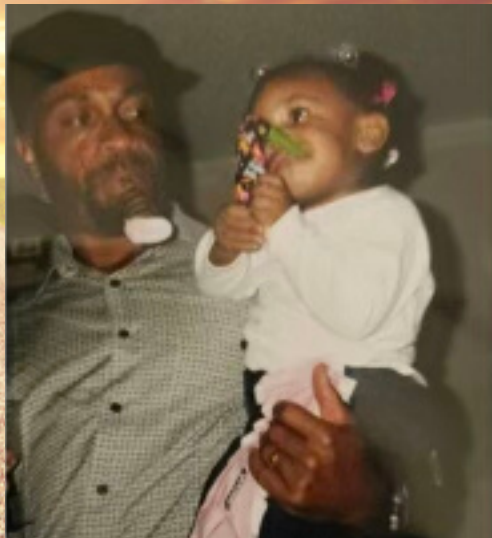


# CHERISHED MEMORIES



*Services Entrusted To:*



*"Where Courtesy and Excellence Dwells"*

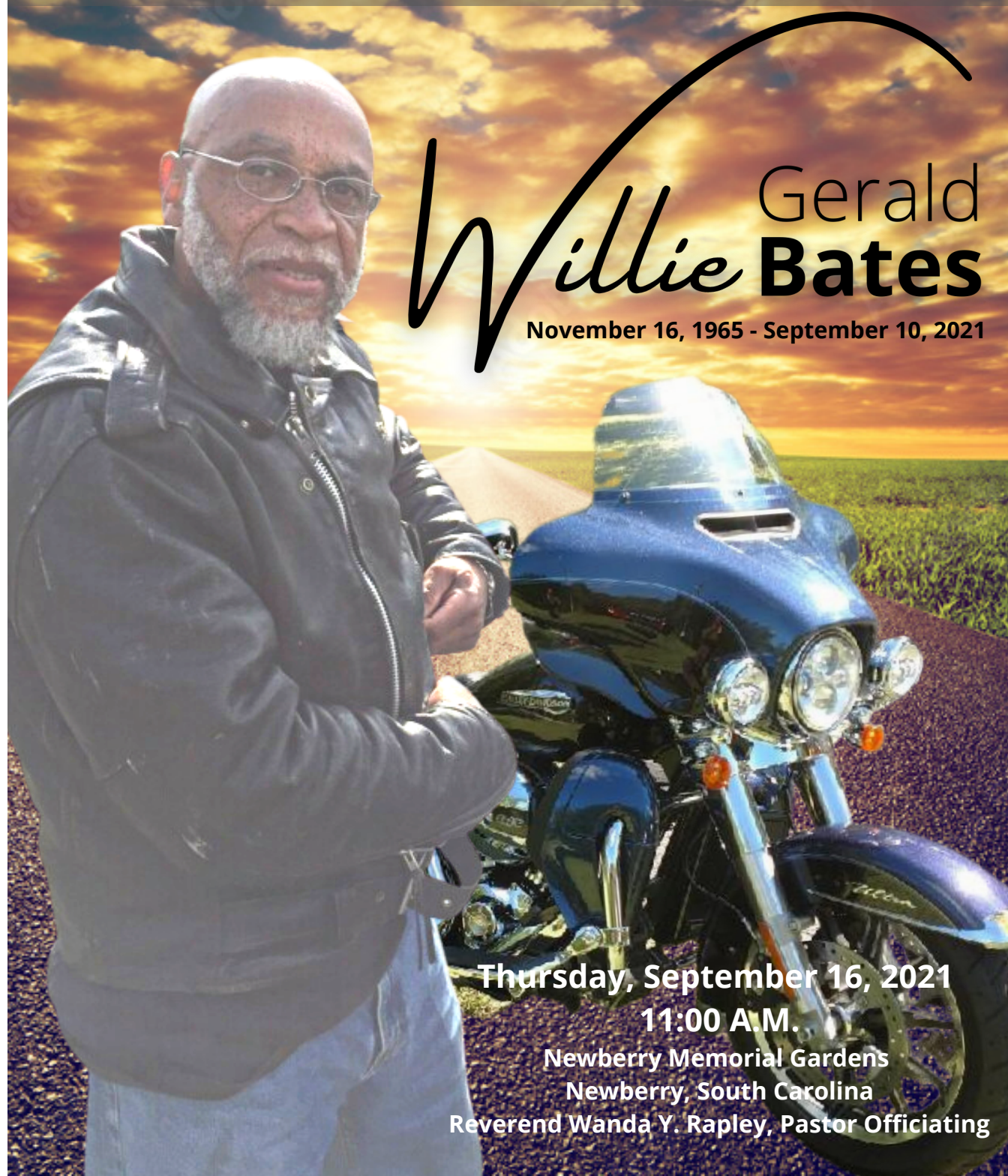
*Program Design:*

*Kenyetta B. Gallman*

# CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

Gerald  
*Willie* **Bates**

November 16, 1965 - September 10, 2021



**Thursday, September 16, 2021  
11:00 A.M.**

**Newberry Memorial Gardens  
Newberry, South Carolina  
Reverend Wanda Y. Rapley, Pastor Officiating**



# A Celebration of Life

Mr. Willie Gerald Bates

*God saw the road was getting rough, the hill was hard to climb.*

*He closed his weary eyelids and whispered "Peace be Thine."*

Mr. Willie Gerald Bates was born in Newberry, South Carolina to Jasper Bates and the late Annie Ruth Hawkins Bates. He entered into Eternal Rest on Friday, September 10, 2021 at his home.

Mr. Bates was a graduate of Mid-Carolina High School and a veteran of the United States Army. He is a member of Providence A.M.E. Church in Little Mountain, South Carolina.

Cherishing his memory is his father, Jasper Bates, Sr. of Chapin, SC; wife, Tracy Bates of Lexington, SC; daughter, Keyuana Bates of Lexington, SC; sisters, Mary Ann Eleazer and Kathy Holman of Little Mountain, SC; brothers, Pelvis Bates of Irmo, SC, Jasper Bates, Jr. of Prosperity, SC, Calvin Bates of Columbia, SC, Willis Bates of Irmo, SC and Johnny Ray Hawkins of Prosperity, SC; companion, Debra Miller; five aunts, three sisters-in-law, two brothers-in-law and other relatives and friends.

## The Family Acknowledgment

We, the family of Willie Gerald Bates, thank all of our friends and family for your many expressions of sympathy, love, flowers, prayers, visits, phone calls, cards and all acts of kindness shown during our time of sorrow.

## The Order of Service

Reverend Wanda Y. Rapley, Pastor Officiating

### Prayer

### Scripture Readings

**Old Testament    Isaiah 43:1-2**

**New Testament    Matthew 11:28-29**

### Reflections

**Shirley Toland**

### Words of Comfort

**Reverend Wanda Y. Rapley**

### Committal and Benediction

**Graveside**

### Interment

**Newberry Memorial Gardens  
Newberry, South Carolina**

## "Please Don't Say"

Please don't say that I gave up, just say that I gave in.

Don't say I lost the battle, for it's God's war to lose or win.

Please don't say how good I was, but that I did my best.

Just say I tried to do what's right, to give the most I could, not less.

Please don't give me wings or halos, that's for God to do.

I want no more than what I deserve. No extras, just my due.

Please don't give me flowers, or talk in hushed tones.

Don't be concerned about me now,

I'm well with God, I've made it home.

**Thank God for my soul's resting.**

**Thank God for I've been blessed.**

**Thank God for all who loved me.**

**Praise God who loved me best.**