

A Legacy of Love

*A hundred years may come and go,
What lasting mark will your life show?
For life is short, a fleeting sigh,
Like morning mist beneath the sky.
Walk each day in truth and grace,
Let mercy shine upon your face.
The heavy worries on your mind
Will fade like footprints left behind.*

*Let kindness guide the path you choose,
And love your Good, your neighbor
too.*

*For in the end, it's the love we gave
That lingers far beyond the grave.
Treasure more than things,
Rejoice in what each morning brings.
Embrace the now, let wisdom lead,
Plant the seeds of hope we need.*

*Hold your loved ones, keep them near,
Through every joy and every tear.
The time we're given slips away,
Make it matter day by day.
Hold to faith, let courage rise,
Keep your gaze beyond the skies.
Then when your final breath is through,
May Heaven's splendor welcome you.*

David Ritter



A Limb Has Fallen from the Family Tree

*A limb has fallen from the family tree.
I keep hearing a voice that says, "Grieve not for me.
Remember the best times, the laughter, the song,
The good life I lived while I was strong.
Continue my heritage, I'm counting on you.
Keep smiling and surely the sun will shine through.
My mind is at ease, my soul is at rest.
Remembering all...how I truly was blessed.
Continue traditions, no matter how small.
Go on with your lives, don't worry about falls.
I miss you all dearly, so keep up your chin.
Until the day comes we're together again."*

~~~~By Mary Elizabeth Frye~~~~

### Floral Bearers

Nieces  
Manning Training School Class of '69

### Pall Bearers

Nephews  
Manning Training School Class of '69

### Honorary Floral Bearers

Eta Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.



### Acknowledgements

Words are inadequate to express the gratitude we feel toward those who consoled us during this time. Your prayers, your love, your presence, and your service have sustained us through our sorrow. Your cards of sympathy, flowers, and other special acts are warmly appreciated. We see all acts of kindness as God's love expressed through you. Whatever you did to comfort and console our hearts, we thank you so very much.

~~~~The Cooper Family~~~~

The love of a
FAMILY
is life's greatest blessing

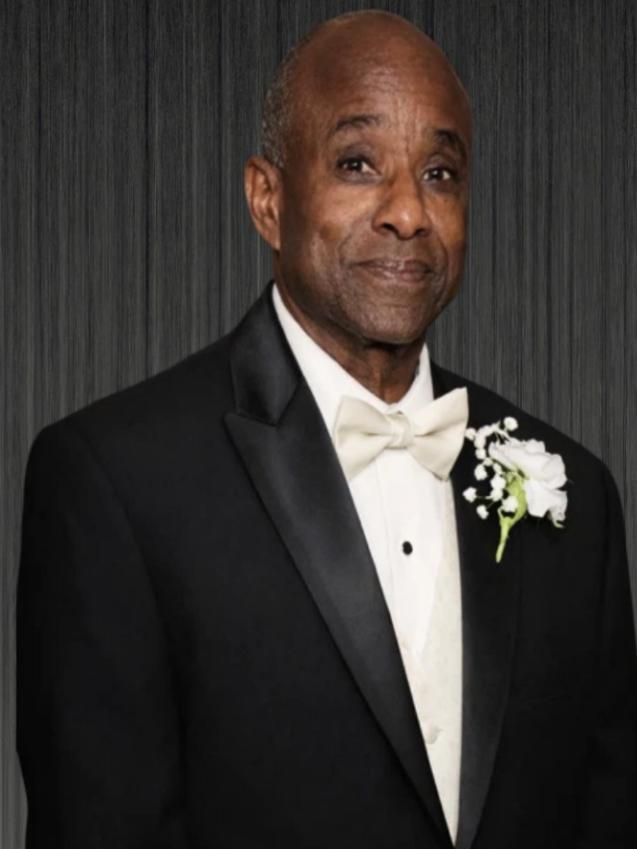
Job's Mortuary, Inc.
Ralph W. Canty Sr., Director

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



Home of Distinctively Finer Funeral Service

Celebrating the Life of
WILLIE JAMES COOPER



Alpha: May 2, 1951 Omega: March 6, 2026

Friday, March 13, 2026
1:00PM

St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church
835 Plowden Mill Rd
Sumter SC 29153

Reverend Shernard Barnes
Pastor

A Journey Remembered

*“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day.”
2 Timothy 4:7-8.*

Willie James Cooper was born on May 2, 1951 to the late Willie and Margie Cooper in Eastover, South Carolina and was lovingly raised by Richard Richburg Jr. and Frances Tindal Richburg.

Willie was born with a gentle spirit and a heart committed to service. He touched countless lives through his compassion, wisdom and quiet generosity. He was known for his warm smile, his willingness to help anyone in need, and his ability to make everyone around him feel valued and special. Whether through his words, his work, or his presence, Willie brought inspiration and encouragement wherever he went.

Willie received his formal education at Paxville Elementary School, Paxville, SC; and Manning Training High School, Manning, SC.

Willie was a proud veteran of the United States Army. He served with honor from 1971 to 1992 achieving the rank of Sargeant First Class. During his service Willie received several Ribbons, Medals, and Badges before being honorably discharged. Following military service, Willie worked for Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. in Pennsylvania and Sumter County Public Works.

Willie was an active, faithful, and dedicated member of St. Paul A.M.E Church after relocating back to South Carolina in 2011.

Willie was taken to his heavenly home on Friday, March 6, 2026. He leaves a loving family to treasure beautiful memories. This family includes his devoted wife, Leila R. Carson; one son, Matthew Cooper of Nanticoke, PA; one daughter, Kenyell Carson of Windsor, CO; grandchildren, La’Kiah Cooper of Nanticoke, PA, Ariyelle Wells of Atlanta, GA, and Arthur Wells Jr. of Sumter, SC; five brothers: Eddie Cooper, Bernard Cooper, Melvin Cooper, and Marion (Takeyah) Richburg Sr. all of South Carolina and Barry (Linda) Cooper of Florida; two sisters, Margie Lee Rembert and Beatrice Sumter of South Carolina; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

In addition to his parents, Willie was pre-deceased by siblings Calvin Richburg, Helen Richburg, Mildred Joyner, Ruthie Cooper, and Willie Mae Cooper Berry.

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Well done thou good and faithful servant.

**Order of Service**  
*Pastor Alfreda Johnson, Presiding*

- Prelude ..... Reverend David Davis, Musician
- Processional ..... Clergy and Family
- Opening Selection #513 ..... Time Is Filled with Swift Transition
- Invocation ..... Reverend Dr. Friendly J. Gadson
- Scripture Readings:
  - Old Testament ..... Reverend Robert E. Galloway  
Psalm 121
  - New Testament ..... Reverend Sidney Hampton  
John 14:1-4
- Solo ..... Mrs. Brenda Clark
- Remarks:
  - Church ..... Mrs. Rita Hampton, Class Leader
  - Community ..... Mr. Timothy Miller, Class of ‘69
  - Family ..... Ms. Ariyelle Wells, Granddaughter
- Acknowledgements ..... Ms. Vivian Leaf
- Solo ..... Minister Diane Haynes
- Words of Comfort ..... Reverend Shernard Barnes
- The Lord’s Prayer ..... Mrs. Brenda Clark
- Recessional ..... Medley of Songs

**Committal, Benediction, Interment**  
**Evergreen Memorial Park**

