

# *“A Blessing for Loved Ones”*

“The Lord watch between you and me,, when we are absent one from the other”  
(Genesis 31:49)

Even though I cannot be with you, even though  
I cannot see you or talk with you, I am as close as a thought,  
I am as near as the love I feel for you in my heart.  
Whenever I think of you I bless you,  
and my love, my love encircles you,  
though the ends of the Earth separates us.  
I don't worry about you, I know the Lord is watching over you,  
that He is your health, your strength, your source of supply  
your happiness and your peace of mind.  
Wherever you are, God is; wherever I am God is.  
He is watching over us while we are absent one from the other  
and making us know that we are forever one in Spirit.

Pallbearers.....Family and Friends

Floral Bearers.....Family and Friends

## **Acknowledgments**

The family wishes to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your prayers, cards, floral arrangements, telegrams, personal visits and the acts of kindness shown to us during this very special occasion in our lives.

~ *The Champion Family*

We, the staff of Nelson-Haile Funeral Home, sincerely hope that our service has been a source of comfort to each of you. Our goal, for the past five generations, has been and continues to be to provide excellent services to those families we are privileged to serve.

## **Nelson-Haile Funeral Home**

919 Church Street - Camden, South Carolina

Phone: (803) 432-2511

### **Moments of Meditation**

Sunday Mornings - 7:45 - 8:00 AM

102.7 FM/1590 AM

[nelson-hailefuneralhome.com](http://nelson-hailefuneralhome.com)

# *A Homegoing Service for Thomas “Top Cat” Champion*

*Sunrise  
July 11, 1937*

*Sunset  
April 17, 2019*



*Ebenezer Zion AME Church*

*3402 Ebenezer Church Road  
Camden, South Carolina 29020*

*Tuesday, April 23, 2019*

*12:00 PM*

*Reverend George Rhodes, Pastor*

# Life Reflections

Thomas "TOP CAT" Champion, Sr. was born on July 11, 1937, to the late Lewis and Lizzie Champion, in Camden, South Carolina. He was the fifth of thirteen children. He was preceded in death by a son, Thomas, Jr.; a daughter, Gail Champion and a grandson, Gary Champion, Jr.

He was educated in Kershaw County Public Schools. He left South Carolina in 1957 to go to Englewood, New Jersey, where he became CEO of Champion, TWA Maintenance, (\*WE ARE THE BEST, WE DO IT ALL\*). He remained in that business for fifty-five years and after returning to South Carolina, he continued until his health began to fail. His work ethic will never be forgotten.

He loved fishing and cooking. He was definitely a workaholic. We remember watching him on stage singing and dancing. He is our hero and he will never be forgotten.

Thomas leaves to cherish his memory one daughter, Robbie Champion; one son, Gary ("Champ Da Barber") Champion of Camden, SC; three granddaughters, Shawana Champion of Englewood, NJ, Lenore Champion of New York City, NY and Aliyah Champion of Camden, SC; five grandsons, Yashim Champion of New York City, NY, Malik Champion of Portland, OR, Ibn Champion of Elizabeth, NJ, Nassir Champion of Camden, SC and Tysun Champion of New York City, NY; two great-granddaughters, Amya Champion of Baltimore, MD and Yaseira Champion of New York City NY; a great-grandson, Yashim Champion Jr. of New York City, NY; his siblings, Willie Mae Walker of Stamford, CT, Odessa James and Rev. Dorothy Robinson both of Bridgeport, CT, Lucille Champion of Shelton, CT, Nora Walker of Atlanta, GA, Richard Champion of Highland Lakes, NJ, Walter L. Champion of Camden, SC and a host of nephews, nieces, relatives and friends.

# Order of Service

Reverend Dr. Walter L. Champion, Presiding

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL.....Minister, Family & Friends

SONG..... "*Mary Don't You Weep*" .....\*OLD TIMERS\*

INVOCATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Old Testament.....Psalm 23

New Testament.....John 14:1-6

PRAYER OF COMFORT.....Minister

SELECTION.....Ebenezer Church Choir

REMARKS.....Yashim & Lenore Champion  
Gary Champion

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

SELECTION.....\*OLD TIMERS\*

EULOGY.....Rev. Dr. Walter L. Champion

SELECTION..... "*I'm Free*"

COMMITTAL

BENEDICTION & BLESSING OF FOOD

RECESSIONAL.....Minister, Family & Friends

POSTLUDE