

Memories



Floral Bearers

Family and Friends

Pallbearers

Family and Friends

Expression of Gratitude

The family extends their heartfelt appreciation and sincere gratitude to Yvonne Harmon for the extraordinary love, kindness, compassion, and devoted care she provided during Cora's time of need. Your selfless acts of service and unwavering support will never be forgotten. Although our hearts are heavy with sorrow, we rejoice in knowing that Cora's race has been run and her work on earth is complete. Her legacy of faith, education, compassion, and love will continue to live on through her family, friends, former students, and all who were blessed to know her. She will be deeply missed, lovingly remembered, and forever cherished.



CELEBRATING THE HOMEGOING OF

Cora "Cool"
LEE STINSON

November 1, 1940 - July 20, 2026

Monday, July 27, 2026
11:00 AM

Emmanuel AME Church
2130 Barhamville Road, Columbia, South Carolina 29204
Apostle Drayton Gilyard, Pastor



CELEBRATING OVER 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

COLUMBIA NE CHAPEL 9010 FARROW RD COLUMBIA, SC 29203 803-764-0888	COLUMBIA SE CHAPEL 8132 GARNERS FERRY RD COLUMBIA, SC 29209 803-695-1666	ST. MATTHEWS CHAPEL 102 CHURCH STREET ST. MATTHEWS, SC 29135 803-874-3317	BISHOPVILLE CHAPEL 114 E. CHURCH STREET BISHOPVILLE, SC 29010 803-484-7245
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Johnathan D. Holley
PRESIDENT & DIRECTOR

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Last Forever!

Reflections of Her Life

Cora Lee Gilyard Stinson, affectionately known as “Coot” was born on November 1, 1940, in Orangeburg County, South Carolina. She was the eighth of eleven children born to the late Willie and Sallie Mae (Stokes) Gilyard. On Monday, July 20, 2026, she peacefully transitioned in her sleep, surrounded by the love of her family and leaving behind a legacy of faith, service, education, and unconditional love. Cora attended Wilkinson High School in Orangeburg County, South Carolina, and graduated with the Class of 1958. Shortly after graduation, she relocated to New York City in pursuit of new opportunities. While living there, she met the love of her life, Clement Stinson. Their love blossomed, and they were united in holy matrimony on February 10, 1962. Together they built a beautiful life and shared 64 years of love, devotion, and partnership.

Believing that education was the key to opportunity, Cora pursued higher education while raising her family. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from the College of Staten Island in 1978. Determined to further her education, she received a Master of Science in Education, specializing in Special Education, from the College of Staten Island in 1982. Following graduation, Cora began her career as a Special Education teacher at Willowbrook State School. When the Willowbrook Developmental Center closed in 1987, she continued her passion for teaching by joining the New York City Board of Education, where she faithfully served as a Special Education teacher.

Throughout her career, she was known for her patience, compassion, and unwavering commitment to helping children reach their fullest potential. After many years in New York, Cora and her husband returned home to South Carolina. She accepted a position with the South Carolina Department of Social Services, where she continued her life’s work of serving others. Upon returning home, she united with Emmanuel AME Church, where she became a faithful and active member. Her strong faith guided every aspect of her life, and she found great joy in worship, fellowship, and serving her church family.

Cora was a devoted wife, loving mother, proud grandmother, great grandmother, caring sister, aunt, and loyal friend. She found her greatest happiness in spending time with her family, celebrating their accomplishments, sharing wisdom, and creating lasting memories. Her quiet strength, gentle spirit, generous heart, and warm smile touched everyone blessed to know her.

She leaves behind her precious memories her beloved husband of 64 years, Clement Stinson; her daughter, Cynthia Lucas (Avery) of Columbus, New Jersey; her son, Charles (Valerie) Stinson of Powhatan, Virginia; four cherished grandchildren, Donovan, Sydney, Avery, and Alondra; two adored great- grandchildren, Kylie and Miles; two loving sisters, Sarah Ross and Willow Blocker; one devoted brother, Willie Gilyard Jr.; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, lifelong friends, and all whose lives were enriched by knowing her.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Willie and Sallie Mae Gilyard; her brothers and sisters, Samuel R.”Bubba” Gilyard, Catherine Fogle, Rose Mae Gilyard, Evelyn “Nook” Sumpter, Alberta “Moot”Jones, and Sallie “Lady” Fairnot.

Order of Service

Prelude
Benjamin “Ben” Blocker

Processional
Clergy and Family

Corporate Prayer
Apostle James Fogle
Gospel Temple of Deliverance
Orangeburg, South Carolina

Old Testament
Pastor Gerome Stinson
Hebron City of Praise MBC Monroe, NC

New Testament
Apostle Drayton Gilyard
Saint Peter’s Love Fellowship Ministry Circle
Lake City, SC

Musical Selection
Clarence Sumter
Trombonist

Eulogy
Apostle Drayton Gilyard

Musical Selection
Clarence Sumpter-Trombonist

Recessional

Committal, Prayer and Benediction

A Broken Chain

We little knew the day that
God was going to call your name.

In life we loved you dearly,
in death we do the same.

It breaks our hearts to lose you
but you don’t 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 although we cannot see you,
you are always at our side.

Our family chain is broken
and nothing seems the same,
but as God calls us one by one, the chain will link
again

IN LOVING MEMORY OF COOT

NOVENMBER 1, 1940 – JULY 20, 2026