



Life

*Life is just a stepping-stone
A pause before we make it home
A simple place to rest and be,
Until we reach eternity.*

*Everyone has a life journey,
A path to take with lots to see
God guides our steps along the way,
But we were never meant to stay.*

*Our final destination is a place
Filled with love, His majesty and grace.
Today we celebrate the life of a loved one
Who has gone before us, the race he has won.
His journey has now ended,
His spirit has ascended
Claiming the great reward
With Jesus, our Lord.*

Expressions of Gratitude

The family and friends of Joseph Nathaniel Charles wishes to extend our sincere thanks for the concern you all have shown to us in this many ways during the passing of our loved one. May God richly bless all of you.

In loving memory of Joseph, thank you all.



www.myersmortuarysc.com

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Memorial Service

FOR

Sunrise
May 28, 1952

Sunset
October 2, 2020



Mr.
Joseph
NATHANIEL
CHARLES

Sunday, October 4, 2020 | 6:00 p.m.

MYERS MORTUARY AND CREMATION SERVICES
REVEREND SAMUEL B. MARSHALL MEMORIAL CHAPEL
2624 Alpine Road, Columbia, South Carolina 29223

The Obituary

Joseph Nathan Charles was born on May 28, 1952 in Florence, South Carolina to the late Harry and Francine Charles. At age of four, his parents moved to Brooklyn, New York where he spent his younger years. Joseph was affectionately called "JC" or "Joe" by his family and many, many friends.

As a child, Joe attended P.S. 297 and J.H 33 in Brooklyn and Richmond Hill High School in Jamaica, Queens. After high school graduation, his older brother David assisted in getting him an apprenticeship with the National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Union in New York.

Joe was an active member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers based in Washington, DC; the Local 3 Flushing, NY; the Local 1579 Augusta, GA; the Local 779 North Charleston, SC; and the Local 34 Peoria, IL, among others.

After extensive electrician training, he was sent to work in Peoria, Illinois, Brooklyn and Queens, New York, Newark and other parts of New Jersey, Tennessee, Atlanta and Augusta, Georgia. During his career, he worked for over 10 years at the Savannah River Plant, Kennedy Airport and for a brief time in Tennessee at the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant.

As a young boy, Joe gave his heart to the Lord while attending the Apostolic Faith Mission under the leadership of the late Rev. Leon C. Dicks. Joe created the Youth Conference (a major event for the church) and this was approved by Rev. Dicks and the overseer, Rev. Cato B. Bush.

Joe worked briefly as a choir director at the Apostolic Faith Mission. He also graduated from the Berean Bible School with his ministry certificate, was an active youth group member, and participated in many services, concerts, trips, and other church programs. As a missionary, he assisted the pastor on trips to the Dominican Republic and St. Thomas, VI and with the Nyack Missionary School work in Philadelphia and Washington, DC.

Joe lived in Illinois in the 1970s and 1980s. At that time, he met someone special and together they had a beautiful girl, Ms. Janise Jackson. Janise still resides in Peoria, IL. As a member of the Zion Revival Center, he worked as the Children's Ministry as a minister. While at Zion, Joe regularly visited the local cancer hospital, witnessed to the sick and dying, and spoke at weekly prayer breakfasts which were regularly attended by the mayor and state officials.

In 1981, Joe met and married the late Mattie Lavern Johnson. He honeymooned in Jamaica but after several years, the couple divorced.

In December 2000, Joe visited Columbia, SC to spend the holidays with his mother and family. He became extremely sick and was taken to the hospital on Christmas night by his youngest brother Clifton. For the next week, the doctors ran tests and determined that he was extremely sick, and he was told that he only had one month to live. His mother called her church family on the East Coast and the saints began a daily prayer chain. For every hour of the day his mother would praise God for healing. Joe became a walking miracle. He lived with his mother as she cared for him for over 7 years until she passed away in February 2007.

In 2001, he moved to Columbia, SC and joined the Mt. Zion Church under the late James Pressley and Rev. Virginia Pressley. As a Deacon, Sunday School teacher, volunteer electrician/ construction supervisor, and problem-solver, Joe worked for the Lord for many years in that ministry. He later joined the Columbia Fellowship Ministry under Rev. Luther Scott. There he taught Sunday School, participated in fundraising for a new church and started a ministry to encourage fellowship before Sunday service.

For over 19 years, his sister Ruthie was instrumental in caring for him (from his initial diagnosis until his death). She faithfully dedicated time to ensure that his needs were met. In the last few years of his life, his oldest sister Virginia and nephew Sean worked with Ruthie to make sure that Joe received the best care. Five days before death he moved to a new living facility, but he fell ill.

Sean Pressley, his nephew, was his breakfast buddy, his friend, and his helper. Sean checked on his uncle nearly every day. The family would like to thank him for his compassion and love to Joe.

Joe was a cheerful, jolly person always willing to help someone in need. He was outgoing and friendly to everyone he met. Many times, he would give his last dollar to a friend to make sure that they were ok. His compassion and dedication will be missed.

One week before his death, he professed to the doctors, "I want to go to my new home, not my apartment but my home in Heaven with God" and "I want to go soft and easy but you don't have to put me on the express lane". Joe left this world after professing these words to his brother Clifton the day prior to his death, "Ain't no sad occasion" and "V (pause) V is for Victory! I'm going to Gloryland!" On the morning of October 2, 2020 at 2:20 a.m., Joe was called home to his heavenly home as he peacefully slept.

Joseph Nathaniel Charles (affectionately known as "JC" or "Joe") leaves to mourn his passing one daughter, Janise LeAnn Jackson of Peoria, IL; two sisters, Rev. Virginia Pressley and Ruthie Purvis, both of Columbia, SC; two brothers, Harry Charles, Jr. (Lonnie) of the Philippine Islands and Clifton Charles, Sr. of Columbia, SC; one god-sister, Betty Tinker; one god-son, Crosby Broadwater, III; twelve nieces, ten nephews, a host of grand-nieces and grand-nephews, cousins, his church family across the U.S., many special friends and one of his best friends and work buddies, Mr. Dwight Kennedy.

