearers

VELMA PATTERSON
ANGIE WELDON
GAYZELL O'NEAL
SHAWN O'NEAL
VICTORIA MCCORNELL

Celebrating the Life of



Marie GALE O'NEAL

APRIL 28, 1944 – APRIL 6, 2026
A WOMAN OF GRACE, STRENGTH, UNWAVERING FAITH, AND LIMITLESS LOVE

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026 | 11:00AM

WHITE HALL AME CHURCH
8594 SC-215 Jenkinsville, South Carolina, 29065
Pastor Gilbert Harper, Senior Pastor

Expression of Gratitude

The family of Marie Gale O'Neal would like to acknowledge and thank each one of you for all the beautiful expressions of love, sympathy, and care that were demonstrated during our time of bereavement. We thank everyone that attended the homegoing celebration and visited our homes. The many phone calls, texts, and expressions of your love did not go unnoticed, and it was greatly appreciated and heartfelt. We are deeply touched and we sincerely thank you and pray that God will continue to bless each one of you in a very special way.



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF SERVICE
COLUMBIA NE CHAPEL 900 FARRROW RD COLUMBIA, SC 29203 803-764-0888
COLUMBIA SE CHAPEL 832 GARNERS FERRY RD COLUMBIA, SC 29209 803-695-9066
ST. MATTHEWS CHAPEL 102 CHURCH STREET ST. MATTHEWS, SC 29155 803-874-3317
BISHOPVILLE CHAPEL 114 E. CHURCH STREET BISHOPVILLE, SC 29010 803-484-7245
Jonathan L. Holley
PRESIDENT & DIRECTOR
WWW.JPHOLLEY.COM

“The Showstopper”

DEACONESS MARIE GALE O’NEAL

Deaconess Marie Gale O’Neal was born in Fairfield County, South Carolina to the late John and Emma Glenn Smith of Jenkinsville, Fairfield County. From an early age, Marie’s life reflected faith, service, love, and excellence. She graduated from McCrorey–Liston High School, where she was influenced by devoted educators, including the late Dr. Neal of First Nazareth Baptist Church. Her spiritual and academic foundations guided her throughout a life of remarkable service and accomplishment. In 1975, Marie united in marriage with the love of her life, Gerald DeCarlo O’Neal, whom she often described as an excellent and “super handsome” husband. Their union, blessed with 50 years of marriage, was filled with love, laughter, music, walks, and treasured moments. Marie deeply cherished the affection they shared—especially the hugs from Gerald that meant so much to her. Marie was the proud mother of two daughters, Cynthia Goins-Lamar and Demetra Goins, from a previous marriage.

Through them, she was blessed with eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, all of whom brought her immense pride and joy. The family later relocated to Los Angeles, California, where they found a loving church home under the leadership of the late Reverend James Cleveland. There, Marie became an exceptionally active and influential church member. She later pursued higher education at UCLA, earning degrees in Culinary Arts and Interior Design. A consummate professional, Marie taught cooking and home decorating and worked extensively throughout the entertainment industry, catering and decorating events for numerous superstars. Her talent, creativity, and work ethic earned her widespread respect and admiration. Marie’s commitment to ministry was unwavering. She faithfully served the church in numerous leadership roles, including:

- President of the Deaconess Board
 - President of Pastor’s Aide
- President of Marriage Counseling
 - President of the Sisterhood
- Assistant President of Missionaries for over 30 years

She was also a dynamic speaker, inspiring both the youth choir and the senior citizens. Alongside her husband, Marie served as President of the High Society Club “The Boots” for over 38 years. Marie’s compassion extended beyond the church walls. She worked in schools, mentored children, and lovingly opened her home to foster children with mental health challenges. Her heart was genuinely kind, generous, and service driven. Professionally, Marie also worked as a broker, where she was responsible for hiring and training staff. Her leadership excellence earned her awards for Outstanding Leadership.

After relocating to Florida in 1992, Marie continued serving faithfully at Fellowship Baptist Church of Pine Hills, holding the same church leadership positions she had previously undertaken. Her life was marked by countless awards, plaques, and recognition that reflected her dedication, faith, and tireless service. Marie and Gerald returned to Columbia, South Carolina, where they settled among family and friends, continuing to make cherished memories and serve the Lord with joy and humility. Marie was deeply devoted to her family, especially her 12 siblings, whom she loved dearly. Her legacy is one of faith, love, service, excellence, and compassion—a true example of a life well lived for God and others. Deaconess Marie Gale O’Neal will forever be remembered as “The Showstopper” A woman of grace, strength, unwavering faith, and limitless love.

Marie is preceded in death by John Smith Jr. and Robert L Smith of Washington, D.C. Sisters Thelma Smith, Alberta J Smith, Johnnie Bell Yarbrough, and Ida Mae Anthony. She is survived by her husband, Gerald DeCarlo O’Neal, two daughters Cynthia Goins-Lamar of Sandford, FL and Demetra D. Goins of Orlando, FL. She is also survived by her brothers, John Henry Smith of Spartanburg SC, Heyward Smith of Chester, SC, Howard Smith of Columbia, SC. Also, three sisters, Carrie Lewis, Mary Alice Brown (Allen), and Thomasina E. Patterson all of Columbia, SC. She is survived by eight grandchildren and eight great grands, sisters and brothers-in law, a host of nieces and nephews, and her Beautiful Fur Baby, Channel.



Death is nothing at all

" DEATH IS NOTHING AT ALL.
I HAVE ONLY SLIPPED AWAY TO THE NEXT
ROOM.

I AM I AND YOU ARE YOU.
WHATEVER WE WERE TO EACH OTHER,
THAT, WE STILL ARE.

CALL ME BY MY OLD FAMILIAR NAME.
SPEAK TO ME IN THE EASY WAY
WHICH YOU ALWAYS USED.
PUT NO DIFFERENCE INTO YOUR TONE.
WEAR NO FORCED AIR OF SOLEMNITY OR
SORROW.

LAUGH AS WE ALWAYS LAUGHED
AT THE LITTLE JOKES WE ENJOYED TOGETHER.
PLAY, SMILE, THINK OF ME. PRAY FOR ME.
LET MY NAME BE EVER THE HOUSEHOLD WORD
THAT IT ALWAYS WAS.
LET IT BE SPOKEN WITHOUT EFFECT.
WITHOUT THE TRACE OF A SHADOW ON IT.

LIFE MEANS ALL THAT IT EVER MEANT.
IT IS THE SAME THAT IT EVER WAS.
THERE IS ABSOLUTE UNBROKEN CONTINUITY.
WHY SHOULD I BE OUT OF MIND
BECAUSE I AM OUT OF SIGHT?

I AM BUT WAITING FOR YOU.
FOR AN INTERVAL.
SOMEWHERE. VERY NEAR.
JUST AROUND THE CORNER.

ALL IS WELL.

Ms. Marie O'neal

Ms Marie O'Neal, But grandma to me, My heart is shattered, but God had a plan , you are blessed you are loved am I'm your biggest fan. You meant so much to me and helped me grow ,you inspired me and cried with me and was always ready to go toe to toe. Grandma you are beautiful, grandma you are the The queen, the life of the party the only one who was ever seen. You were kind you were smart, but most of all a Genuine loving soul , you told it like it was so no lies were told. The love of my life , the one who knew best, Grandma you keep me going and made blood pump through my chest. I'll love you forever and you will always be in my heart, you taught me to never give up and put my best foot forward from the start , God is so lucky and so were we .. There will never be another like the lovely God Fearing Marie
Poem By Namarri Rhice Aka Buffy -Little Marie

Heaven

"In heaven there will be no parting, no pain to bear;
No care-worn brow, no sigh, no silvery hair;
No death to snatch our loved ones from our side,
No angry waves, no sea, no treacherous tide.
In heaven there be no thirst, no cry for bread;
No soul who knows not where to lay his head;
No one to feel the winter chilling blast,
For there the piercing storms will all be past.
In heaven there be no toil without repay;
No building for a brief, ephemeral day;
For all the joys that prophets old have told
'Twill take the endless ages to unfold.
In heaven there I'll be no weary pilgrim band;
No seekers for a better, fairer land;
For all who reach that blissful, happy shore,
Will never cry nor sigh, nor wish for more."

To My Mom

I am because of you—
So much of who I am
Was shaped by what I learned
From you.
No matter how far I go in life,
I will always be your little girl,
And you will forever be
My loving mother.
Thank you for the sacrifices
You made each day,
For the love you gave so selflessly,
In quiet and unseen ways.
To the world, you may be
Just a mother it can see,
But to me, you are my world—
My heart, my home, my everything.
I love you with all my heart.
Cynthia and Demetra



Order of Service

Prelude		
Processional	Living the Gospel – Gospel Legends	Clergy and Family
Scripture Readings		
Old Testament	Micah 6:8 KJV	Robert Anthony Jr. (nephew)
New Testament	John 14:1-3 NIV	Apostle Joseph McBride
Prayer		Reverend Gibert Harper
Selection	Walk Around Heaven All Day	Johnnie McDuffie Sr.

Reflections

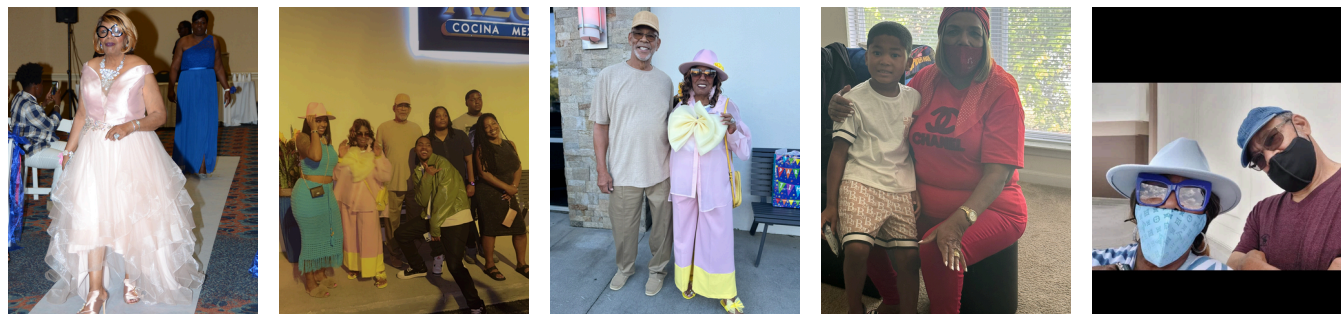
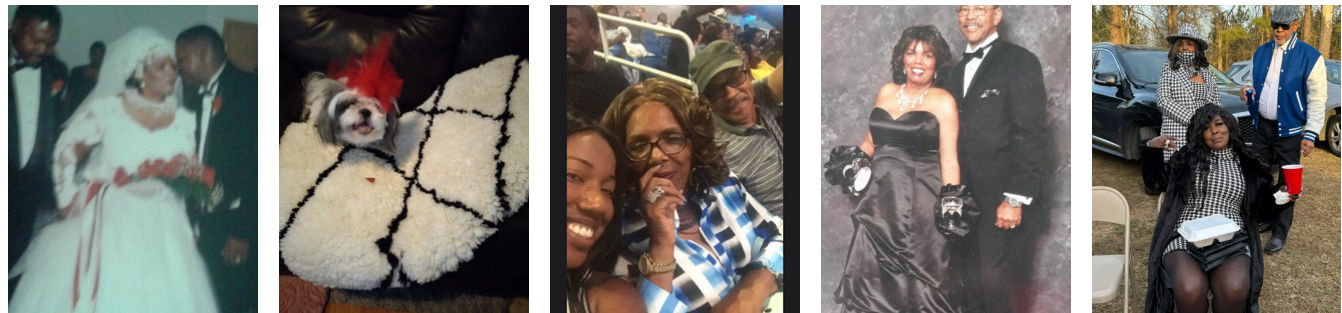
Daughters Cynthia Goins-Lamar and Demetra Goins
Grandchild – Dominique Goins
Sister – Thomasine Patterson

Additional Remarks	Two minutes please	
Selection	I Won't Complain	Reverend Derrick Hollins Sr.
Words of Comfort		Reverend Derrick Hollins Sr.
Recessional		
Postlude	Walk Around Heaven All Day	Shirley Cesear and The Caravans

Committal, Prayer, Benediction
Pastor Derrick Hollins Sr.

Interment

White Hall A.M.E. Church
8594 State Hwy 215
Jenkinsville, South Carolina 29065



Memories That Last Forever!
Memories That Last Forever!

