



The Song Our Son's Song
From the Heart of your Loving Parents
 We held you in our heart
 Long before we knew your name,
 And from that very moment,
 Our lives were never the same.
 You came into this world so precious,
 A gift sent from above,
 And though your journey was different,
 You taught us the meaning of love.
 You saw the world through gentle eyes,
 With a heart so pure and true,
 Finding joy in simple things,
 The way only you could do.
 Music was where you found your peace,
 a place where you could be free,
 every song would light your spirit
 for all the world to see.
 Many times we watched you dance,
 Lost within a favorite song?
 For those few moments, worries disappeared,
 And happiness carried you along.
 You loved your family fiercely,
 Your nieces and nephews held your heart,
 Sharing their pictures with everyone,
 As if each one were a work of art.
 Now the music plays without you,
 And the dance floor feels so still,
 Yet in our hearts we see you moving,
 And know we always will.
 God heard your favorite song
 And called you home one day,
 Where angels sing in perfect harmony
 and tears are wiped away
 So dance, our precious son, dance.
 Let heaven hear your song.
 And know with every beat of our hearts
 Our love for you lives on.

**With all our love,
 Mom and Dad** ♥

Job's Mortuary, Inc.

Ralph W. Canty Sr., Director

312 South Main St.
 P. O. Box 1231 - Sumter, SC 29151
 803-773-3323 or 803-773-3324



Celebration OF Life



JAMES ANTHONY "TONY" McElveen

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2026 | 1:00 P.M.
 JUNE 27, 1961 – JUNE 3, 2026
 FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS,
 ALWAYS IN OUR MELODY

Salem Chapel and Heritage Center
 101 South Salem Avenue, Sumter, South Carolina, 29150
Reverend Sonya Lybrand, Pastor officiating
Reverend Dr. Thomas J. Bowman, Sr., Eulogist

FROM THE FIRST NOTE TO THE FINAL ENCORE

"Every song tells a story, and every life leaves a melody behind"

James Anthony "Tony" McElveen was born June 27, 1961, in Dayton, Ohio to James and Sarah (McGhaney) McElveen Jr.

Tony was a Sumter High School Class of 1982 graduate. He accepted Christ at an early age and was a member of Allen Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church.

If you knew Tony, you knew how much he loved his family. He was always eager to show off pictures of his nieces and nephews and share stories about the people he loved most. He found joy in life's simple pleasures like playing basketball, watching sports, listening to music, and dancing to Michael Jackson. His loving heart, joyful spirit, and ability to find happiness in everyday moments will be remembered by all who knew him.

Though we will miss his smile, his laughter, and the stories he shared, we find comfort in the memories he gave us and the love he left behind.

Tony leaves to cherish loving memories, his parents Sarah McGhaney and James McElveen Jr. of Sumter SC, two sisters: Sophia Johnson and Sonya (Craig) Singleton of Sumter SC, two brothers: Adolph (Lauretha) McGhaney of Sumter SC and David McElveen Sr. of Columbia SC. Tony was the proud uncle of nine nieces, eight nephews, and eighteen grandnieces and nephews; three god sisters, Frances Bradley and Emily Davis of Sumter SC and Myra Pressley of Charlotte NC; a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by a brother Darryl McElveen Jr, a brother-in-law, Larry Johnson Sr, his maternal grandparents the late Lou Bertha McGhaney Mack and Fred McGhaney; paternal grandparents Guemimie Robinson Ballard and James McElveen Sr. and Annie Charles Mack.

The Soundtrack of Tony's Final Encore

Reverend Sonya Lybrand, Officiating Pastor
Allen Chapel AME Church

Prelude Soft Music

Processional I Shall Wear A Crown Herbert Johnson

Opening Song How Great Is Our God Choir/Congregation

Scripture Readings:

Old Testament Rev. Leroy McElveen
Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church, Manning SC

New Testament Rev. Dr. Harold O. Wilson
Springhill African Methodist Church, Gilbert SC

Prayer Reverend Sonya Lybrand
Allen Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Sumter SC

Solo Pastor Donelle Peterson and the Sumter High Alumni Chorus

Notes from the heart: (please limit remarks to three minutes)

Church / Neighborhood Novella Hicks Carpenter

Family Jerona Smalls Robinson

A Parents' Tribute Leah J. McElveen, *grandniece*

Family Sonya McElveen-Singleton

Acknowledgements Santana Jones
Sumter HS Class of 1982 Alumni

Selection Sumter High Alumni Choir

The Melody of Hope Reverend Dr. Thomas J. Bowman, Sr.
Retired United Methodist Minister

Solo Herbert Johnson

Recessional I'll Be Alright Moses Ballard

Interment
Hillside Memorial Cemetery



The music may have stopped, but the memories will play forever