

Order of Service
Reverend Larry Irby, Presiding

Prelude-----Mr. David Bolar

Processional----- Clergy, Family and Friends

Musical Selection ----- Mr. Mason Garrett

Scriptures-----Reverend Larry Irby
Old Testament-----
New Testament -----

Prayer of Comfort-----Reverend Larry Irby

Solo-----Ms. Vivian Powe

Acknowledgements and Reflections -----
Mr. Harold Heath
United Lodge #401
Evergreen Chapter #126
Ms. Betty Dorsey

Solo-----Mr. Sherwin Davis

Words of Comfort----- Reverend Hannie Milling, Jr.

Musical Selection ----- Mr. Dedric Brown

Recessional----- Funeral Directors

Military Rites, Committal, Benediction and Interment
Oaklawn Cemetery
335 Garden Street
Winnsboro, SC 29180

Floral Bearers
Family and Friends

Pall Bearers
Family and Friends

Acknowledgments

The family sincerely thanks all of Earl's current and past caregivers. They would like to give special thanks to Joyce Robinson, Bernice Harvey, Kenneth Miller, and Perry Robinson, Jr. for their dedication.



Nelson's Funeral Home
270 N. Dogwood Avenue
Ridgeway, SC 29130
803-337-4500
www.nelsonsofridgeway.com

In
Loving Memory



Mr. Earl Tine Bonner
May 21, 1925 – February 9, 2021

Wednesday, February 17, 2021
1:00 P.M.

Wayman Chapel Church
400 S. Garden Street
Winnsboro, SC 29180

Reverend Larry Irby, Pastor



Obituary

Mr. Earl Tine Bonner passed away peacefully at the age of 95, with his wife by his side, on February 9, 2021. He lived a full and robust life, full of family, friends, and loved ones. He will truly be missed.

Earl Bonner was born on May 21, 1925, in the Cross Roads Township of Everette, Martin County, North Carolina to proud parents, the late Floyd Bonner and Patti Jones. He was the youngest of three children born to the couple.

Earl attended Washington High School in Washington, NC. He went on to proudly serve his country in the U.S. Navy from 1944 to 1970, during which time he earned a degree in barbering from Jacksonville Barber College in Jacksonville, FL. After retiring from the U.S. Navy, his other employment included working as a Director at the Community Economic Development Association (CEDA) and shoe salesman. He ultimately found his calling as a professional barber, a career which spanned over 40 years.

After travelling the world in the U.S. Navy, Earl married Willie Dean Stephens in 1948. This union produced two children, Wakili “Billy” Bonner and Carol Dean Bonner. Their loving bond lasted until her death. It was here, in Winnsboro, SC, where they raised their family, where Earl made his mark.

Though a staple across Winnsboro, it was there at “the barbershop” where his personality was on full display. You could often find him laughing and joking with clients and community members at the Heath Barbershop on Main Street six days a week. Friend, confidant, and community therapist all combined into one, this is where Earl kept his finger on the pulse of his community. He was more than just a face; he was a Main Street institution in the Black Community. When not working, Earl could be found at the United Lodge #401, PHA, where he proudly served as a Mason. He was also a longtime member of Evergreen Chapter #126.

Obituary cont’d

Earl was a faithful member of Wayman Chapel/Wayman AME Church, for many years where he also served as the Church Treasurer, Trustee, and choir member for decades. Over time, the relationships established within these walls is how friends became family members, and his memory will consist of dark shades, a *clean* suit, and a stern demeanor that hid a soft heart.

Though many of us only experience true love once, Earl was lucky to experience it twice. His life was enriched by the second love of his life, his sweet Mamie Banks, whom he married in 2002. As his life entered its twilight, it was she that cared for him most and whom he loved dearly. They were fortunate enough to have a special love that lasted until his passing.

Earl Bonner is survived by his wife, Mamie Banks-Bonner; son, Wakili (Ernestine) Bonner of Oakland, CA; daughter, Tameika Bonner of Columbia, SC; stepdaughter, Cynthia Banks-Smith (Richard) of Ridgeway, SC; brother, Earl (Dawn) Bryant of Philadelphia, PA; son-in-law, Charles (Elvira) Lewis of Atlanta, GA; granddaughters: Corleen Reed of Stockbridge, GA, Valarie Rashida Lewis of Columbia, SC, Ebonie Lewis (Ty) Bradford of Chicago, IL; grandson, William (Dana) Bonner of Castro Valley, CA; great-grandson, Talon “Little Earl” Bradford of Chicago, IL; great-granddaughters: Micah Reed and Leloni Reed of Stockbridge, GA, Nya Bradford of Chicago, IL, and Alexis Bonner of Castro Valley, CA; goddaughters: Vidalia McTeer of Sumter, SC and Mary H. Johnson of Winnsboro, SC; and many nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

Mr. Bonner is preceded in death by his first wife; brothers, Eddie Bonner and James “Jimmy” Bonner; daughter, Carol Lewis; and grandson, Wakili Bonner.

If Alzheimer’s Could Speak...

Talk to me...

I can hear your words
and they still touch my soul.

Smile at me...

My eyes can see you and feel your heart
even if I don’t remember how to smile back.

Hold my hand...

I can feel your energy when our hands connect.
It makes me feel safe and less alone.

Love me...

My heart can feel your love even if
my words can’t express mine.

Live your life...

Help me on my path but don’t press pause on your
life. Be the vibrant person I know and love.

Trust the process...

I know this is hard and not what we planned
but trust the process. We can’t control it but we
can choose our focus. Remember the good times,
know that I am okay and that you are in my heart
always.

By Tara Reed